

By e-Mail

Dear Gillian

It is with regret that I am tendering my resignation from the position of Chair of the Guildford Society after an eventful four years, spanning the change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Local Plan and Solum.

Whilst writing my end-of-year report I realised that it was no longer possible for me to sit on the sidelines of a political debacle at Guildford Borough Council - on the one hand, the Lib Dems not being an effective and scrutinising opposition, and on the other hand, the Leadership treating other Councillors with the utmost contempt whenever they question or challenge their leaders.

I do not fail to recognise the amount of work put in by the leadership of the council, but we have long questioned its effectiveness, transparency, democratic accountability and openness, especially for groups such as ours. We have questioned whether their policy agenda is objective and likely to deliver the kind of Town we aspire to. We have been frustrated that our outstanding knowledge groups have seen little opportunity to debate very real issues with officers and/or councillors other than at public inquiries and examinations in public.

I would rather not have to put myself forward to stand as a prospective councillor at the next local elections in May, but I feel there is little or no option.

Thank you and all GSoc members for your support and friendship during my time as your Chair. I wish you well in the future and assure you that I will continue to be a member and support the Society.

Yours sincerely.

Julian

JULIAN LYON