

'Be a Councillor' Event

Wednesday 6 September
2023

Can you speak on
behalf of your
community?

Could you be a
Councillor?



Agenda

01 Introduction from the Chief Executive



02 GAPTC



03 Case Studies from Parish/Town Councillors



04 Qualifications/Disqualifications



05 Next Steps & Election Timetable



06 Q&A

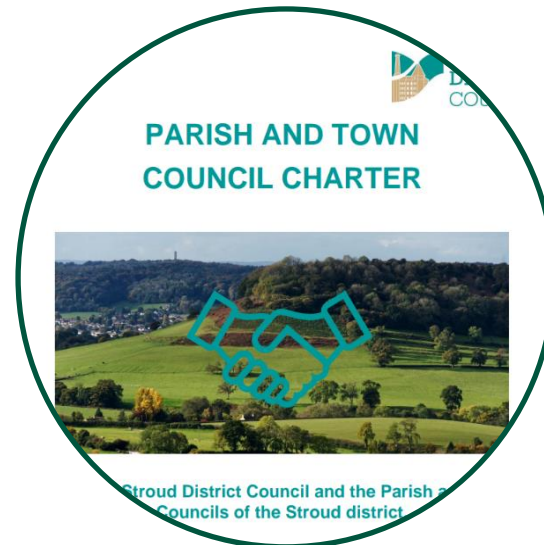


01

Introduction from the Chief Executive



- 27 District Wards
- 53 Parish Areas



- Roles and expectations
- Framework for SDC and Parishes to work effectively

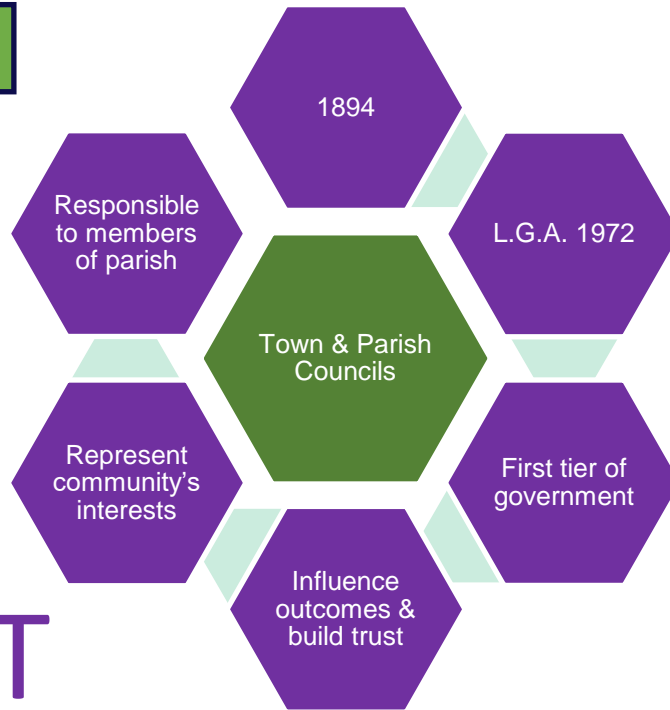
BE A COUNCILLOR



HELPING LOCAL COUNCILS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

GAPTC

© GAPTC, 2023



SUPPORT

GAPTC

- Advice line
- Specialist training
- Networking opportunities
- Mentoring
- Sector qualifications
- **Targeted** e-learning modules
- Audit service
- HR service
- Financial services
- Mediation
- Sector news and information

NALC

National Association of Local Councils



GAPTC is an affiliate of NALC which represents the interests of parish and town councils and is in continuous dialogue with government departments on the development of the local government agenda

Provides:

Legal services (briefings, topic notes, motions, committees)

National networks (Climate, Coastal, LGBT+, Super, Women and Young)

Leads on projects e.g. Civility & Respect, Climate Change, Health & Wellbeing

Local Council Award Scheme and Star Council Awards

Publications

Events

Role of a Parish/Town Councillor

- governance of the Parish/Town
- keep up to date with local, regional and national developments
- promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community
- represent the interests of all parishioners
- play an active role in the Council's arrangements to build community involvement and promote measures that contribute to the Council's vision
- attend Council meetings
- prepare for meetings
- take part in meetings
- represent the Council on outside bodies and organisations
- maintain proper standards of behaviour
- fulfil the statutory and locally determined requirements of an elected member of a Council

Serving your Community

- Climate and biodiversity action
- Health & wellbeing
- Community fridges and pantries
- Food & fuel crisis
- Speed awareness and road safety
- Community policing liaison
- Village Hall
- Planning
- Finance & scrutiny
- Youth development & engagement

BE A COUNCILLOR



© GAPTC, 2023

What does a Parish/Town Councillor do?

