

**Northamptonshire County Council
Final Annual Report 2021**

I was first elected your County Councillor for the Moulton Division in May 1997 and I have finally decided to retire some 24 years later, so this is my final report.

During my time on NCC I have served on many different committees and have chaired the Community Committee, the Adult Social Care and Health Committee twice, and the Development Control Committee twice! I was also elected Chairman of all the Select Committees of the Council. I was a member of the NHfT and the East Anglia Flood Committee. I was the NCC representative of the Northamptonshire Cadet Forces and was an Executive Member of SSAFA. I am also a member of Boughton Parish Council for almost 40 years and served a short term as its Chairman. I have also been a Member of the Richard Humfrey Charity since the early 1980s and have been its Chairman for the last 19 years.

In 2008 – 2010 I served two consecutive terms as Chairman of the Council which was a great and unforgettable honour. I sponsored two charities: SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity) and FaceFax (a local head, neck and throat cancer charity founded by my sister) and raised over £17,000 during my terms as Chairman. I was privileged to meet, countywide and further afield, many inspirational people in all walks of life who have made exceptional contributions to our lives. My highlights of that time, apart from being presented to several members of the Royal Family and attending several Garden Parties, were my two civic dinners. My first guest speaker was General Sir Richard Dannatt, then Head of the Army, and, secondly, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar, First Sea Lord. He invited me on a two day trip aboard the Frigate HMS Westminster from South Shields to Portsmouth (a truly unrepeatable experience!).

When I first became a County Councillor in 1997 I had 16 villages in my division, including Althorp which was reeling at that time over Princess Diana's untimely death. It was a very sharp learning curve as I was certainly plunged in at the deep end! Today, I have 13 villages and during my 24 years I have attended many many parish council meetings and Annual Meetings and met a vast array of talented and dedicated parishioners, councillors and Chairmen, I have attended site visits, facilitated meetings and spoken publicly to help protect our cherished local heritage. I was a champion of Moulton Library which was under threat of closure. I have keenly locked horns with and challenged burdensome bureaucratic decisions on many diverse issues on my constituents' behalf in my quest for fairness, openness and progress.

The County Council will cease to exist next month. Our first NCC Chairman was The Red Earl, Lord Spencer in 1889 and during the Council's 133 years it has seen some remarkable history. Four years ago due to unacceptably poor and creative accounting methods we were placed in special measures and it was decided by Parliament that Northamptonshire would become two Unitary Authorities. During the last two years NCC has made huge strides financially, and we have now balanced the books and will be handing over some £90m to the new unitary councils as they become the fledgling Authorities.

It has been my privilege to be you County Councillor for 24 years! I wish to Thank you all for your kindness, wonderful humour and encouragement over the years. I have very happy memories!

Judy Shephard
County Councillor
Moulton Division
March 2021

