

# Hunsdon Parish Councillor

## Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors have an opportunity to make a real difference to their community, at a small cost in time and effort. It may be easier and more rewarding than you think. By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support; a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

In everything they do, councillors need to bring integrity and common sense to their approach and look for viable, pragmatic outcomes that can be achieved. All this work involves time, of course. Meetings have to be attended. Planning applications and other documents have to be reviewed. Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

The work load varies, but an average weekly estimate of 1-2 hours would be reasonable. Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. In return is the immense satisfaction of putting something back into the community. The PC have started to develop a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will set out how the community wants see the village in 20 years' time. The Plan will have a statutory basis giving the PC a real responsibility in shaping our future.

**If you think you would like to make a difference to your village then think about becoming a Parish Councillor.**

You are eligible to be a Parish Councillor if you are over 18, a British, Commonwealth Citizen or Euronational Citizen (who is a registered elector) and have been a resident for 12 months prior to the day of election - either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary or occupied land or premises for 12 months as owner or tenant - either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary or had a principal place of work - either in the parish or within 3 miles of the boundary

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to a parish council meeting, or speak to one of our councillors or parish clerk.