

Who me?

Why would I want to be a Councillor?

People stand for election for many reasons:

- To speak on behalf of the local community and help local people.
- To contribute professional skills to their community
- To shape the future of their local community



Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. They work with public, private and charitable bodies to improve their community. The role of Councillor is vital in the local community. Your council is the voice and champion of the parish. All Council seats are up for election once every four years. Now is the perfect time to consider standing for election to your local Council as all your Council's seats are up for election in May.

What's involved in being a Councillor?

The role of a Councillor can be varied at the best of times. Perhaps the three main areas of responsibility are

- Representing the people in your area
- Community leadership
- Supporting projects in your parish

So how do I get elected?

The elections for local councillors will take place across the county on May 6 2021. The Electoral process begins on 22 March with the publication of the Notice of Election in the Parish. This will be displayed on the parish notice board, the council's website and social media platforms. You can contact the Electoral Services section Cornwall Council who will be able to guide you through the electoral process for your parish or town. Search online for *Cornwall parish council election 2021*.

If I am elected

What would my time commitment be?

- It will depend on the extent of your involvement and what role you choose take in the work of the Council. At least 2 hours per week on average.
- This parish council meets 10 times a year
- The average length of a meeting is about 2 hours

Can I afford it?

- Councillors are volunteers, but costs for approved travel and subsistence outside of the parish can be reimbursed (for example, if you have to travel to attend training or conferences)

What help will be given?

Your council is supported by a Clerk who will deliver your induction training. This will take place before your first public meeting so you'll be prepared for what happens. There's comprehensive written guidance too – you can find this on the council's website.

Will I receive any form of training?

- Your council organised its own training about planning.
- Other seminars and courses for Councillors are organised throughout the year across the county.

- Training covers the basic functions of local councils and the skills needed to make decisions on behalf of your community.

Will I receive any other support?

We can also get you a 'buddy' (a returning councillor who can act as your mentor).

Being a Councillor is worthwhile?

Being a local Councillor can be a rewarding experience; here are some views of current Parish Councillors

I have fought hard to make my village a better place and for me it has been an enriching experience.

The best part of being a Councillor is working with the community that you serve, along with other councillors, to achieve the very best outcome for everyone.

Cllr Paul O'Brien, Local Councillor and Chairman of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils adds:

Councillors are people from all walks of life, from all age groups who wish to give a little of their time and expertise to representing their community. A good parish council is active for its people, representative of and listening to ALL sections of its community. Such a council can only be achieved by the election of a variety of different people from every adult age group. They are people like you!

If you'd like to know more about what parish councils are about, look out for our Quick Guide to *What is a parish council*. You can download a copy from our website.

Source: Cornwall Association of Local Councils

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