



Simon Lidington

Please write a short statement to tell us why you would like to join the Parish Council:

My 40 year entrepreneurial career has been taken up with building businesses alongside striving to be a good partner to my wife and children. I still work as an organisational and executive Coach, but this now occupies less of my time. I am interested in how communities work, and I have some experience of leading and working in organisations where delivery and improvement for customers, clients and communities has been the central purpose. I have lived in Robertsbridge for almost 4 years now. It is such a special village with a strong 'life force' that creates a vibrant community. I would very much like to contribute to the maintenance and growth of this in whatever small way I can. I am particularly interested in the provision made in the village for young people. I have seen that the Youth Club building is no longer used as a Youth Centre and feel strongly that more could be done to provide essential facilities and developmental activities that young people could benefit from.

Please write a brief profile of yourself

I have been married to Louise for almost 49 years. I have 4 grown-up children and 4 grandchildren. We moved to Robertsbridge just under 4 years ago and love the village. I have spent my career as an entrepreneur, developing several businesses across 40 years, including one that I took onto AIM - the junior Stock Market - in 2016. I now run a business that involves me in Coaching senior Executives and working with organisations on leadership. I play the piano and am currently working on my first novel. I enjoy my allotment in Robertsbridge. I love reading and listening to audio books - both fiction and those related to my work. I am an avid motor racing and rugby fan. I still run across the wonderful countryside surrounding Robertsbridge about once or twice a week, and walk the footpaths all around the village with my wife when I'm not running. But more than anything, I love engaging with people. One of my businesses, Big Sofa, involved taking an inflatable sofa across the UK having conversations that we filmed with over 2500 people across a couple of years, training 20 conversationalists to help me in this. I learned so much; it was an absolute joy to listen to people talk about their lives. I've always liked to get things moving, to achieve things in life, and collaborate with others to develop new ideas that come to fruition through ingenuity, passion and gumption.