

John Newton-Davies

Sandridge Parish Councillor 2009 to 2023

John joined Sandridge Parish Council in 2009 and represented the residents of Sandridge village on the council until he decided to stand down in 2023. He was throughout his time on the council independently minded with a great interest in the environmental activities of the council.

John claimed to be a mongrel - born in Edinburgh, with his early life taking in Norfolk, Northwood, Essex and Wimbledon. He had strong family roots in Liverpool, Wales and Scotland, and for a time lived in Sussex before he and Judy moved to Hertfordshire in 1988, settling in Sandridge in 1992 and making it their home.

It didn't take John long to get involved in local organisations and it was his concern for the village that led him to become a Parish Councillor. As someone who walked and cycled around the area, he was well aware of many of the concerns of residents.

He was a keen volunteer with The Woodland Trust and spent many days helping to plant the trees in Heartwood Forest. Through the parish council he was involved with the management of Nomansland Common and was involved in the setting up of the Nomansland Quest for children that ran for several years. He also took an active role with Jersey Farm Woodland Park.

John also campaigned for measures to calm the traffic through the village including for a pedestrian crossing near Pound Farm, and he was largely responsible for the design and commissioning of the information boards and boundary signs helping to define Sandridge village.

As a parish councillor, John was very active with the Neighbourhood Plan making sure that as many of his concerns and interests were included.

As well as his work in the parish, John was an enthusiastic volunteer researcher at the St Albans Museum and served as area coordinator for collecting contributions to the Marie Curie Cancer Care campaigns. Latterly, he was elected as Chairman of the Friends of Royal Wanstead School, now subsumed into the Springboard Trust which raises funds to support the education of disadvantaged young people.

He will be much missed by the community he served.

Though geographically distant, John has been a proud and loving father to Caroline and Pippa and grandfather to Georgina, Cassius and Hector. Closer to home he was a loving husband to Judy.