**A passion for the City of London and the role of Common Councilman**

I’ve spent the last three months getting to know Bridge Ward – its people and businesses – those who live and work here or have a connection with the Ward. That isn't a one off. If elected I will invest time continually to understand the issues and deliver results on the ground for our Ward and effectively serve the wider interests of The City of London.

Through conversations and surveys I’ve gained a very good understanding of the issues that are important to people, their needs and concerns.

What I’ve heard is:

1. People are concerned about the impact of traffic – commuting, congestion, pollution and road safety
2. The north side of London Bridge needs improvement, litter, un-even paving and the rather dismal underpass
3. More open green spaces and better access to the river which I think could be a real asset to the Ward if developed to its full potential – more of an urban park like the south side.

It's important that what the corporation does is seen to be, and actually is, relevant for businesses. There's room in my view for better engagement and communication with businesses - bringing the business and civic sides of the city closer together and I’m keen to play my part in helping to achieve that.

This is a critical time for The City and those who live and work in it. The events of 2008 created a crisis in confidence and many have felt the economic and reputational impacts. This together with a projected 10% growth in the workforce to 440,000 over the next 10 years and output up by a third - +£16bn - and in the face of further cuts to central government funding, the City faces challenges not only in maintaining its global pre-eminence in the face of stiff competition but also in delivering the local service proposition – including policing – and the excellent quality of the built environment and stuff everyday people care about. There’s pressure on transportation too which will only increase when Crossrail opens bringing in more people. Farringdon is set to become one of the busiest stations in Britain!

I am passionate in particular about three particular areas of focus:

1. **To promote the City and the Ward as a place to do business.**
   * To back small independent businesses which people like to see on their streets
   * To work to create the conditions to attract the talent and skilled workforce to the City that businesses will increasingly need to grow and develop
2. **To build a healthy and enjoyable environment for the people who work and live here:**
   * Safe and easy movement for pedestrians – ‘the silent majority’,
   * A less polluted and cleaner City,
   * More open green spaces, culture and arts.
3. **To encourage the widest range of talents and experience to come to the City by supporting all aspects of diversity and inclusion.** 
   * Helping businesses to take a more strategic approach to diversity and inclusion
   * Only 1 business from the Ward on the Advisory Board for the City’s Power of Diversity Programme

I care about London. I’ve lived and worked in the City for 18 years. I live next to the Financial Times building on Southwark Bridge. I worked on Great Tower St for 5 years and Bishopsgate for 13 years before that. My last role at Royal Bank of Scotland was Communications Director for what will become Williams and Glyn. I’m local which means I have a connection with the Ward.

Public service is important to me. This is the first time I’ve stood for public office and I have made a positive choice in my life to create the space and time to focus my passion for the City of London by putting myself forward. I believe that I have the business and City experience, as well as the energy, enthusiasm and time, to represent you well.

With an EU referendum, and an increasingly close eye on the City from regulators, the next two years will be critical for all working here. The future of a strong and vibrant City is important to us all and I am keen to play a part in the common purpose of promoting, defending and advancing the interests of the ‘World’s Financial Capital’, and a Ward within it that I feel I have developed a real connection with.