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Conservatives

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Edited by Alison Crook and John Mingay

April/May 2019



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR CANDIDATES

John Mingay and Alison Crook

STANDING FOR LOCAL ELECTION ON 2ND MAY



John Mingay was first elected to represent Newnham in 1992 and has been re-elected 9 times since.

He was Deputy Mayor of Bedford in 2002 and was the first ever elected Speaker of the Borough Council from 2003 to 2004. John has sat on 8 School Governing Boards, been a Member of the Harpur Trust and is now Chairman of the Council's Adult Services Committee dealing with the Health Service. He is also Chairman of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Service Delivery Committee which looks after the safety of residents in the County.

All this adds up to a wealth and depth of experience, gained over nearly three decades, that gives John a knowledge of the 'workings' of the local Council and its hard working Officers that it would be difficult to match in this day and age. John worked as a teacher for almost 30 years and would have taught a number of Newnham Residents. He hopes to once again represent the people of Newnham in the job he loves doing.

"I was previously a school teacher for 30 years and improving the life-chances of young people is what inspired me to become involved with the Council. Many of the people I taught live in Newnham Ward and is great to see them flourish, particularly when I ended up teaching their children as well, as they became parents themselves! "

John lives in Castle Ward with his wife and is kept busy by his three grown up children and their families. Five grandchildren definitely keep him on his toes!

Alison was born to profoundly Deaf parents, and is a qualified British Sign Language Interpreter by profession.

She is one of four founders of Access Bedford, a voluntary charity that has received national and local recognition for the work it has done to make Bedford more accessible for Deaf people.

Through Access Bedford, Alison has worked with many community groups and organisations and has a real understanding of the time and effort that goes into maintaining and improving community life, usually by passionate people who are often volunteering their time.

Alison got involved in politics 5 years ago to resolve an issue with "Access to Work" funding which was negatively affecting Deaf people in work. As part of a national effort, she engaged with local MP (then Richard Fuller) to successfully effect a positive change in policy.

"This experience and everything since, has taught me how important it is to be proactive, and what can be achieved when the community comes together to make positive change. In order for our services to really improve, everyone would benefit from having the opportunity to learn from those with lived experience. I believe this is where the role of Councillor is important, to bring people together to share information and influence meaningful change. I am excited to be able to use my life experiences to influence policy and improve Bedford services."

Alison has lived in the Castle Road area for 9 years with her husband, two daughters (and two dogs!). For 17 years before that they lived in Bedfordshire, with Bedford as their local town.

John Mingay



Alison Crook



NEWNHAM
CONSERVATIVES

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A message from Kathryn Holloway, Police and Crime Commissioner

I am happy to report that the cross party Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel who hold me to account stated publicly this month that I have already delivered 70% of the promises in my Police and Crime Plan, published in 2016; with more than a quarter of the term to go. This year I will be recruiting 160 new PCs - more than have been recruited in a single year for a decade - including a doubling of the current strength of PCs across eight Community Hubs, created since I took on this role to return Community Policing to Bedfordshire. Bedford's Hub is based at Lime Street Enquiries Office, opened with my support in the town centre and due to go to seven day working later this year.

I have transformed services for victims, with an online directory of quality support organisations at signpostforbedfordshire.com backed by a call centre of specialist Victim Care Coordinators, working six days a week to help all affected by a crime on freephone [0800 0282 887](tel:08000282887). On April 2 I will launch a similar one stop shop online with a call centre of helpers for ex-offenders who want to go straight and need to be helped to succeed, with a network of advisors agreed in every Jobcentre in the county to give them employment and benefit advice the same day, on leaving prison.

I won a unique £4.571m Home Office grant for Bedfordshire Police last December and will not stop robustly fighting to fund more officers on your behalf. As your PCC, I have certainly not sat on my hands!

Some of the things that John and Alison have been supporting Newnham residents with recently:

- Upgrading of Aylesbury Road Bus stop – hard standing and marking out.
- Repainting of white lines outside the shops on Wendover Drive Roundabout.
- Yellow lines installed on the corners of Dudley St and Rosamund Rd, York St and Rosamund Rd and also where Denmark St, Dudley St and George St join Goldington Rd.
- Carrying out a parking survey and sharing the results with the residents in Finchale Priory / Easby Abbey.
- Supporting the Riverfield Residents Association with Anglian Water Treatment issues.
- Attending all Riverfield Residents Association meetings and liaising with Borough Hall on behalf of residents.
- Taking part in many Riverfield Drive Litter Picks.
- Representing residents at the Police Priority Setting Meetings, helping to agree the Police target for the 3 months after each meeting.
- Supporting residents with reporting anti-social behavior and violence to the Police.
- Being involved in preventing the closure of the Putnoe Walk in Centre before other options were available.
- Holding surgeries once a month outside Tesco Goldington Road to hear residents concerns.

Alison and John working together

Since being selected to stand in Newnham a year ago, Alison has worked alongside John, to support many residents with issues that have come up over that time.

John and Alison are looking forward to seeing these issues through to resolution (if not already resolved) and beyond if elected in May 2019.



Completion of the Aylesbury Road bus stop.



John and Alison helping to keep the area tidy at a Riverfield Drive Litter Pick.

Councillor John Mingay

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As well as contact details for your Conservative team please “like” the *Riverfield Residents Association Facebook page* along with *Castle Residents Association* too (Newnham Ward covers Denmark Street onwards) and get involved! There is lots of local information shared here.

John and Alison hold resident surgeries outside Tesco, Goldington Road on the first Saturday of every month. No appointment needed, please just turn up, we are always very happy to chat.

