

## Essex Climate Action Committee Commissioners



### **Chair - John Randall**

Lord Randall was the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip from 1997 to 2015. He studied Serbo-Croat and Russian at London University before joining the family retail business in Uxbridge. He also was a professional ornithologist for several birdwatching tour companies before entering B1:B6Parliament.

John's parliamentary career saw him serve on a series of Select Committees including Transport. He was appointed an Opposition Whip in 2000 and became Government Deputy Chief Whip in 2010. He resigned his ministerial position in October 2013 and stood down from Parliament in 2015. John was the independent lead for a Department for Transport report into port connectivity before becoming the Prime Minister's Environment Special Adviser in 2017. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 2018. He is also currently the Deputy Chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation as well as being a trustee of various charities.

### **Co-Chair – Prajwal**

Prajwal is the Co-chair of the Essex County Council Climate Change Commission. Youth representation and climate change are both topics that he is incredibly passionate about. Prajwal represents the young people of Essex as a member of the Young Essex Assembly and a Member of Youth Parliament, where, currently, the main topic for campaigning is to protect the environment. Prajwal considers the highlight of his time in youth representation is speaking from the despatch box in the House of Commons. Prajwal attends Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group meetings as well as All Party Parliamentary Group meetings on Youth Affairs. He regularly keeps up with the latest news and scientific literature on the topic of climate change in particular. This is what inspired him to want to pursue the role of representing the young people of Essex on this topical and important issue.

### **Co-Chair – Daniel**

Daniel represents west Essex in the Young Essex Assembly (YEA). He has been a member of many young people groups and has always wanted to contribute towards a change for the better.

Daniel was keen to join the Essex Climate Action Committee as soon as he heard about it. He was firmly of the opinion that by joining such a great initiative he would be in a position to contribute towards a great cause and really make a difference. Climate change is a very important issue which is close to Daniel's heart. It appears to be a recurring theme in almost every conversation he has with other young people. Daniel is committed to bringing about change as he is well aware that we all have to live on this planet and so will generations yet to come. Daniel feels that to help build towards sustainability is a great feeling.

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### **James Abbott**

Cllr James Abbott graduated from University College London in 1982 with a B.Sc. Hons in Astronomy. He has been an Essex County Councillor since May 2013 as a member of the Green Party. He is currently Deputy Leader of the Non-Aligned Group. James has also been a Braintree District Councillor since May 1999 where he is Leader of the Green and Independent Group which forms the main opposition on the council.

A continuous Member of the Planning Committee on Braintree District Council for 21 years, James has a particular interest in promoting planning as a key mechanism to help in delivering truly sustainable development and change in society.

James has been campaigning on climate change since studying atmospheric physics as part of his degree course and gives talks and lectures on climate change, astronomy and green issues. His main areas of interest include planning, transport, energy, recycling, habitats/woodlands and light pollution.

James is also a member of CFDS, The Commission for Dark Skies which works to secure reduced light pollution and hence reduced wasted energy.



### **Catherine Cameron**

Catherine is a co-founder and Director of Agulhas: Applied Knowledge, a thriving research and consultancy practice specialising in climate, conflict and fragility. Agulhas works with clients from academia, government, civil society and foundations to provide research and analysis.

Catherine also works to drive change and build momentum for action on climate change. She was one of the four people to develop and deliver the Climate Finance Advance programme at Findhorn in 2014, to drive private sector momentum in advance of COP21. In 2015 she was one of the co-Founders of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Limits to Growth (L2G).

A Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) at the University of Surrey, Catherine has previously been a Visiting Professor at the University of Essex and a Visiting Fellow at Anglia Ruskin and the University of Oxford. She is an Advisory Council member for the Equity Index project and for the Impact Trust Routes to Resilience programme, educating future leaders on the need to put sustainability at the heart of strategy and implementation.

Her international experience over the last 30 years covers 45 countries in East and Central Africa, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

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### **Mark Carroll**

Mark Carroll is currently the Executive Director of Place and Public Health, which incorporates a wide range of services to create the conditions for sustainable growth and development, enabling residents to achieve their ambitions and creating great places to live, work and enjoy, now and in the future.