Councillor Jonathan Duckworth (Nailsworth)

...a Summary

- Represent Residents
- Raise and spend money
- Work for the benefit of your area
- Cooperate with others
- Attend Meetings!



What does a Parish/Town Councillor do?

Councillor Jonathan Duckworth (Nailsworth)

...hints and tips?

- Good Councillors' Guide
- Know rules and limits
- Don't be partisan
- Seek advice
- Network



How to juggle it all?

By Councillor Danae Savvidou (Dursley)

- Being a role model.
- We need better representation in our councils!



How can I make a difference?

By Councillor Helen Elliott-Boult (Rodborough)

- Community Engagement & community events
- Listening to residents' concerns and Being a voice for them
- Connecting individuals to others/officers
- Being a welcoming and supporting inclusion

Any hints and tips?

- Try it out, see whether it's right for you.
- You'll learn a lot, but people are willing to teach and help you identify your key strengths

How can I make a difference?



Bring bikes that need fixing
Practise riding a Bike
Bike Marking with PCSOs
Pick up accessories
Buy a bargain preloved bike



Rodborough Bike Day

Friday 11th August 10.30-2.30pm
at Rodborough Community Hall
With Dr Bike Workshop and Access Bike





NO MOW MAY

PARDON THE WEEDS, WE'RE FEEDING THE BEES!



RODBOROUGH WARM SPACES

All FREE and All Welcome

- Tuesday - The Tab - 1-3pm
- Wednesday - TOES - 10.30-3.30pm
- Thursday - Rugby Club - 1-3pm
- Friday - Community Hall - 2.15-4.30pm

Weekly starting January, 2023






Free Family Picnic Bags

PICK UP YOURS THIS FRIDAY
20TH AUGUST 10AM - 2PM AT
RODBOROUGH COMMUNITY HALL WITH
@GLOSCITYHAF2021




Rodborough Community Jubilee Bunting and Flagmaking Workshop

FREE Saturday 21st May 11am at The Prince Albert



Recycling unused material into bunting for decorating the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend celebrations & Designing and making street/community group flags for the Sunday Social procession
Please donate material - all coloured and patterned poly/cotton wanted
email: c.l.r.h.elliott-boult@rodborough.gov.uk



RODBOROUGH FETE

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

SUN 20TH AUGUST 12-4PM

MUSIC | STALLS | CRAFTS

Rodborough Community Hall, Butterow West, GL5 3TZ
clerk@rodborough.gov.uk





THE REPAIR CAFE

Sunday 28th May 1pm-3pm

At The Prince Albert, Rodborough
Bring your electrical and textile goods to be repaired.
Free with a donation to the food bank

Please email us if you can, to let us know what you're bringing
can@rodborough.org

In partnership with RPC and CCWG




HAF Stroud District






MON 20TH, TUES 21ST, WEDS 22ND
DECEMBER 2021

10AM - 12PM FOR AGES 4-8 YEARS



1.30 - 3.30PM FOR AGES 8+ YEARS

TO BOOK YOUR FREE ACTIVITY USE THE QR CODE OR CALL 01453 766321

A week in the life of a Councillor

By Councillor Shelley Rider (Nailsworth)

What you do daily/weekly as a Parish/Town Councillor.

- Attend fortnightly meetings of Town Council
- Read and respond to emails on an ongoing basis
- Do a Mayors/Deputy Mayor catch up weekly
- Other meetings as appropriate –
Personnel, working groups, surgeries



A week in the life of a Councillor

By Councillor Shelley Rider (Nailsworth)



What are the types of jobs/tasks/responsibilities you undertake in an average week.

- Read papers for council meetings including agenda and minutes
- Look at planning portal for planning applications
- Digest and reply to emails

A week in the life of a Councillor

By Councillor Shelley Rider (Nailsworth)

Hints and Tips



Keep on top of emails/paperwork

Be informed

Use your judgement

Keep a perspective

Keep smiling



What I wish I had been told?

By Councillor Teresa Creese (Wotton-under-Edge)

- Time involved
- Council responsibilities and decision making
- Expectation of Councillors
- Other opportunities – working groups
- Support from Clerk and other Councillors
- Training opportunities



Hints and tips?

- Your experiences in life, personal skills, a passion and commitment for your community and its people is all that is required.
- An ability to be a team player is essential and willingness to represent the Council and community.

