

Local Elections 2015

On May 7th 2015 parish and town councils will be going to election.

Parish and town councils are the closest authority to its residents, it provides services, functions and runs and maintains assets, without which our lives would be so much poorer.

There is not another local authority that cares more passionately about your locality, its roads, developments, air space or residents. Your parish and town councils strive to save your communities assets even in the current financial climate, because you cannot put a price on the value of community and social facilities.

Councils need people, they are made up of councillors and in most cases an employee, who is the proper officer of the council. Councils vary in the number of councillors that make up its body, it ranges up from five members. Every four years councils go to election, sometimes there are more candidates than available seats and this sends them to poll (elected by ballot). Other times there will be equal or less candidates for seats on the council and therefore those standing are elected uncontested (without cause to go to election by ballot).

Becoming a councillor is taking up a public office and with that does come some responsibility. Everyone has something to give to their council, everyone's views count. Every councillor represents the views of their community and your opinions are just as valuable as any resident in your town or parish.

Each parish and town council is a corporate body responsible for its own decisions and actions. Individual councillors and officers are not in any way personally financially liable. There is no personal financial risk in becoming a councillor.

Anyone who meets the qualification of office for that parish, town or ward may stand.

You need be 18 or over on the day of nomination, and be British or a citizen of the commonwealth or EU.

The further qualifications are:

- a) You live in the town, parish or ward and your name has been on the electoral roll for the parish or town for which you are standing for the whole 12 months before your nomination, and / or
- b) You are occupying as owner or tenant any land or premises within the parish or town for the whole 12 months before your nomination, and/ or
- c) Your main place of work including voluntary work has been within the town or parish for the whole 12 months before your nomination, and/or
- d) You have lived in the town, parish or ward or within 3 miles of it for the whole 12 months before nomination

To find out more please contact your clerk: Lynda Ling - 01379 852257 or email - earshampc@outlook.com
Nomination papers may be requested from: Lynda Ling or downloaded from South Norfolk Councils website
Further details on your councils work can be obtained from: Lynda Ling