Before taking up this role, Mark was seconded from central government to Essex County Council as our Director for Strategic Housing and our Greater Essex Devolution Programme lead.

In HM Government, Mark held a variety of Director and Board level roles over 12 years in the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government. During that time he advised Cabinet Ministers and delivered the government's responsibilities for decentralisation, localism, communities, integration, preventing extremism, housing, the third sector strategy, European Regional Development Funding and led the 2010 Spending Review for DCLG.

Before joining the Civil Service, Mark worked as a partner in management consultancy, with contracts with FTSE 100 companies, government and health organisations. He started his career as a probation officer and has led a regional charity using social enterprise to tackle drug and gang issues.



### **Natalie Chapman**

Natalie is Head of South of England and Urban Policy for the Freight Transport Association. FTA is one of the biggest business groups in the UK. It is the only organisation in the UK that represents all logistics. It has 18,000 members from the road, rail, sea and air industries as well as buyers of freight services such as retailers and manufacturers whose businesses depend on the movement of goods.

Her work includes developing and shaping transport policy to support members; engaging with political stakeholders; and representing the industry in the media.

She has a particular interest in enabling efficient logistics in cities and is currently focused on the development of the proposed Direct Vision Standard, the roll out of Clean Air Zones and reform of the London Lorry Control Scheme. Natalie is a keen advocate for enabling deliveries to be retimed outside peak hours and chaired TfL's Retiming Deliveries Consortium. She also works with the business community to enhance FTA's campaigning and is Deputy Chair of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Transport Committee.

Natalie read Law at the University of the West of England in Bristol and graduated in 2003. She joined FTA later the same year.

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### **Peter Davey**

Following his career as CEO of a public company Peter became a Parish Councillor in 2011 and in 2017 became Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) which represents 275 Town and Parish Councils in Essex with 100% membership. EALC workstreams support the development of local councils to create a strong voice both countywide and nationally. In 2017 Peter also became a member of the board of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in 2017 which represents 10,000 Town and Parish Councils in the UK. Peter is involved in the climate change initiative at both national and county levels.

Climate change is an important issue for all local (Parish and Town) councils and both EALC and NALC support their members through a variety of means. Both the organisations hope to prioritise climate change again once the effect of Coronavirus has subsided.



### **Ian Davidson**

Ian Davidson has been Chief Executive of Tendring District Council (TDC) since 2010. His overriding ethos is that the Council should take a community leadership role for the area as a whole, working with all public sector providers.

TDC declared a Climate Emergency in August 2019 and has developed an action plan which entails calculating the Council's carbon footprint and steps to reach net zero carbon by 2030 as well as identifying community actions to influence and encourage businesses, community groups and individuals across Tendring to join the Council in striving to make the whole area net zero carbon. The Council is currently working on developing 200 Council houses and Garden Communities, mindful of the challenges faced by climate change and ensuring that they are state of the art local homes for local people.

Prior to Tendring, Ian worked at the Audit Commission as an Area Manager. He has also undertaken an extensive programme of work on behalf of the Council of Europe, supporting the strengthening of local self-government and developing democracy and public services.

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### **Peta Denham**

Peta Denham works for the Environment Agency (EA) in East Anglia as the Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager. She has worked for the EA for 25 years managing the risks and impacts of flooding on the natural and human environment. Peta is a Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and a chartered environmentalist.

Peta lives in rural Suffolk on a smallholding with a few animals and vegetables. The River Dove flows through the smallholding's fields and occasionally floods them. Peta believes that if we let rivers and the sea flood onto their natural floodplains and marshes in some places, it will help us manage the risk of flooding to people and property in other places. Peta is firmly of the opinion that it is all about working with nature for natural flood management.



### **Todd Harper**

Toddington is a solar energy and energy storage professional, whose parents pioneered some of the world's first commercial solar energy systems around 45 years ago. His career has focused on sustainable energy solutions, including creating five successful sustainable energy and low carbon businesses which he has led as CEO.

Prior to GRIDSERVE, Toddington was co-founder and CEO of BELECTRIC UK, which developed c.350 MWp of utility scale solar farm and rooftop projects. At BELECTRIC UK, Toddington built an award-winning, solar energy and energy storage business, generating over £200m in profitable business in the six years before it was successfully sold to RWE's Innogy in 2016.

