

Wimbledon and Putney Commons: Election of Conservators 2018



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Why do you want to be a Conservator?

I have lived in Wimbledon with my family for the last 25 years. We are a family of runners, cyclists and dog walkers, and use the Commons every day. For us and for many others, the access to the open space to share and enjoy brings several communities together as users of the Commons. Over recent years those whose job and objective is to protect the Commons, have had to deal with some difficult issues. There is real concern about the detrimental effect this is having on the proper governance and management of our precious green space. I want to become a Conservator to help resolve the issues that currently exist, and to work with others to bring mutual respect, openness and team spirit. With this fresh approach we can achieve the Vision and Strategy for the Commons and support those charged with its management.

What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I started my professional career as a solicitor, moving swiftly into the music business. For the last 30 years I have held senior management positions within major international companies. My final role was Chief Operating Officer for Sony BMG Music Entertainment Worldwide. I have also acted as Chairman to several industry bodies where the stakeholders often had conflicting ambitions and goals, and an essential skill was the ability to undertake delicate and sometimes acrimonious negotiations. I am currently a director of a small Artist Development Company, which nurtures and supports young musical talent. My experience and skills will enable me to make a real contribution as a Conservator. I know the value of motivating a team, and if elected I will work with my colleagues to achieve the goals that are essential to restore confidence and harmonious and productive management of the Commons.

How will you support implementation of the Commons' Vision and Strategy?

I completely support the current Vision and Strategy, and will use my management experience to ensure the delivery of its objectives in a spirit of harmony and openness. The current management team is doing a fine job, and as a Conservator it will be my responsibility, together with the other members of the Board, to ensure that this good work continues and is expanded in the future, in order to further protect our precious environment, continuing the standards of excellence that exist today. But this is not only about the Conservators. It is about the communities served by the Commons, and the preservation of this exceptional space. At the end of the day, it comes down to Common Sense for the Future of the Commons.