My experience as a new Councillor

By Councillor Kevin Thorne (Hunts Grove)

- 1) What have I gained?
- 2) What have I contributed?
- 3) Challenges faced



My experience as a new Councillor

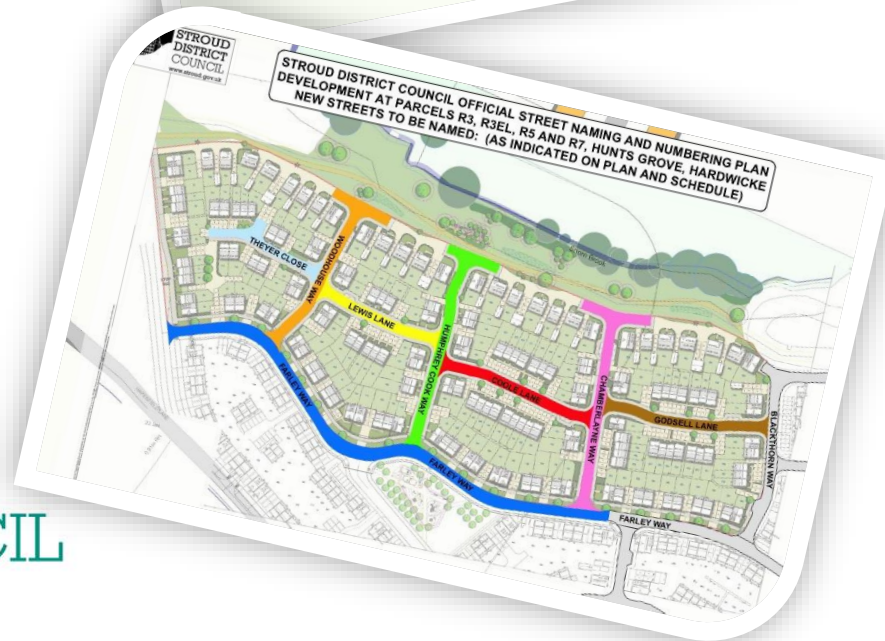
By Councillor Kevin Thorne (Hunts Grove)

Gains

- Meeting people
- Use experience and skills in new setting
- New skills
- Interest in new topics and subjects
- Personal satisfaction
- Sense of contributing

My experience as a new Councillor

By Councillor Kevin Thorne (Hunts Grove) Contributions



Active travel

Initial exploration: engagement with GCC and SDC
March 2023

My experience as a new Councillor

By Councillor Kevin Thorne (Hunts Grove)

Challenges faced

- CHALLENGES

1. Joining an existing team
2. There's lots to know
3. Lots that can be done

- LESSONS / TIPS

1. Don't go in at 100mph
2. Discuss & ask questions
3. Use the clerk
4. Training inc GAPTC
5. Create time for and away from council work
6. Remember what you bring to the party

Functions of the Council

County Council	District Council	Town/Parish Council
Waste Management and Disposal	Waste and Recycling Collection	Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoriums
Education	Council Tax	Bus Shelters
Transport	Council Housing	Community Centres
Fire and Public Safety	Electoral Registration	Play Areas and Play Equipment
Social Care	Health & Wellbeing	Neighbourhood Planning
Streets and Roads	Leisure and Recreation Facilities	Maintenance of cemeteries and village greens
Trading Standards	Planning Applications	Lighting
Libraries	Environmental Health	Litter, Graffiti & Dog Offences
Strategic Planning	Local Plan	Precept on Council Tax
		Allotments
		Public Clocks
		Public Footpaths and bridleways

Qualifications to be a Councillor

To stand for election, on the day of their nomination and on polling day you must be:

- ✓ 18 or over
- ✓ a British, eligible commonwealth citizen or citizen of any European Union state

And meet one of the following qualifications:

- ✓ Registered to vote in the electoral area
- ✓ Occupy as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the electoral area for the whole of the 12 months preceding
- ✓ Principal or only place of work is in the electoral area
- ✓ Lived in the town or area within 4.8km for the whole of the 12 months preceding

Disqualifications to be a Councillor

A person cannot be a candidate if:

- ⊗ Employed by the local authority
- ⊗ Hold a politically restricted post
- ⊗ Subject of bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- ⊗ Term of imprisonment of 3 months or more (including suspended sentence)
- ⊗ Disqualified due to corrupt or illegal electoral practice
- ⊗ Subject to notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

More detailed information on how to stand for election is available from the Electoral Commission:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