Toddington created GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Ltd to move the needle on climate change. Its first major success was winning the highest price battery storage enhanced frequency response contract with National Grid, one of only seven successful contracts out of 208 tendered. In 2019, the company delivered the UK's largest and most technically advanced hybrid solar projects, becoming the UK solar energy and technology market leader. The company is also creating the country's first Electric Forecourts®, powered by new solar energy projects, designed to provide the best possible experience for electric vehicle drivers.

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### **Ivan Henderson**

Councillor Ivan Henderson was first elected to Harwich Town and District Councils in 1986 and has served as a County Councillor since 2013. He was the Member of Parliament for Harwich from 1997 to 2005, dealing with a wide range of issues at local, national and international level. He is currently serving as the Labour Group Leader at both County and District level.

Ivan is passionate about his local community and that includes climate matters and sustainable travel for Essex residents. He served as a Department for Transport Board appointee for six years to Harwich Haven Authority and has worked with a number of NGOs such as Sustrans, Living Streets, Campaign for Better Transport and the Urban Transport Group.



### **Heather Hilburn**

Heather Hilburn has over twenty years of experience in the design, delivery and financing of cultural places and healthy spaces for local communities, and the protection of the natural environment and places of historic significance.

Heather is the CEO of Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP), hosted by University College London. TEP is a consortium of public and private agencies that operate on the river Thames and UK coast, working on a long-term programme to address climate change and biodiversity. Heather also serves as a non-executive director and independent advisor focussing on preserving heritage skills, cultural tourism, data technology and green finance. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Social Investment Foundation (Access) and the City and Guilds London Art School.

Heather served as both Design Advisor and Project Sponsor for the Queen Elizabeth Park in East London, including the transition of Olympic Games venues into private and third sector local enterprises. As Strategic Project Director for the Tower of London from 2013 to 2019, Heather shaped a long-term plan to make this World Heritage site more accessible to diverse audiences through public engagement.



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Victoria Hills [TO ADD]



### **Peter Hobson**

Peter is a Professor in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainability within the School of Sustainable Environments at Writtle University College. He is also currently acting co-director for the Centre of Economics and Ecosystem Management in partnership with Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development.

Apart from his academic roles, Peter is also a member of the IUCN Commission for forest ecosystems; the board of trustees for the UK Wilderness Foundation; board member for European Beech Forest Network; member of the European Society for Conservation Policy Group; European Wilderness Society Advisory Group; Rewilding Britain Advisory group; and the Advisory Group for Wild Europe.

His research interests include the application of ecosystem theory propositions. For the last 10 years, Peter's research has focused on thermodynamic measures of ecosystem function in forested landscapes and how this research may contribute to a new paradigm of sustainable land use practice referred to as "econics".

His work in international consultancy includes biodiversity conservation and sustainability in biosphere reserves and 'shared landscapes' across Europe, Central America and other parts of the world. Closer to home, Peter is involved in initiating and developing urban rewilding and green veining projects across Suffolk as part of a strategy to help mitigate problems of climate change.

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### **Aled Jones**

Professor Aled Jones HonFIA FHEA is the inaugural Director of Anglia Ruskin's Global Sustainability Institute (GSI). His research explores climate opportunities and risk, predominantly from a finance sector perspective.

His work in climate finance has been recognised by the State of California and he has received a key to the city of North Little Rock, USA. Aled was a member of the UK-US Taskforce on the Impact of Extreme Weather on US/UK Food Security and was a President Bill Clinton Distinguished Lecturer. He chaired a working group on climate finance within the Capital Markets Climate Initiative (CMCI) on behalf of Greg Barker, the Minister for Climate Change in the UK Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC).



### **John Lippe**

John has over 25 years' experience with Ford Motor Company and was appointed Director of City Engagement, Europe, Ford Mobility in May 2018. He is responsible for managing relationships with key European cities and other stakeholders and leads Ford Mobility Sales and Marketing activity. Ford Mobility is a division of Ford Motor Company established to develop commercially ready mobility services and technologies and to invest in promising mobility related ventures.

