

## **What Can my Local Council Do ?**

The powers of a parish or town council are wide and various. The Council exists as the most localised form of government and is there to serve and represent the parish or town and their residents and electors.

- Allotments
- Churchyards and cemeteries
- Commons
- Halls
- Open Spaces
- Traffic Calming
- Street Lighting
- Local Transport
- Playing fields
- Parking
- Special projects

These are just some of the areas where your parish council can act to improve the village, its amenities and support to local people.

Parish Councils play a major role in local consultation.

- County consultation on waste, tourism, education and transport
- Consultation on planning in your parish, local plans for your area, provision of services within your district and parish.
- Government consultation on legislation which might affect the future of your village, county, region or country.
- Forming local policy – neighbourhood plans and emergency plans

## **Being a Councillor is worthwhile?**

Being a local Councillor can be a rewarding experience; here are some views of current Parish and Town 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!*

# **A Councillor... Who Me?**

**Could you be  
A Parish or Town  
Councillor who will  
be elected in May to  
take a lead in  
providing services  
in your community?**



Serving the Parish and Town  
Councils of Cornwall

Cornwall Association of Local Councils  
Unit 1a, 1 Riverside House  
Newham, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2XN

[www.cornwallalc.org.uk](http://www.cornwallalc.org.uk)

## ***A Councillor ..... who me?***

To be a Local Councillor you must be at least 18 and a British, Commonwealth or European Citizen. You also need to be a local elector or have lived, worked or owned a property in the parish for at least a year.

## ***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 2017.

## ***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 4th, 2017.

The Electoral process begins in March with the publication of the Notice of Election in your Parish

This will be displayed in a public place such as on your village notice board. Alternatively 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.

To find out more about what's involved in being a Councillor, contact the Cornwall Association of Local Councils

Tel Truro (01872) 272648

email [enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk)

[www.cornwallalc.org.uk](http://www.cornwallalc.org.uk)

## ***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
- Most local Councils meet once or twice a month
- The average length of a meeting is 2 hours

### ***Can I afford it?***

- Councillors are volunteers, but costs for approved travel and subsistence outside of the parish can be reimbursed.

### ***What initial help will be given?***

- Each Council is supported by a Clerk who is knowledgeable in Council procedures. The Clerk is always ready to advise new councillors.

### ***Will I receive any form of training?***

- Training, seminars and courses for Councillors is 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?***

- Parish and Town Councils are supported by the National Association of Local Councils, through the County Association. The Association is there to offer legal advice, training and general support to all its members.