**Q&A with Nick Caton, exiting Chair of the Alliance for Finance**

What’s the new job?

**I am now Community Union’s newest Legal Adviser**

What are some of AFF’s achievements whilst you were chair?

**Coming through the lockdown period and being able to put on events online was a big one, there was a moment where we weren’t sure if the Alliance would still be able to continue, but instead we managed to learn the technology and still attract MPs, CEOs, GPs, and even Radio 4 contributors!**

What are the challenges of the Chair role?

**It was a challenge to make sure we were representing all areas of the sector, whether that’s in terms of function, (banks, insurance, building societies etc) or the people themselves. However having said that, forcing ourselves to view things from all angles has brought out some brilliant discussions and made me think about certain issues in a different way.**

What does the role include?

**The role is largely trying to keep the Executive Committee focussed, no small task! Collectively, our Exec have a lot of experience, a lot of knowledge, a network of contacts, and some great viewpoints on a range of important topics, and all the elements in running an event, it was my job to try and tease those things out and make a 2 hour webinar out of them. It’s about creating a network for the Alliance, and to stay valuable to our affiliates, which I hope we have achieved.**

What did you get personally from the role?

**I have met some outstanding people, and have been inspired by them more times than I can count. I have continued to have my own viewpoints challenged, and have learned so much about myself because of that. I don’t mind saying in relation to the events, I also quite liked being the host, it was like having my own daytime talk show!**

What are your hopes for AFF in the future?

**I really think there is more room for the Alliance to expand, and I hope whoever takes up the reigns will try to drive it forward with that aim. I’d also like to see it evolve into its next form, whatever that may be. We did it this way for these past 5 years, and I expect there is even more value that can be added by a different Chair. To be honest, I just hope that in 10 years, I am still getting an invitation to the events.**

Will you miss us?

**I have gained so much, personally and professionally from this, despite the lot of you.**

**I joke, of course. The whole experience has been wonderful, and it was truly emotional to finish our last Executive Committee meeting knowing it was my last. I am richer for knowing all of the AFF affiliates, and I wish to thank all of you for the help and support you have given me. Without your guidance, without your knowledge, and without you coming along to our little events, it would have all been for nothing. So, thank you. I hope to see you all again soon**