Prior to his current position John was Head of Government Programmes for Ford of Europe. In this role he was responsible for coordinating company efforts to secure UK Government and EU funding to support research, development and manufacturing activity in the UK.

John has a wide-ranging automotive background having held a variety of roles in both Product Development and Manufacturing Engineering. John's career in Governmental Affairs also included a 3-year assignment working in Ford's Brussels Office liaising with the European Institutions and industry stakeholders on key legislative issues. Previously, John worked as a Technical Manager in Product Development within the Vehicle Environmental Engineering Department focusing on vehicle emissions, CO2 and climate change.



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### **Sue Lissimore**

Elected to Colchester Borough Council in 2006, Sue is Colchester Borough Councillor for Prettygate ward. She was subsequently elected to Essex County Council in 2013 representing the Drury division. Sue has sat on a range of panels and committees and for many years has been shadow cabinet member for waste and the environment at Colchester Borough Council. She has also been Cabinet member for property, planning, housing and communities at the County Council.

Sue's interest lies in the community and how councils can practically roll out environmental projects that will benefit local neighbourhoods.



### **Simon Lyster**

Son of a tenant farmer on the edge of Hanningfield reservoir, where he still lives, Simon grew up with a love of nature. After qualifying as a lawyer in the UK and US, he switched from City law to wildlife law. He wrote the textbook *International Wildlife Law*, was awarded a PhD by Cambridge University, and has worked in wildlife conservation in the UK and internationally for more than 30 years. He initially worked with WWF, then as Director General of the Wildlife Trusts, followed by CEO of LEAD International, a leadership and management training company.

Since 2011, Simon has served on numerous boards in the private, government and NGO sectors. He is a Board member of Natural England, a non-executive director of Northumbrian/Essex & Suffolk Water and a trustee of the Rural Community Council of Essex. He is Chair of the Trustees of Conservation International (UK), a trustee of Kilverstone Wildlife Charitable Trust and a Council member and former Chair of World Land Trust. He is also a Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Essex.

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### **Mike Mackrory**

Cllr Mike Mackrory is the Leader of the Essex County Council Liberal Democrat Group and Leader of the Opposition having been a member for 15 years representing the Springfield Division. He has also been a member of Chelmsford City Council for 13 years where he is Cabinet Member for a Greener Chelmsford.

Mike was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of his visionary work as Leader of the former Chelmsford Borough Council, promoting improved urban spaces and the public realm in the town centre area. He was an early advocate of Chelmsford achieving city status. Mike is currently heavily involved in ensuring truly sustainable development in the housing developments in Chelmsford, in particular the North East Chelmsford Garden Village project. He sees the Commission's work as vital to all aspects of the future quality of life for Essex residents and hopes it will prove to be a model for others to follow.

Mike has a keen interest in environmental issues and was an active member of the predecessor to the County Council's Place Scrutiny Committee. Mike has been a member of the RSPB, CPRB and the National Trust for many years.



### **Laura Mansell-Thomas**

Dr Laura Mansell-Thomas is an engineer who has worked in the construction industry for 25 years. She is a Partner at Ingleton Wood LLP, a 200-strong multi-disciplinary building consultancy encompassing building surveying, engineering, environmental and architectural disciplines.

Laura has been involved in low energy building concepts and environmental design throughout her career. Her philosophy is one of practical sustainability – approaches that are achievable, add value and move us all towards the goal of zero carbon. She has been involved in projects at all scales, from the £55m refurbishment of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, which used innovative low energy cooling technology, to small housing association schemes, assessing the most cost-effective ways of meeting – and exceeding – sustainability goals.

Laura is a Fellow and Member of the Council at the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and has a particular interest in how we attract more people into the construction industry and how they are educated. She is involved with the Design Engineer Construct course for 14-18 year olds and runs the Apprenticeship programme for Ingleton Wood. Her passion for people and training means she now also heads up HR, including initiatives on Mental Health Awareness and Fairness, Diversity and Inclusion.

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### **Jacqueline McGlade**

Jacqueline McGlade is Professor of Sustainable Development and Resilience Institute for Global Prosperity and Engineering at University College London, Gresham Professor of the Environment, Professor of Public Policy and Governance at Strathmore University Business School, Kenya, and Lead Scientist at British Institute in Eastern Africa, Kenya.

