

Helen Sprawson-White

Mendip District Councillor for Frome Oakfield



September 2020

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Dear Resident,

It has been my privilege to serve you, since 2007 as a Frome Town Councillor, as Mayor of Frome in 2009 and since 2011 as a Mendip District Councillor. In each of these roles, I've been clear about my priorities and beliefs. I've always felt that Frome deserves decent, hard-working and progressive representation. I've also been honest throughout, doing what I think is best for the people who elected me.

It's in this spirit of openness and honesty that I'm sending you this letter.

After a lot of soul-searching and conversations with friends and family, I've decided to re-join the Liberal Democrats at Mendip District Council.

My decision has been based on two key things, and I wanted to share these with you.

Firstly, I've been impressed by the Liberal Democrats who won control of Mendip District Council last year. After over a decade of Conservative control, they've been clear that things needed to be different. They've put forward plans for new social housing and they've put their money where their mouths are on the climate emergency. Most of all though, during the pandemic they put extra funding in place for the people in our communities struggling the most to pay their bills.

Secondly, over the last few months it has become clear that local government in Somerset is likely to change. Central government has made it clear that they expect the district and county councils to be abolished and replaced with one council. I'm proud to support the proposal from Somerset's district councils – 'Stronger Somerset' – which would simplify the council structure. This means that people in Frome would have Frome Town Council, and East Somerset Council, a one-stop shop to deal with all council services. Importantly, Stronger Somerset would mean more local decision-making, putting all of us in the driving seat and not at the whim of decisions made in Taunton.

Stronger Somerset has been endorsed by people from across the political spectrum, including Liberal Democrats, Greens, Labour, Conservative and independents alike. That said, by re-joining the Liberal Democrats and ensuring they have majority control at Mendip, I'll be strengthening the case for Stronger Somerset and making sure that voices here in Frome are heard.

The main thing I want you to know is this: I'm still the same person, I still care passionately about the people of Frome and I still intend on offering the same level of service as your local councillor. I'm still always at the end of the phone if you need me, and I still stand side by side with local people.

If you have any questions about my decision, or if I can help you with anything at all, please just use the details below.

Yours,

Helen Sprawson-White

Mendip District Councillor for Frome Oakfield



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