

Kevin Hughes was a friend and a colleague who I worked closely with to encourage him to stand for election to the City Council back in 2019. I acted as his election agent for both City and District Elections and organised his successful campaign to get elected. With his untimely death, it would be an honour for me to complete his term of office and serve his residents until the next full elections in May 2023.

I presently live in what was once part of Chichester East ward (before the boundaries were redrawn) with my husband who I coincidentally married in the city council chamber almost a year ago to the day. We have lived in the city for almost 7 years, in that time I have contributed to the city in a number of ways.

At the start of the pandemic, I launched the Chichester Covid-19 Mutual Aid group, a space which enabled those who needed help and support to request that from those who were prepared to offer their assistance. Several thousands Chichester residents signed up to support their neighbours, perhaps one of very few positives to come from the pandemic being a greater sense and importance of community and an enhanced resilience as a result.

As a trade unionist I have worked to relaunch the Chichester District Trades Council to help give local workers a voice and campaign on issues that affect people in the workplace. I am currently Branch Chair of Chichester College Group UCU, a role in which I work to support individual members through casework and collective representation.

Wanting younger residents to play a more active role in our city, I had been involved in and encouraged others in a number of campaigns including Anti-Prorogation, Black Lives Matter and protests against elements of the recent Policing Bill. I have also worked with various local organisations and supported initiatives including Chichester Pride, speaking at a number of their events.

At the college I taught A Level Politics having gained a degree in Government & Politics. This, plus the substantial experience in working to get local councillors elected and supporting them in their work, has given me an extensive insight into the work of councils that would enable me to fulfil the role in the remaining term.

Chichester is a unique city, and while the powers of the City Council are limited, there is a very important role for it to play. Our city is multifaceted, and our council should reflect our diverse community. I would hope to do this by providing a different perspective to deliberations.

As a Labour and Co-operative member, I would bring to the council the vision of a community in which residents are able to fulfil their potential and foster a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect. A community where people's voices are heard; institutions and services are accountable to their users and staff, and in so far as possible at a city level that ownership and wealth are shared.

I can confirm that I am qualified to hold public office and would look forward, if given the opportunity, to serve the residents of Chichester East in Kevin's memory.

Philip Wilson-Marks

(Known as Philip Wilson)