

## YOUR VOICE IN HORNDEAN "DOWNS" WARD



### ABOUT ME

Simon R Freeman

South Road  
Horndean  
Hampshire  
PO8 0EW

### CONTACT



"Clanmerry"  
35A South Road  
Horndean  
Hampshire  
PO8 0EW

 (023) 9259 9836

 07810 651 153

 [Simon.Freeman@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Freeman@horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk)

### EARLY DAYS

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 Police

### AFTER THAT

Having found that I'd probably 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, becoming the Assistant District Manager in Llanelli and later in Oxford, 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, when I progressed into Training and Competence with Advice Firms in Bristol, Bournemouth and Brighton. I consulted with the firm in Brighton, helping them to build a new Financial Advice Business from the "ground up"

### NOW

I'm pleased to say that 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 36 years and she hasn't killed me yet!

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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 also had a slightly different introduction, to Coaching and Refereeing, which I continued to do for 10years as well as serving on the committee for a little over 10years.

Alison, Rachel and Ben all work within the social care sector in various guises working with vulnerable people, in the private sector, the charity sector and providing assistance to those suffering domestic abuse, so this is an area that I'm very aware of the issues affecting all aspects of the Social Care landscape.

Now I want to spend some time relaxing and walking my beautiful Cockerpoo (Shelby), but also using my skills and enthusiasm to better the lives of the communities that we work, rest, and play in.

### **NEXT**

I'm passionate about preserving and improving our beautiful areas, whilst helping 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 pretty rounded view of our community.

From the youngsters 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 jobs that have proved to be on the front line over the last couple of years and 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, the "Land East of Horndean" Working Party as well as providing liaison to Horndean Community Association