

I am Kate Houghton, mother of three grown up children and so far, grand mother of two. I have lived in Dunsfold for 5 years. Before that, I lived and worked in Belgium with my husband and 3 children for 27 year. I have however, had an association with this area since 1990.

I joined Dunsfold Parish Council in 2019 wanting to contribute in any way I could. After attending several meetings, I found the topics of discussion serious, interesting and varied. However, probably the most divisive being the planning applications. I know a fair amount about planning, not as much as Rupert Jones who is the expert, but enough. Being a Councillor is finding what you are good at and using it to help keep the village together and functioning as a community. Dunsfold is changing, like it or not, it is getting bigger with many new and young families. Developers, despite DPC's objections, will prevail in some form and because of this, we must be ready. We should try to move forward, develop existing facilities like the KGV, the old school building for example. Ask the questions, find the solutions.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Contrary to what you may have recently been led to believe, is there to protect us from developers. It has already been delayed by Dunsfold Planning Action Group with some of its members benefitting from that delay! If it is abandoned, or withdrawn as suggested by new candidates, we will almost certainly have an additional 53 houses on the Coombebury site in Dunsfold. Its absence will open the flood gates for more development in the village. Please note, Coombebury is NOT one of the allocated sites in the NP. If you want more development then go with the new candidates, ditch the Neighbourhood Plan and start a lengthy legal, administrative and very expensive process all over again! I doubt the result will be very different except that there is every possibility Dunsfold will have become an urban sprawl. Alfold, with its 400 new houses, is an excellent example of what can happen without a NP in place. This is in your hands; this is your choice.

I have been in charge of running our village fete for the last two years. These have been very successful and a great source of income, pride and 'coming together' of the village after COVID. I am also the DPC Councillor on the Bonfire Committee and recently joined Dunsfold Tennis Club's committee, I also helped with the church flowers for Easter. I get about! To a lesser extent I am involved in The Common but this is mainly Roy's domain. Last December we went out planting saplings donated by Waverley. I organised our volunteers from Godalming and a very wet successful planting day was had by all.

I know people...I know the importance of belonging and feeling part of a community, that nobody's grievance is too small, that some people's priorities are not others. We try our best but you cannot keep all of the people happy all of the time!