

## Election timetable

The formal definition of the nomination process and dates is contained within the guidelines and information issued to prospective candidates.

For your convenience, the following are the key dates for the 2007 election:

- ⇒ **Tuesday 27th March:** Nominations may be submitted after this date to the elections office at the Town Hall, Burton
- ⇒ **Noon on Wednesday 4th April:** Deadline for receipt of nominations by the elections office in Burton
- ⇒ **Thursday 3rd May:** Poll day if the election is contested (ie there are more than 9 nominations)

## Further information

If you would like additional information about becoming a Parish Councillor, then you can talk informally to our Parish Clerk, Eric Roy.

Telephone: (01283) 840153  
Email: [parish.council@abbotsbromley.com](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

Eric also has available copies of the packs of information, including candidates guide and nomination forms, for prospective candidates.

More about the work of our own Parish Council can be found on the web pages at: [www.abbotsbromley.com/pc](http://www.abbotsbromley.com/pc)

The election office is at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, and can be contacted by telephone on (01283) 508332 or 508311.



Could you be the  
Parish Councillor  
your community  
really needs?

## Am I eligible to stand for election?

All kinds of people become Parish Councillors. They can be aged from 18 upwards, with a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations. The most important thing is that you have an interest in the village and how it functions.

Most people qualify to stand for election as a Parish Councillor. You must be able to meet the following requirements:

- ⇒ Be a British or Euronational subject
- ⇒ Be 18 or over
- ⇒ For the whole of the previous 12 months you must have been an elector in the area and occupied, owned or rented premises in the Parish or lived within three miles of it, or had your principal place of work in the Parish

You must **not**:

- ⇒ Hold a paid office with either the council or any company contracted by it
- ⇒ Be an undischarged bankrupt
- ⇒ Be disqualified by the courts or have been convicted and sentenced to three or more months imprisonment within the last five years

Initially you will have little knowledge of Council work, but training is available to help you become familiar with the many different facets of local government. However, your enthusiasm and local knowledge will enable you to make an immediate and useful contribution.

## When can I become a Councillor?

Parish Councillors are elected to serve for four years. The next ordinary election will take place in May 2007. The timetable for the election process is summarised on the back of this leaflet.

Occasionally there is casual vacancy between ordinary elections, and this may be filled by co-option or a bye-election. If you would like to be informed if such a vacancy arises, then tell the Parish Clerk.

## What does a Parish Councillor do?

A key element of the role of a Parish Councillor is the requirement to attend Parish Council meetings held on the last Wednesday evening of each month except August and December.

These ordinary meetings usually last a little over two hours, and are conducted to a formal agenda which is issued with accompanying papers a few days before the meeting. Councillors need to be able to spend some time familiarising themselves with the matters to be discussed, so that they can participate effectively.

Very occasionally, additional "extraordinary" meetings are held when a particular issue needs to be addressed before the next ordinary meeting is due.

Parish Councillors also have the opportunity to represent the Council on other bodies and at meetings around the County. The extent to which individual Councillors involve themselves in these additional responsibilities varies according to their interests and personal circumstances.

## What does a Parish Council do?

Unlike County and District Councils, Parish Councils have very few "duties" imposed on them by law. There is therefore very little that they **MUST** do.

Parish Council do however, have extensive powers opening up a wide range of things which they **MAY** do. The extent to which a Council uses these powers for the benefit of their community varies according to the needs of local environment and the enthusiasm and energy of the Councillors themselves.

Recent changes in government legislation have increased the powers available to Parish Councils, and there is also a growing role for them as a mandatory consultee for other statutory bodies. The parish needs energetic Councillors to make effective use of all these opportunities.