

## Mary Lawes - Biography

I have been married for 42 years, I have two children and two grandchildren. By accident, I have three West Highland Terriers, who keep me busy, also an Uber Gran for my grandkids.

I worked in various jobs between having my children and settled into working for 20 years at London Underground now known as TFL, as a Duty Station Manager. It was a job I loved and excelled at. I was commended on many occasions for my work, but the highlight was the Queens Golden Jubilee in 2002. I organised emergency preparedness for my Group of Stations for which I was invited to the Queens Tea Party at Buckingham Palace in 2003.

I took early retirement and moved to Folkestone from London in 2003 and became a Councillor in 2015, working with and for my community in Harbour Ward where I live. I dislike injustice and strive to make my ward a better place to live and enjoy for all.

Harbour Ward has lost all its community assets over the years and has had no investment from our District Council. We need to build a strong community where residents take control and make our own decisions. We should decide what we want our community to be.

My aspirations are to see all power connected to our communities, devolved down from government and remove all deprivation from Folkestone. Common sense must be used to make sure our society is more equal, and that our young are given opportunities to aspire to be what they want.