

## Election Statement for Prof Nicholas Keep For SDDR Election to Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens Nov 2021

I am currently Executive Dean of the School of Science, Birkbeck University of London where I am in charge of three academic departments with over 100 staff of academics and scientists. This has given me extensive experience of corporate decision making, estates, human resources and equality matters, reading financial statements and running significant budgets. From 2022 I will be stepping down from this role and therefore have more time to devote to other activities and am offering this experience to the Conservators. Locally I am treasurer of Royston Methodist Church and a long-standing member of Royston Choral Society.

I am very interested in the conservation of wildlife on the Heath and Greens, and form part of the team that monitors the butterflies weekly over the warmer half of the year. We are very lucky to have nationally significant populations of plants, butterflies and birds on the Heath. However, they require active management of the grassland to maintain them and will be lost if the Heath reverts scrub. I will be keen to offer support to the Conservation Officer and speak up for conservation on the Conservator group.