

**Message from Maggie Filipova-Rivers,
Liberal Democrat County Council Candidate for the Goring and Woodcote
Division**

My name is Maggie, and I hope to be your future county councillor. I am the sitting district councillor for Goring, and bring extensive experience in local government, having served as a Cabinet Member and deputy leader on South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). My roles have included Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing—covering leisure, support for the voluntary sector, community safety, arts, and culture—as well as, more recently, Cabinet Member for Housing and Support for our vulnerable residents, focusing on homelessness prevention, council housing, and the community hub. In my day job, I also work with local government, advising over 160 councils on developing strategic partnerships and services to support the integration of new arrivals. Additionally, in my role with the World Bank, I work within the private sector development team, supporting governments on decarbonisation and sustainable growth in manufacturing. My expertise spans housing, sustainable growth, and migration—some of the most pressing challenges of our time, and if one thing is true of me, is that do not shy away from a challenge.



I have lived in the Goring and Woodcote division for over 15 years together with my husband and two children and we feel endlessly grateful to be raising a family in such a beautiful and welcoming part of the world.

I hold the (perhaps unpopular) view that local government can be a powerful force for good. It influences our daily lives in more ways than many people realise—and not just through potholes, though I fully acknowledge how frustrating they can be for us all. If we take a moment to look around, local government plays a role in everything from schools, sports centres, and playgrounds to stewarding natural assets and ensuring sustainable development. It shapes housing availability, supports our elderly and children with additional needs (something that is deeply personal to me), and maintains the libraries and high streets that are at the heart of our communities. These are the foundations that allow every resident to not just survive but to thrive and I am as committed to champion and strengthen these services, ensuring they are accessible, effective, and responsive to the needs of our communities. This is not going to be easy, in the context of a challenging financial picture due to chronic underfunding from successive governments in the areas of social care and rural roads for example, but I will do all that I can.

I believe in practical solutions, collaboration, and a vision that puts people at the heart of decision-making. If elected, I will be a strong and determined voice for our area—championing investment in essential services, protecting what makes our community special, and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I would be honoured to have your support.

Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Liberal Democrat County Council Candidate for the Goring and Woodcote Division