

## Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?

If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, you could be a councillor.

Local (town and parish) councils are led by democratically elected councillors from the local community. Local councillors decide on what services and projects the council will deliver. As representatives of the first tier of local government and the closest to their communities, local councillors are best placed to engage with their residents and find out what the real local issues are and how to overcome them. To find out more about local councils, take a look at [All about Local Councils](#). For some examples of what local Councils do, take a look at [Points of Light 2019](#)

Parish and District elections take place this year on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. If you would like to become a councillor, have a look at some of the sources of information we've put together here, and come along to one of the Parish Council meetings to meet and chat with our Councillors to find out more about what it involves! Our next meeting is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Drinkstone Village Hall.

### What else do you need to know?

Most people are qualified to stand for their local council but there are a few rules. You have to be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council

You cannot stand for election if you:

- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- Have within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- Work for the council you want to become a councillor for.

You can refer to the website of the [Electoral Commission](#) for full details.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have lots of [information](#) about the Parish and District Elections, registering to vote, information about polling stations etc. There's also more information about becoming a Parish Councillor on their pages, and you can download your nomination pack from there.

The deadline to submit your nomination papers is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.