

CO-OPTION CANDIDATE STATEMENT – HELEN SUMBLER

I have lived in Corfe Castle village for 6 years with my partner Kevin and our three children, James age 17, Lizzie age 15 and Molly age 12.

Through my children I have been involved with four different Parent / Teacher Associations since 2009, and I am still active in Corfe Castle school PTFA, although now Molly as my youngest now goes to The Swanage School, (where the PTA is dormant at the moment due to Covid preventing this being re-energised). Through volunteering with PTAs, I have had the enjoyment of meeting new people and making new friends in these school communities. As well as contributing to organising various fundraising events, I have also held Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary roles for PTAs at different times.

I am semi-retired, having worked in the field of railway signalling for British Rail, and since privatisation WS Atkins, for over 35 years. I now work as consultant through a business I run with my partner, and currently have a contract to March 2022 with Network Rail.

So my background is in engineering, including 8 years working in a design office before transferring roles to undertake practical testing of railway signalling equipment on the trackside, and in time developing to take on the role of managing testing activities as a Tester in Charge. Work over the years has included the writing of strategic and planning documents, reports, specifications and formal standards, and the use of problem solving, planning, logistics, personnel management and communication skills, while working both as a team member and team leader. Since 2015 I have also developed the knowledge and learnt the new skills required to run a business.

I have been attending Parish Council meetings since October 2020. I am now an active member of the Environment Group; this is where my interest in joining the council started. I am also active in several other local and countywide environmental groups, with a particular interest in sustainable transport, and am a member of the village Community Speedwatch Team.

In my leisure time I enjoy walking with our two dogs, socialising with family and friends, reading and more recently, swimming in the sea at Studland, South Beach.

Although obviously environmental matters are important to me, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to any other council matters where my experience, knowledge and skills would be applicable, and where councillors think my input would be beneficial to the council and our community, some examples might be education, transport, housing and planning. I would also be happy to contribute to the work the Clerk is doing to improve the Parish Council website, having recently helped with the Planet Purbeck Festival website.

I really hope councillors will support my request to be co-opted on to our Parish Council. Thank you.

Helen Sumbler.
130 East Street, Corfe Castle.