

## **Russell Finlay**



I fell in love with the natural beauty of Holmbury St Mary and jumped at the opportunity to move here a little over six years ago.

I missed not only the natural beauty I grew up with, but also the unique character of village life with people contributing their time and skills to making our village such a great place to live, whether it is Bonfire Night, the Village Hall or the calendar of events.

One impact of Covid was that I spent less time commuting and more time in the village. This created more time for me to consider how I can best contribute to our community.

Being a voice for Holmbury St Mary on the Parish Council provides me with the opportunity to do just that – a way of channelling my skills, experiences and passions into the place I call home.

### **Why I feel I can help**

I have thirty years of successfully leading teams and organisations with a complex group of stakeholders; working with and influencing local, regional and national governments to impact policy and decisions and importantly to ‘get things done’.

After a period working internationally in the tech sector, I switched career to help young people achieve their potential through sport and education.

Over the last twenty years, I have been CEO of a number of non-profit and community organisations successfully raising and spending over £30million of funds.

### **Where I feel I can help**

Being the smallest village in the parish, in a remote end of a borough dominated by a large University town has the potential for our voices to be left unheard.

### **This is what I wish to change.**

It is important that we have an effective voice to influence parish council decision making – how we ensure that the money, services and resources that the council have,

benefit those in HSM – whether this is parking, access to facilities in Shere or support for our own facilities like the playgrounds, village hall and cricket club.

It is equally important that we have an effective voice in the parish council to influence borough and county councils on those areas the parish council doesn't have control over. Living on the busy Horsham Road, (speeding) traffic is one of the concerns that I share with many fellow villagers.

My experience of working with community organisations and with different tiers of government and public bodies can help us to achieve these changes.

It isn't just my ideas for what will make our village an ever-better place to live that are important.

My ambition is that everyone feels that they are represented and empowered to share their views on how the Parish council can be supportive of the great community we live amongst.

We will achieve this by ensuring that the council first listens, and then influences others to make positive changes in our village.

I have spent the last few decades doing this professionally, and if elected would do the same for Holmbury.

More about me here: [russellfindlay.com](http://russellfindlay.com)