



## Shirley Gillbe ([gillbesi@gmail.com](mailto:gillbesi@gmail.com))

### Why do you want to be a Conservator?

A Putney resident for four decades, I have loved the beauty and wildness of the Commons since I first discovered these jewels embedded in the hurly-burly of urban life. I marvel at the power of nature to inspire and surprise and feel a strong sense of stewardship.

The Charity has endured difficult times since the significant undersale of the access rights to the old 'Putney Hospital' site became apparent.

The Charity Commission Statutory Inquiry has my full support. I believe that it serves the interests of the Charity to 'unlock the truth' of the undersale and the alleged mismanagement and misconduct, allowing the Charity to settle the dispute once and for all. After the recommendations of the Statutory Inquiry are implemented I will return to my 2015 goals, namely:

- Implementation of 2014 Governance Review
- Stabilisation of finances
- Prevention of commercialisation
- Maintenance of Special Scientific Interest status

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

A zoologist by training I have experience as a bedside nurse, hospital manager and healthcare planner consolidated by a Diploma in Management Studies and an MBA. A committed environmentalist, I continue to follow my interests in biology, ecology and conservation.

Business and management training have equipped me to administer all facets of a business, practically and strategically. I understand and can apply human resource principles, financial management and governance to achieve the goals of the Charity.

I was elected with the most votes in 2015 and will provide continuity vital to the governance of the Charity without baggage or prejudice.

As a Conservator I have worked only to serve the Charity's interests. I have acted independently, impartially and used my judgement to inform my decisions, seeking expert advice when I considered it necessary. My innate sense of fairness and common sense have guided me through challenging periods for the Charity.

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

By **listening** to levy-payers and working with them, other stakeholders, the staff and the Board to deliver robust and successful management of the Commons for the benefit of all.

By **applying** the skills and expertise I have described and crucially, ensuring that there is a sound Business Plan and strong financial control.

By **understanding** that whilst a Vision is just that, the Strategy underpinning it is iterative and organic. Desirable goals that are achievable within available resources must be prioritised and adapted if necessary to fit external changes.

**Achieving** these will secure the future of the Commons and ensure that they continue open and unenclosed as their founding Act in 1871 intended such that our children and grandchildren will too be able to marvel at the power of nature a brief bus ride away from the centre of one of the greatest cities in the world.