Her current research includes nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation, including social and economic valuation of agri-biodiversity systems under future climate scenarios among many others. She is also currently building a new Prosperity Index with communities in the UK and Africa.

Previously Jacqueline was UN Environment's Chief Scientist, Director of Science and Chief Statistician, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, Director of the UK Centre for Coastal and Marine Sciences, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Warwick, Director of Theoretical Ecology at the FZ Jülich and Senior Scientist in the Federal Government of Canada.

She has published more than 200 research publications and books, produced award winning films and radio series (see TEDx talk on Building Resilience to Climate Change, BBC series The Life Scientific and her Gresham public lectures online) and has received several honorary doctorates and international awards.



### **Robert Mitchell**

Cllr Mitchell spent 40 years as a Naval or Police Helicopter Pilot. Since 2003, when he became a councillor for Braintree District Council, he has dovetailed flying with District Councillor duties, and since 2017, with his position on Essex County Council. Robert's roles have included 10 years as Braintree's Deputy Cabinet Member for waste (encouraging 23-55% recycling rates) and carbon management.

In this role, Rob and his team proceeded to innovate, educate and change habits and as a result, every year since then they were able to save more carbon and tax than their combined salaries, across the District.

Robert lives (and encourages others to) through a "sustainable" prism – we're not perfect, but we can all do better. He believes selfishness has been a societal poison (until improved by the latest crisis) which has damaged individual and collective "responsibility". Robert is firmly of the opinion that we can only continue to live on this marvellous planet if we look after it better, and quickly.

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### **Roger Morris**

Bishop Roger Morris, (born 1968), studied Chemistry at Imperial College, London, and then Theology at Trinity College Cambridge. He has been in ordained ministry since 1993 and Bishop of Colchester in the Diocese of Chelmsford since 2014. Roger is married to Sally, a Secondary School Headteacher and a Minister in Secular Employment (MSE). They have two daughters.

Roger stage-manages the Canopy Stage (previously 'The Performance Café') at the annual Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival (Winner of multiple AGF (A Greener Festival) Awards).

The Diocese of Chelmsford has links with the Dioceses of Embu, Kirinyaga, Meru, Meru, Mbere and Marsabit in Kenya; Trinidad and Tobago; Karlstad in Sweden and Archdiocese of Iasi, Romania. The Diocese of Chelmsford has been actively engaged in measures to address the effects of climate change in Kenya specifically.

This year, the General Synod of the Church of England set a 2030 target for net zero carbon emissions for the Church of England, rejecting the recommended target of 2045.

Roger has frequently spoken on environmental issues and climate change – including raising issues of the disproportionate effect of climate change on the World's poor.



### **Rob Pilley**

Rob Pilley is a Zoologist originally from South Woodham Ferrers in Essex. Born and raised in the Essex countryside, he has always loved nature and as a child enjoyed exploring and discovering the Essex marshes, ponds, fields and hills.

Rob has a degree in Zoology from Reading University and a master's degree in Biodiversity from Imperial College, London. He now lives in Bristol where he directs and produces wildlife programs for the BBC and is currently directing and producing the latest landmark David Attenborough series. He also makes wildlife shows for children and families and posts these on his Facebook page 'Rob's Wild Adventures'. These are designed to encourage and inspire young people to get involved in the environment and nature and demonstrate how they can learn so much from what lies right under their noses, on their doorsteps.

Rob's upbringing in Essex is very close to his heart as it is the Essex landscape and nature that inspired and encouraged him as a boy, and so feels honoured to help develop the Essex landscape for future generations.

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### **Jules Pretty**

Jules Pretty is Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex, where he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2010-19. He has sole-authored a number of books including *The Edge of Extinction* (2014) and *The Earth Only Endures* (2007).

He is also Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Society of Arts, former Deputy-Chair of the government's Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, and has served on advisory committees for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Royal Society.

Jules has acted as presenter, writer and contributor to a number of TV and radio programmes and series including the 1999 BBC Radio 4 series *Ploughing Eden*.

