

### The Final Chapter...

Back in 2009, a new Member was elected to serve Trinity Ward on East Devon District Council, the far east parishes of Uplyme, Combyne-Rousdon and Axmouth. The new councillor totally lacked political or local government experience, but wanted to help make a better life for all of us. That councillor was me.

Almost 14 years later, it is time to call time. After well over a hundred issues, this will be the final chapter, my last TrinityMatters ward member report...

### Election 2023 – Two Candidates contest Trinity District Council seat...

All 73 seats for the 2023 East Devon District Council cohort will be contested on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Trinity Ward is contested by.

**Andy Turner** - **Conservative Party Candidate**

**Susan Westerman** - **Liberal Democrats**

**Polling Stations will be open between 7:00am and 10:00pm in Uplyme Village Hall, Peake Hall Rousdon, and Axmouth Village Hall. Don't forget to take a valid form of ID with you.**

To vote in this election, you must have been registered to vote by 17<sup>th</sup> April. To vote by post, your application needed to be received by 5pm on 18<sup>th</sup> April, however you can appoint someone else (a proxy) to vote on your behalf, up to 5pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### What about our three Parish Councils?

Whilst all District Council seats will be contested, Parishes and Town Councils across East Devon paint a different picture.

Across the whole of East Devon, only 4 parish councils will see an election. 73 are uncontested, as the number of candidates standing is less than the number of councillors each should carry. 6 Parish council and Town council ward elections have received no nominations at all. Elections to these councils will be held within 35 days of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

None of our three Parish Councils is contested. All go into the new council session with vacancies.

### **Axmouth (9 to be elected, 6 elected, THREE vacancies)**

BADGER, Ronald B  
MATHER, Graham

DANIEL, Nigel  
WISEMAN, Jay

DROWN, Jane  
ZISMAN, Paul JR

### **Combpyne-Rousdon (9 to be elected, 8 elected, ONE vacancy)**

BRYAN, Suzanne M  
PLATTS, Martin J  
WARNER, Rob

LITTLER, Lynn M  
PRESHAW, Glynis  
WRIGHT, Nicholas

MOORE, Bill  
SALTER, Kevin J

### **Uplyme (10 to be elected, 8 elected, TWO vacancies)**

FROST, Pauline  
OAKLEY, Paul  
TURNER, Andrew

HACKETT, Pete  
PRATT, Colin  
WISCOMBE, Claire M

JAMES, Chris  
TRUNDLEY, William

If any Trinity resident is interested in filling one of the Parish Council vacancies, the Parish Clerk will be able to advise on the approach to be taken.

### ***They think it's all over...***

In closing, I should like to thank all I have worked with across the district, within East Devon District Council, Parishes and numerous other organisations and individuals, for their help, understanding, time and support. Most importantly however, the residents of Axmouth, Combpyne-Rousdon and Uplyme, who it has been such a great honour to represent.

My best wishes to whoever is successfully elected to succeed me. Representative democracy is both rewarding and challenging, often with the need to balance conflicting opinion under sensitive circumstances, yet offers opportunity to positively influence lives and relationships.

I have had the opportunity to fill pretty much all senior East Devon District Council Member posts over fourteen years, serving almost a decade in various Cabinet roles, Corporate Services, Economy and Finance, before election by peers to lead Council and ultimately, unanimously, as the first non-aligned Independent Chair of Council.

In a final quirk, I will serve a short time as the first non-Member Chair of Council.

Local government legislation means Chair remains in post from elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May, when I cease to be a Councillor, until Annual Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May, when a new Chair is elected.

In this role, I will not have a vote for the new Chair however, in the event of a tied vote (not impossible in current political circumstances) – I would have a casting vote and thereby potentially elect the new Chair – as a non-Member (you couldn't make it up!).

In the famous words of Kenneth Wolstenholme's BBC TV commentary in the final moments of the 1966 World Cup Final, between England and West Germany

### ***.... It is now!***

#### **Cllr Ian Thomas**

Independent Ward Member for Trinity

Chair - East Devon District Council

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