**The Didcot Powerhouse Fund**

**Fuelling Better Futures**

Elizabeth Paris

I began to get to know Didcot properly when I was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Didcot in 2015, and since then I have been really impressed by the sense of community and the local energy. I am a trustee on the board of two local charities, SOFEA and Be Free Young Carers, and also lead the Lieutenancy Convening Group for families and children. As a Grants Panel member of Step Change, another donor advised fund, I can bring experience of the grant giving process. I was one of the group who got The Didcot Powerhouse Fund up and running, so I am confident that Didcot already has great charities and great community leaders, and I am passionate to ensure that the Fund grants are well used to give communities the extra boost they deserve.

Outside of being a Deputy Lieutenant my career has been in two phases: investment banking for the first 19 years as a Managing Director at JP Morgan and Chase Manhattan. Then, since 2002 I have worked with charities and social enterprises: amongst other roles I was the Oxfordshire Director of Common Purpose, engaging with issues across the county, a governor for 10 years of the FE Colleges Activate Learning and founded and chaired a charity to raise the literacy aspirations of disadvantaged young people. Currently I am a Consultant with the World Bank, focusing on the economic empowering of women in emerging economies, and an Associate Fellow at the Said Business School, Oxford University.

My husband Adam and I live in a village not far from Didcot with an unruly ragdoll cat, some alpacas and two grown up daughters.