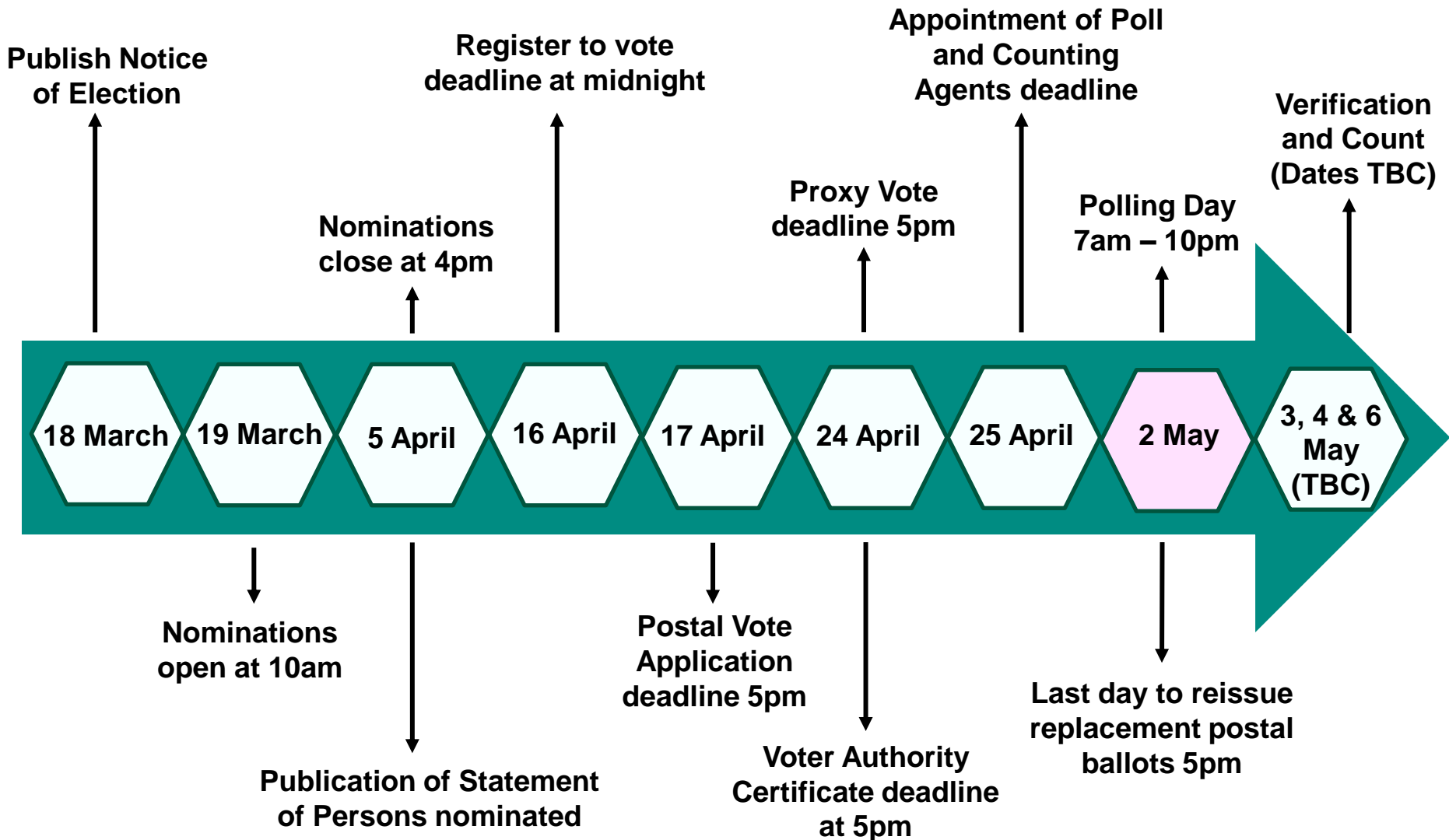
How do I become a Councillor?

The local elections in Stroud are taking place on
Thursday 2nd May 2024

What do you need to do?

- Register your interest with a political party (if you haven't already) or decide to stand as an Independent
- Prepare your campaign
- Submit a nomination paper (during the nomination period)
- Appoint your Agents
- Polling day and count
- Spending limits (expenses)

Election timetable



Voter ID

- Photocopies and copies on electronic devices not accepted.
- Expired copies of original document will – must still resemble elector
- Photo ID not needed for postal votes

Voter Authority Certificate (VAC)	Anonymous Elector Document (AED)
UK passport	UK Driving licence
EEA State or Commonwealth country passport	National Identity card issued by an EEA state
Biometric Immigration document	PASS Card
Blue Badge	Disabled Person's Bus Pass
Older Person's Bus Pass	A Freedom Pass
An Oyster 60+ Card	Ministry of Defence Form 90

After the election?

**Sign the Declaration of
Acceptance of Office**

**Elected councillors
take up Office on
Tuesday 7 May**

**Get in contact with your
Parish/Town Clerk**

**Submit your election
expenses and
Declaration of Pecuniary
Interest form**



Question and Answer section



Thank you for joining us

**If you have any further questions
please contact us on 01453 766321
or email
democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk**

**VISITORS
CAR PARK CODE**

1919