

HAPTCO



Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils

You should consider becoming a parish or town councillor if:

- You Want To Do Something Positive for Your Community
- You Want To Spend Your Time Productively
- You Can Think, Listen and Act Locally

The Role

Parish and Town councillors have overall responsibility for your local community.

The work falls into 3 main categories:

- Delivering services and facilities to meet local needs
- Striving to improve quality of life within your village or town
- Representing your neighbourhood

Being a councillor is normally an unpaid position, although allowances to cover costs are sometimes available.

What is a Parish/Town Council?

It is made up of a number of elected and co-opted Councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council.

Councillors are elected by the public at an ordinary election, normally held on the first Thursday in May every four years.

From this



to this



Your parish council might provide, maintain or contribute to the following services:

- allotments
- bus shelters
- car parks
- community centres
- community safety schemes
- community transport schemes
- crime reduction measures
- cycle paths
- festivals and celebrations
- leisure facilities
- litter bins
- local illuminations
- local youth projects
- parks and open spaces
- planning
- public lavatories
- street cleaning
- street lighting
- tourism activities
- traffic calming measures

They will often work with larger councils in your area called 'principal authorities' and cooperate to ensure the effective delivery of services to the local community.

Effort Required

TIME – It is possible to spend a lot of time on council work – but most people have jobs, families and hobbies that also demand a lot

of time. However, as with most things, the more you put in, the more you (and your community) will get out.

Generally speaking, the larger your community the larger your workload will be. The times of the meetings vary, as do the venues. Parish councils normally meet in the evening. It is **IMPORTANT** to establish the pattern of meetings and venues to make sure they can accommodate your domestic and/or business arrangements. Most councils meet once a month and many also have committees, in which case you would probably be invited to sit on a committee. These usually meet in between the meetings of the full parish council.

COST – Being a councillor should cost you little. There is usually cover for subsistence and travel allowances if your duties take you out of your local council's area. These allowances will be determined by the council, and will be within a maximum laid down by the Government.