

Happy Retirement Alison!

We say a fond farewell to one of our most familiar faces next week as Alison Stringfellow will leave us to spend more time relaxing and travelling.

Alison, who works as an Executive Assistant supporting the director team, is one of our longest-serving members of staff and has seen plenty of change over the years.



“It’s been a really enjoyable time and it’s the people who I’ve got to know that I will miss the most,” said Alison.

“I’ve seen a lot of change both in the organisation and in how the town looks as well – I was only just saying the other day that it used to be the swimming baths out there (looking out of the window on to the Market Walk development).

“I’ll be sad to leave but I’m ready to retire and spend more time seeing my family and travelling.”

Alison started her career here at Chorley Council straight from school and 43 years later still plays an important role in the organisation making sure the director team is supported, keeping the cogs of the authority turning.

She first started in the environmental health department, which at that time was based in the Town Hall, and has worked in just about every building covering Gillibrand Street, a Portakabin in Bengal Street, the abattoir, on Back Street, and now Union Street.

“The biggest changes have been the technology – we were using manual typewriters back then, they then became electric and we are where we are today with a pretty much paperless office,” said Alison.

“The culture of the organisation has changed too, which reflects how society has changed over time too. If you look back over the years there have been a lot of characters working here and there’s probably less of that as there is less socialising with colleagues and you perhaps don’t know everyone as well as you would have done some time ago.

“I have enjoyed the various places I’ve worked here – the environmental health department was really interesting at that time because they covered a wider variety of tasks such as meat inspections, refuse collections, food hygiene, housing inspections but over time that has been split up.

“More recently I’ve found the DHRs (domestic homicide review) meetings interesting and I have enjoyed my time here but I’m ready to retire – my husband has already retired so it makes it harder coming into work – and spend more time visiting my daughter in London and travelling. That’s both abroad but also seeing places in this country that I’ve not had chance to visit.”

Alison will retire on Friday 21 June and everyone is welcome to join Alison and her colleagues for a drink in the Sir Henry Tate from 4.30pm onwards