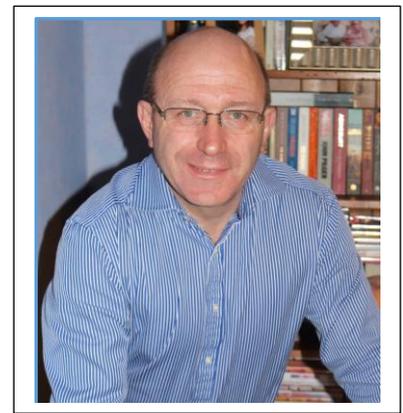


## MID SUSSEX CONSTITUENCY

### Robert Eggleston

“A self-motivated and committed Liberal Democrat with over four decades of active campaigning.”



My name is **Robert Eggleston** and I am putting my name forward for consideration as the prospective parliamentary candidate for the Mid Sussex constituency.

#### Political and campaigning profile

I joined the Liberal Party on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1973 following involvement in the Hove by-election and was active in the Brighton Young Liberals and the Brighton Pavilion Constituency Party. My first taste of electoral success was as Chair of the Brighton Young Liberals when I was campaign manager for David Rogers' 1976 victory in the East Sussex County Council Elections.

After University I returned to Brighton and stood as a candidate in two Borough elections before overturning a 450 + Tory majority and taking Preston Ward in 1985 for a seat on East Sussex County Council.

Moving to Burgess Hill (Mid Sussex) in 1989 I became involved in local politics in the area and served on Mid Sussex District Council from 1991 – 1995. From 1995 until 2008 my involvement in politics took a back seat due to my pressure of work and raising a family. I supported the local party as well as I was able to in this period.

Following a career change in 2009 I renewed my activity in local politics, winning a town council by-election in 2010. I stood as a candidate in the Burgess Hill Town Council elections (2011 & 2015) and Mid Sussex District Council elections in 2015. I have also acted as campaign manager in West Sussex County Council elections (2013 & 2017) as well as being one of the main editors of campaign literature (2010- ).

I have a high local political profile featuring regularly in the press and on radio on a wide range of local issues.

#### Personal Profile

I am sixty years young and married with two adult daughters. My wife (Hilary) works in the NHS as the clinical specialist lead for Speech and Language Therapy at Chailey Heritage and my two daughters are in teaching in Surrey and London.

I graduated with a first class honours degree in Sociology from Brunel University in 1981 and started a career in the asset finance industry in 1982. My career up to 2008 was either in business credit analysis and risk or structured finance operating at senior management or board level.

In 2008, and as a result of the banking crash, I was made redundant and took the decision to return to College, studying for a degree in Law at the College of Law (at the age of 50). I graduated in 2010 with a 2:1 and went on to complete my training as a Solicitor from 2010 – 2012.

From 2012 I have been Head of Credit and Legal Counsel at Maxxia Limited, a UK equipment finance company. Whilst our corporate head office is in Newport Pagnell my office base is at home in Burgess Hill. Maxxia funds approximately £500m of assets into the private and public sector every year.

I have been Chair of Burgess Hill Fairtrade since 2008 and I am also a Trustee of an Industry Networking charity that raises money for a variety of causes.

My main interest outside politics is promoting live shows, in particular folk music, which I run through my personal not for profit enterprise Snowdrop Music (see [www.live-arts.co.uk](http://www.live-arts.co.uk)) for more details).

### **Personal Philosophy – My Liberal Values**

I have been steeped in liberalism for over 4 decades. My starting point has always been the individual and protecting individual liberties from over powerful institutions, whether in the public or private sector. Accordingly human rights has always been high on my political agenda along with issues connected with trade justice and the distribution of power.

I oppose any form of discrimination which treats some individuals as being of lower value than others.

But liberalism, for me, is not simply about the protection and enhancement of individual freedoms. Liberalism is also concerned with giving individuals the opportunity to realise their full potential. Tackling social disadvantage by investing in education, providing social and affordable housing, access to good vocational training; and providing a strong web of health and social care. It is unacceptable that if you are poor you will have a lower life expectancy than those who are well off.

Liberals are by their very nature internationalists. I was active in the Remain campaign and have consistently campaigned on “An exit from Brexit” since the triggering of Article 50. Likewise I believe in the UK playing a leading role in the UN and other international agencies. I fully support our International Aid agenda.

Finally my Liberalism cares as much for future generations as it does for the present. I take a strong position on environmental issues and the need to take urgent action in this generation to tackle the threat of climate change; protect and improve bio-diversity and take plastic out of the eco-system and, in particular, the oceans.