

Let's bust some myths about being a Town Councillor.



'I'm not standing for the Town Council because...'

- ***I'm too young.*** If you are eighteen or older, then you are old enough.
- ***I'm concentrating on my career.*** Being a local Councillor can be a definite plus point to add to a CV - it shows you can make decisions, work in a team, are community minded and proactive.
- ***I'm too busy.*** Well it does take up some time but as the old saying goes 'If you want something done, ask a busy person'. Most Town and Parish Councillors say their roles take a few hours per month. We can provide you with more information and a meeting schedule if you want to find out more.
- ***I'm not interested in party politics.*** You don't need to be a member of a political party and lots of Town Councillors stand as independents and never mention party politics.
- ***I'm worried I wouldn't know what to do.*** Support and advice is available and training is provided. Town Council officers are there to assist you and we provide a tablet device to help keep you organised and look after your documents.
- ***I haven't lived here very long.*** If you have lived or worked in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford for a year, you are eligible and new-comers often have a lot to contribute as they see things with fresh eyes.
- ***I'll have to sign that code of conduct that the press keep on about.*** Yes you will, but the code of conduct is not very demanding. It's just about behaving reasonably and it is there to protect you.
- ***But wouldn't I have to let everyone know all about my business and personal affairs?***
The declaration of interest form completed when you start asks you to list business and property interests within the area, to guard against bias when local issues are debated. As for personal affairs, be realistic everyone knows already or else they don't care!
- ***I might not get many votes and it would be embarrassing.*** Even if you are not voted in this time, you may be approached if a vacancy occurs in the future and have the opportunity to be co-opted to the council. Besides, most people don't remember who didn't get elected.
- ***I'm not interested in my community.*** An excellent reason for not standing.
- ***I prefer to let others do the work and then criticise from the side lines afterwards.*** Another valid reason for not standing, but do bear in mind that expounding your views in the pub or over a morning coffee will not change a thing in your area. And if you can't be bothered, does that mean it's fair game to criticise those who do make the effort?
- ***The Town Council is full of dinosaurs!*** Why not stand and change it then?

I'm interested! What do I need to do next?

Please come and speak to the Town Clerk, Delia Shephard, for an informal chat about what is involved and what the next steps are to stand for election. You can also find out more on [our website](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!