He received an award from the Indian Ecological Society, was appointed A D White Professor-at-Large by Cornell University from 2001 and is Chief and Founding Editor of the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*. He received an OBE for services to sustainable agriculture, an honorary degree from Ohio State University in 2009, and the British Science Association Presidential Medal (Agriculture and Food) in 2015. He is currently a trustee for WWF-UK and the Green Light Trust.



### **Adam Read**

Dr Adam Read has been External Affairs Director at SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK for almost three years after a successful career in academia, local government and consultancy. Prior to joining SUEZ he was Ricardo's global waste management lead. He spent 15 years in major consultancies, supporting city and regional waste strategy, site development and stakeholder consultation and he led the development of a former Essex CC resources and waste management strategy (dating back to 2002).

Recently he has been jointly leading SUEZ's work with the UK Government on the development of the new English Resources & Waste Strategy. He has co-hosted over 50 workshops in the last two years working with the value chain to assess the changes needed to meet higher recycling targets and deliver sector decarbonisation.

Adam sits on numerous industry technical working groups through the ESA, Aldersgate Group, EIC and Society for the Environment. He has been in the sector for almost 25 years specialising in municipal waste management strategy, recycling services, contracts and consultation, and continues to support UK service innovation through his involvement at SUEZ and more widely through the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM).

Adam is a Fellow of the CIWM, the RSA, IOM3 and the Royal Geographical Society and is the CIWM 's incoming President, taking up the reins in June 2021.

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### **Jake Richards**

Jake Richards is currently working as the County Adviser in Essex for the National Farmers Union (NFU). As County Adviser he works closely with Rob Wise, the NFU environment officer. In his role with the NFU Jake looks after the concerns of some 1000 farmers in the county which range from productivity, environment and land use. At a regional level he works as the sugar beet lead in East Anglia, which is the primary producing area for sugar in the UK.

Jake's background is agriculture and agricultural research and he has a PhD in Crop Science. Having grown up on a farm in south Suffolk he has recently spent a number of years working in crop research. The work he has most recently undertaken has been focusing on improving the soil structure of agricultural soils while increasing crop yield. A focus of the research group was to achieve greater crop output from lower inputs therefore reducing the environmental impact of agriculture.

**Chloe Rose [TO FOLLOW]**



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### **Jo Roberts**

Jo has been a Director and Chief Executive of the Wilderness Foundation since 2004 but has been involved with the organisation since 1998.

South African by birth, Jo trained and worked as a Social Anthropologist during the time of Apartheid, working mainly with rural communities. She also has a keen interest in developing benefits for communities tied to nature protection as a long-term conservation tool. Using the extensive wilderness network and her close link to South Africa, she merges best practice from around the world into creative programmes that suit British climate and culture.

Over the past 20 years, Jo has established a wide range of programmes within the Foundation to meet these needs of nature connections, individuals and society as a whole. Jo also leads the South Africa wilderness trails' outreach.

Jo is a Master NLP Practitioner and Advanced Psychotherapeutic Counsellor. She uses her skills in behaviour change facilitation and motivation across the board, with a particular focus on the outdoors.

Working with Wilderness Foundation global partners she is also integrating some of the research and concepts of maintaining or restoring wild and intact landscape as part of the several keys for climate change mitigation.



### **Jonathan Stephenson**

Jonathan has worked within local government for over 25 years, predominantly undertaking senior leadership roles, across a range of different organisations including Ipswich Borough Council, The London Borough of Enfield, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Brentwood Borough Council.

Jonathan has been Chief Executive of Brentwood Borough Council since December 2019. He is also the Chief Executive lead for Housing and Infrastructure and Climate Change for the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), Non-Executive Director for The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and a Board Member of Suffolk New College, a further education college.

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### **Graham Underwood**

Graham Underwood is a Professor in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Essex. Trained as a zoologist at the University of Reading, and with a PhD in freshwater ecology from the University of Sussex, he moved to Essex in 1992, after a period of post-doctoral work at the University of Bristol. His area of expertise covers freshwater, estuarine, and coastal seas, and sea ice biology and ecology, with a major focus on microbial ecology, dissolved organic matter and biogeochemical cycling, and how these relate to ecosystem functioning, biodiversity, water quality, and scientific underpinning of coastal zone management (CZM) policies.

