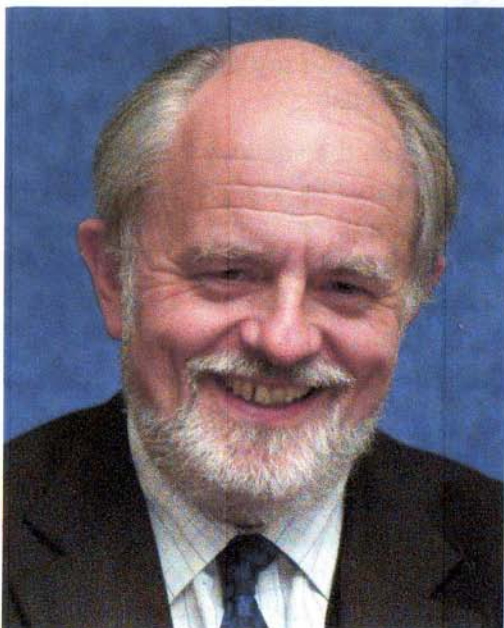


# ADDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## By-Election 26 January 2017

Keith R Mitchell CBE FCA FCCA



There is to be a by-election for a vacancy on Adderbury Parish Council on 26 January 2017 and I hope I can count on your support.

This leaflet explains:

- ❖ why there is a by-election so soon after the whole Parish Council was up for election in 2016 and
- ❖ how and where the by-election will be conducted and
- ❖ my own reasons for standing and what I hope to achieve if elected.

**Why there is an election to fill a vacancy:** Election for Adderbury Parish Council was due to be held on 5 May 2016 but there were exactly 11 nominations for the 11 places. No election therefore took place. Since then, David Bradley has resigned, having apparently found it difficult to attend meetings. In such a circumstance, the parish council would often advertise the vacancy, seek nominations and co-opt a replacement. This is what happened when there was last a vacancy. However, a number of electors requested an election be held. This is unusual and will cost the parish council around £3,000 but it is what the law provides.

**Date and location of by-election:** The by-election will take place on **Thursday 26 January 2017 from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm**. It will be held in the **Methodist Church Hall, Adderbury**.

Printed and published by Keith R Mitchell CBE of Nell Bridge House, Adderbury, Oxon

# Why I am asking for your support



At the time of the Parish Council elections in 2016, several villagers urged me to stand but I had a full quota of voluntary work at the time and I thought I had served my time in local councils!

When the vacancy occurred towards the end of 2016, I was again urged to put my name forward by several villagers from

all parts of Adderbury. I thought long and hard about this and I had heard that meetings had become difficult and confrontational. Those urging me to stand hoped I would bring a calmness to meetings founded on my long experience in public service. If elected, that is my hope too and to support councillors who are working for the wellbeing of the whole village.



Adderbury is a large village with some 1,200 dwellings and a population of getting on for 3,000 people. We have been more fortunate than neighbour villages like Bloxham and Bodicote in that the quality of new housing has been pretty good and in keeping with our fine architecture. I know people worry about the quantity of new

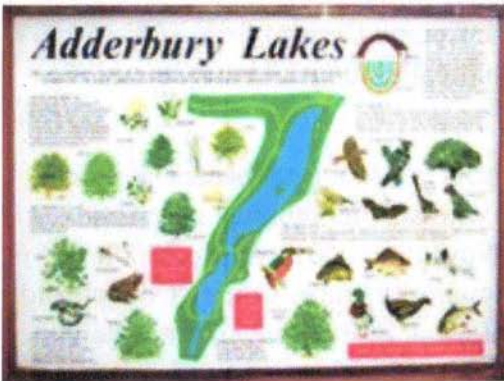
housing being built but anyone who tells you they will stop Adderbury having any more is not being truthful. I think our role as a Parish Council is to work hard to maintain the quality of what is built and to ensure, as far as we can, that the village infrastructure can sustain it.

Although not a great fan of football personally, I understand how much pleasure and good exercise it brings to many people and I am very supportive of the village doing what it can to improve playing and changing facilities in Adderbury.



I have been a member of the Friends of Adderbury Library (Focal) since its inception. I served as Chairman in the early years when we raised funds to refurbish Church House and to move the library into it. I have served again as Chairman since 2012. We are a registered charity and we are committed to raising £9,000 each year to make

up for county council cuts in the staffing budget. This enables the library to retain its full opening hours. We have a full programme of events for 2017 to help us to raise the necessary funds and an enthusiastic organising Executive.



I am a great fan of Adderbury Lakes and regularly walk our dog, Coco, round them. The Lakes are a wonderful resource for the village and the Lakes Committee has done a great job in maintaining their unspoilt nature while enabling wheelchair access and in keeping the lakes dredged and teeming with wild life. I am always pleased to see how many

people enjoy this facility. I hope the Parish Council will continue to support it.

I am Chairman of The Mill Arts Centre Trust, a registered charity, in Banbury and enjoy this voluntary role.

If elected as an Adderbury Parish Councillor I will have the time to fulfill the role and will bring financial skills and public service experience to the office. I plan to represent the whole village and to base decisions on what is best for all residents and not any small sectional interest.

## My record

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1967 at the age of 21 years. I worked for 23 years in financial training, publishing and conference centres, selling my business interests in 1990.

Between 1985 and 2000, I was a non-executive director in the NHS in Oxfordshire.

I was first elected to Adderbury Parish Council in 1988 and served on the Parish Council until 2008.

I was first elected to Oxfordshire County Council in 1989 and served continuously until 2013. The County Division changed slightly over these years but Adderbury was always part of it and I continued to attend Parish Council meetings as often as I could after I had stood down as a parish councillor.

I was Social Services spokesman on the County Council from 1993 to 1999. In 1999, I was elected Leader of my political group while the County Council was hung.

In 2001, the government required councils to adopt new leadership models and I negotiated a coalition agreement with another political group and became Leader of the Council from 5 November 2001. At the 2005 elections, my group secured an overall majority on the County Council and this was enlarged in 2009. I served as Leader of the Council until May 2012 from which time I served as a back bencher for a year and stood down at the 2013 elections.

During my spell as Leader of the Council, I served as Chairman of the South East Regional Assembly for three years and as Chairman of the English Regions Network for two years.

I was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours in 2007.