

Election of Commoner Conservator.

Board of Conservators. Ashdown Forest.

March 2nd 2018.



For the last ten years, it has been my privilege to act as a Commoner Conservator. During that time the management of the Forest has improved considerably. This has meant-

- **Better financial management.**
- **A robust strategic planning system.**
- **Improvements to personnel/health and safety policies.**
- **Much better communications.**
- **More cordial relationships with commoners, residents, neighbours and Parish Councils.**

Hopefully I have played a part in securing many positive changes.

We still have work to do especially with our conservation policies.

The most critical issue is that we are at a watershed in ensuring the long term survival of our beloved Forest.

The County Council cannot afford the increasing costs. We have to do our own fundraising and can only do this by setting up a separate Charitable Company. Progressing this initiative is my key immediate priority and if elected I will push hard to put that in place as soon as possible.

There will additionally be a requirement to secure Conservation funding. The current Countryside Stewardship scheme is guaranteed until 2020 although receipt of payments in a timely way continues to be a problem. The noises from The Secretary of State for the Environment about support post Brexit remain positive.

My role as a local councillor will continue and I know this causes concern for some. My own view is that this does not create a conflict of interest but is of advantage to the Forest. It has meant that where planning or grant applications are involved I can work behind the scenes for the benefit of the Forest.

I hope you will be able to support me in the election on March 2nd.

If anyone would like to ask a question before then please contact me at 'fairplacefarm@aol.com.'

Roy Galley.

February 20th 2018.