Recent research includes investigating the importance of dissolved organic matter and nutrients in carbon cycling in coastal environments, impacts of nanoparticles, coastal “Blue Carbon”, and Arctic lake and sea ice biogeochemistry. He has worked with UK Government, NGO and conservation stakeholders to provide scientific underpinning for policy.

Professor Underwood has extensive experience working with a wide variety of boards, committees and advisory groups. He is currently Chair of Natural Environment Research Council Science Committee and has recently completed a six-year term as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health at the University of Essex.



### **Simon Walsh**

Cllr Simon Walsh has degrees in Botany with Marine Botany, Sustainable Environmental Management and Leisure, Tourism and the Environment. He has a professional background in environmental land management, having started his career as a marine biologist, going on to manage a large coastal nature reserve in Devon and was a Countryside Manager for Hertfordshire County Council where he helped establish the London Walking Forum. A career break to raise a family was followed by a move into politics, starting with Parish and District Councils.

Simon has been an Essex County Councillor since 2001 and has served on various scrutiny committees and chaired the Scrutiny Board. He sits on the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and two Regional Flood and Coast Committees. A former Chairman of the Essex Fire Authority, he is now Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action, a portfolio he shadowed in his scrutiny role.

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### **Jenni Wiggle**

Jenni is Interim CEO at Living Streets and a Company Director for Living Streets Services. She has worked in charity sector for over 15 years, leading on strategy and programme delivery and communications. Prior to joining Living Streets in 2012, Jenni was Head of Schools, Community and Youth at Global Action Plan where she oversaw the delivery of sustainability and climate change programmes for UK and international audiences and was the GAP UK lead for Global Action Plan International from 2008-2015. Areas of expertise includes education, sustainability, health and behaviour change.

Jenni was awarded the Charity Times Supporting Executive of the Year Award 2018 and won an Everywoman in Transport and Logistics Leader Award in 2019.



### **Charlotte Williams**

Charlotte is Group Director for Strategy and New Care Models for the Mid and South Essex (MSE) NHS Foundation Trust. Within this area, Charlotte leads the local Anchor Institution programme, working with colleagues across the public, voluntary, university and commercial sectors to add social value and positively influence the social, economic and environmental conditions in the area. This supports healthy and prosperous people and communities. The Anchor programme has a carbon reduction programme, working with local business and Anglia Ruskin University.

Charlotte joined the Trust in 2017 from UCL Partners Academic Health Science Partnership where she was Chief of Staff, working across discovery science, clinical research, and innovation. This included wealth creation and business development. She was seconded for two years to NHS England's Strategy Group, supporting policy and strategy development at a national level, including relating to sustainability planning, health and work and the impact of environment on public health. She was also a member of the Health Foundation's Expert Reference Group on NHS Anchor Institutions, which considered how the NHS can promote environmental sustainability in its own operations and in the broader community. This led to the first national publication on the topic in August 2019.



### **Rob Wise**

Rob grew up on an arable farm on the Suffolk/Essex border. After studying agriculture and spending some time working on farms, he pursued a career in the world of agricultural policy, first in US government and then in the UK, working for a number of agricultural supply and landowner trade associations.

He has been the National Farmers Union (NFU) Environment Adviser for East Anglia since 2012. He is responsible for advising farmer members and representing their interests on a number of issues. This includes leading on climate change, renewable energy, water quality, flood defence, waste, agri-environment schemes and planning policy for the NFU in East Anglia.

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### **Poone Yazdanpanah**

Dr Poone Yazdanpanah is an academic with over fifteen years of teaching and ten years of research experience in the UK at Lancaster University where she achieved her PhD in Design for Sustainability.

Her research interest is on the Future of Landscape Architecture in the context of Future Smart Cities (Internet of Things). Her focus is to bridge the gap between natural and built environment to respond to innate human-nature connections. Assuming a context of Future Low-Carbon Dioxide Cities and the impact on citizens' behaviour and wellbeing, there will be a significant transition in cultural identity, perhaps more than before.

Poone's research is to explore how the design of public and private open green spaces would increase people's health and wellbeing while nourishing their beliefs and values, an example being Biophilic cities which incorporate natural materials, natural light, vegetation, nature views and other experiences of the natural world into the modern built environment.