

## BARRY WHEATLEY

Green Party candidate for Woodstock & Bladon

A practical local voice for our community

LOCAL ELECTION  
THURSDAY 7 MAY  
Vote Barry Wheatley



### Dear Neighbour,

I am standing for West Oxfordshire District Council because, after living in the ward for 36 years, I care deeply about the future of Woodstock, Bladon and the surrounding villages. Like many residents, I can see the pressures that have built up over the last decade - flooding, traffic, parking, overdevelopment, infrastructure strain and the protection of our green spaces. These challenges need practical, joined-up action, not party-political point scoring.

**Local people deserve a councillor who is visible, independent-minded and focused on getting things done.**

As a Green Party councillor, I would be free to use my judgement and put residents first. **Green councillors are not forced to follow a party line**; we believe in consensus, evidence and listening to the communities we represent.

### Who do you want speaking up for Woodstock and Bladon at District Council?

A councillor who lives outside the ward and who is expected to follow party leadership on difficult issues - or someone who lives in Woodstock, understands the pressures on our community, and will use experience and judgement to do what is right locally?



Barry working with volunteers to tackle a breach in the river bank

My background is as a scientist and engineer turned businessman, with a career built around hard work, innovation, problem solving and supporting businesses. I have worked across industry, academia and public policy, always focused on turning complex challenges into practical, real-world solutions. That is the approach I bring to Woodstock Town Council, and it is the approach I would take to the District Council.

Alongside my professional career, I spent several years volunteering as Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses in Oxfordshire, championing the small and medium-sized enterprises that are the lifeblood of our local economy. That experience has given me a deep understanding of the pressures facing local

businesses - from rising costs to infrastructure problems - and the need for practical, joined-up support so that they can thrive.

This work is not always easy, and progress can be frustratingly slow, but **I am not afraid of hard work. I believe in working collaboratively, using evidence and professional advice, and getting things done properly rather than chasing headlines.**

**Since being elected to Woodstock Town Council in January 2025, and as Chair of its Environment Working Group, I have been working on the issues residents raise with me time and again:**

- Flooding risks and the long-term management of the Water Meadows.
- Pressure from over-development without the essential infrastructure to support it.
- Traffic, speeding and parking problems affecting visitors, residents, workers and businesses.
- The need to protect and enhance our green spaces for future generations.



Barry Helping out with the Christmas Celebrations

With the help of other councillors, I led on the drafting of the Town Council's opposition to the proposed new housing development in Cherwell immediately south of Park View; the proposed closure of our fire station; and the way the pothole crisis is being dealt with both locally and nationally.

### That work on the town council is starting to pay off:

- National recognition of the Water Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve is now on the books.
- The proposed fire station closure has been halted.
- Concrete plans are developing to improve sports and leisure facilities, including the swimming pool, improved play areas and a 3G all-weather pitch.



Barry is working to protect our green spaces

But in both Woodstock and Bladon there is much more to do, and it needs strong representation at District Council level - especially better engagement with the agencies responsible for flooding, highways and infrastructure. Too often, decisions affecting our community, such as the location of the new doctors' surgery, feel as though they are made about us rather than with us. **That needs to change!**

If elected, I will focus on what the District Council can and should deliver for local people.

### My priorities will be to:

- Press for new developments to provide real infrastructure - not empty promises.
- Support our town centre and local businesses, including pushing for practical parking solutions for visitors, residents, businesses and staff.
- Question the logic behind the proposed location of the Doctor's surgery
- Protect our natural environment while managing growth responsibly.
- Be a visible, responsive councillor who listens, acts and reports back.

I will also continue to champion Woodstock and Bladon on wider issues - from highways and potholes to healthcare and emergency services - working with county and national bodies to push for better outcomes.

### This year's election is different.

**For once, here in Woodstock and Bladon, this election is wide open.**

- The diligent and well-respected Liberal Democrat incumbent is not standing for re-election.
- I am one of only two candidates who actually live in the ward.
- I have been working hard for Woodstock as a Town Councillor for the last 15 months, and I am starting to help make a real difference.

I now want your support to do the same as a district councillor.

Although the Green Party has always stood a candidate in Woodstock & Bladon, we have never actually campaigned here before. That means statistics and charts other parties use, that are based on past elections, are misleading.

If you want a district councillor who brings experience, independence and a practical, solutions-focused approach, I ask for your support. **This time, every vote really matters.**

**VOTE FOR BARRY WHEATLEY ON THURSDAY 7 MAY**

With best wishes,

**Barry Wheatley**

Your local Green Party candidate

**P.S. Local elections are often decided by a small number of votes. Your vote will make a real difference.**