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 | Early DaysI was born in Birmingham (Castle Bromwich). Dad was a Police Officer and Mum worked in a Chemist when not looking after me! I went through all schools in Castle Bromwich including Park Hall High School as it was then, where I left at 16 to join the West Midlands PoliceAfter That I think that I joined the Police because my dad was an officer for 33 years, I realised that Policing in the 80’s wasn’t what I’d joined up for, so I joined the Financial Services Industry. I began my time with the CoOperative Insurance Society, initially collecting insurance and savings plans from the doorsteps of customers, but it was being able to advise on those plans that really motivated me. I actively pursued promotion and moved to Swansea in 1985 and was joined by Alison, the day after we married in 1986. I found that many clients appreciated a “no frills” approach and that the more that I knew, the easier I could make it for the people that I was advising. Many of my client’s really appreciated that we could take a subject of their life planning and financial solutions and make it a pretty positive and painless experience! I quickly found that I was very successful, eventually taking over as District Manager of Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight and moving to South Road in 1994. We’ve never moved since and aren’t likely to move in the future. We love where we live! I’m pretty proud to say that I was able to pass my skills on to so many Financial Advisers, both as a District Manager and later as a Training and Competence Manager with Advice Firms in Bristol, Bournemouth and Brighton.I consulted with a business in Brighton, helping them to build a new Financial Advice Business from the “ground up”Now I have been able to retire in 2020 at the age of 56, so I did take my own advice! I’m still married to Alison after 37 years and she hasn’t killed me yet! The family include my Daughter; Rachel, Son in Law; Ben, Son; Dan and Daughter in Law; Jazz. We are so proud of the “kids” and thrive on the relationship that we all have. They are all fabulous and work extremely hard. I’m happy to say that we are all a big happy family and put the “fun” in “dysfunctional!” When Dan was 5, we introduced him to the joys and ethos of Rugby! I began Coaching and qualified as a Mini and Junior Referee, which I continued to do for 10years as well as serving on the committee for that time as well. Dan currently runs a Commercial Forestry company, dealing with Forestry, Railway Maintenance and Engineering. Alison and Ben both work within the social care sector working with vulnerable people with learning disabilities. As such, I’m very aware of the issues affecting all aspects of the Social Care landscape. Rachel was employed as a SEN Specialist Teaching Assistant with Children who have Learning Disabilities, but last year she moved her career to work at a Portsmouth based agency, where she offers support and practical advice to children who have witnessed and/or experienced domestic abuse Jazz is a Lead Designer with Howdens, designing and consulting for the public when refurbishing the “heart of a house” Now I want to spend some time relaxing and walking my beautiful Cockerpoo (Shelby). I’m also really excited to be welcoming two Grandsons to our family in the next few months, so I’m sure that you’ll see me around the Parish, struggling with pushchairs and car seats!Next – I’m passionate about preserving and improving our beautiful areas, whilst advocating for the members of our community that need a champion. From the older members of the community, through to those who are vulnerable and those who are starting out as residents in the area. I have a lot of experience in helping people and think that I have a rounded view of our community.  From the young people who want something to do during their free time, Youngsters who have lost hope in owning property, those who feel outcast and don’t feel that the system works for them, those that work so hard in front line jobs, that have proved to be invaluable over the last couple of years right through to those who suffered so much to give us the freedom and choices that we all have today.  I will be working hard to improve everything that I can, for everyone!  I am currently serving on the **“Grounds” and “Staff” Committees.**I’m also a member of the **“Land East of Horndean”** and **“Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network”** Working Parties, as well as providing liaison to Horndean Community Association at **Merchistoun Hall.** I’m also proud to represent the Council at **Horndean Technology College.**  |