

# Julia Chamberlayne

## Case Study

## GLOS RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



### About Julia Chamberlayne

Mother of four Julia became trustee board member of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, supporting and advising local community projects.

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Information contained in this document was correct at the time of the research being completed.



***I**t's not true to think that you need to have some particular specialist experience to be a trustee. Just being involved and interested is what counts."*



Photography by Alexander Caminada

**When mother-of-four Julia Chamberlayne exchanged her county council planning career for full-time motherhood, she was very clear about one thing.**

"Community life is what it's all about, as far as I'm concerned.

"I'd had years of experience as a planner and when I left work, because of the demands of juggling a job and two children, I still very much wanted to keep involved with what was going on locally."

Which is exactly what she did - as a trustee Board member of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council - a charity supporting, advising and developing local community projects in rural Gloucestershire.

Another two children - and nine years with GRCC later - her commitment to family life and supporting the community remains as

strong as ever.

"I really don't know where those years went," says 42 year-old Julia, who is now vice-chair of her Village Hall committee. "As a relatively young trustee with a growing family, it was great that I was able to put in what time I could reasonably offer and get so much out of it. It was a great way of keeping in contact with people and supporting rural initiatives.

"It certainly wasn't just about Board meetings. As a GRCC trustee, I was also involved as chairman of a project for the elderly, involving older people's activities in local village hall. And we had away-days with staff, which meant I had real interaction and involvement with what was going on. "On a personal level, as a mother who wants to keep in contact with what's going on in the countryside, being a trustee gave me a real sense of supporting something which really mattered, as well as the opportunity to put something back."