

Your Parish Council Needs You

The current term of office for our Parish Councillors expires on May 6th 2019 and all thirteen will automatically resign so a new Parish Council will be elected on 2nd May. Some Parish Councillors have indicated they will not stand for re-election so there will be some vacancies. How about becoming a Parish Councillor for one of Oakley and Deane's six wards? The wards are:

- Church Oakley returning one Councillor,
- Deane returning one Councillor,
- East Oakley East returning four Councillors,
- East Oakley West returning three Councillors,
- Newfound returning two Councillors,
- Pardown returning two Councillors.

Although elected for a specific ward, all Councillors work to represent all residents and for the betterment of the parish. By tradition, party politics are not allowed at Council meetings!

To be eligible, you must to satisfy the following conditions:

- You must live in the Parish or within three miles of its boundary, or
- You must work in the Parish.
- You must be registered on the electoral roll, and
- You must be 18 or over.
- You are not disqualified by being bankrupt, convicted of corruption or illegal practices, been sentenced to three or more months imprisonment in the last five years or hold a paid office in the parish council or any company controlled by the parish council.

If you became a Parish Councillor, what would be expected of you? You will need to prepare for and attend the monthly Parish Council meeting considering all the relevant facts and making appropriate decisions. You will also to be a member of at least two working parties, most of which meet monthly. You need to be comfortable in dealing with people because you will be representing the electors of the parish whose views you must consider and to whom you are accountable. Much of the Parish Council's business is managed electronically through e-mail so you it is useful to be a regular and confident user of basic computer skills, but training is available if required. If you have other skills, such as finance, information technology, administration, planning etc these would be a great benefit to the Parish Council.

To stand for election, you must be nominated by two electors in the ward you choose. You do not have to live in the ward you are elected to. Nomination forms and full details of the electoral process can be downloaded from <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=2203> . Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the returning officer by 4:00pm on 3rd April. As nomination forms must be verified in person, it would be prudent not to leave it to the last minute.

If there are more candidates than the number of councillors representing a ward, an election will be held. If there are the same number or fewer candidates than councillor vacancies, there will be no election and the candidates will be returned unopposed. If some vacancies are not filled, then the Parish Council will apply to co-opt members to fill them. If, after the election there are fewer Councillors than the quorum (six), the Parish will be run by the Borough Council until enough members are co-opted.

Oakley and Deane Parish Council.