

# Candidates and Agents Briefing Verification and Count Arrangements

Derbyshire County Council Elections

Derbyshire Dales District Council and Parish By-Elections

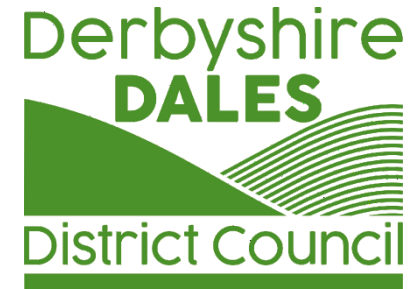
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

Neighbourhood Plan Referendums

# Topics

- Final list of contested elections
- Who's who
- Key Dates
- Polling Stations
- Postal Vote opening
- Verification – Thursday 6 May from 10pm
- Count Arrangements – Friday 7 May

# Contested Elections on 6 May 2021

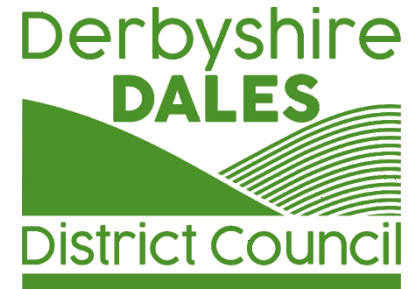


- Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire (4 candidates)
- Six electoral divisions of Derbyshire County Council
  - Ashbourne (4 candidates)
  - Bakewell (2 candidates)
  - Derwent Valley (2 candidates)
  - Dovedale (2 candidates)
  - Matlock (4 candidates)
  - Wirksworth (5 candidates)
- 2 electoral ward by-elections for Derbyshire Dales DC
  - Masson (3 candidates)
  - Wirksworth (3 candidates)
- 3 Neighbourhood Planning Referendums
  - (Ashbourne, Brailsford & Kirk Ireton)
- 1 Parish Council election for Winster (6 candidates for 5 seats)

## Who's who?

- The Returning Officer is the person responsible for running the elections this year, because elections are combined the Returning Officers are....
  - Derbyshire County Council – Helen Barrington
  - District and Parish By-Elections – Paul Wilson
  - Police and Crime Commissioner Elections – Emily Feenan is the Police Area Returning Officer
  - Neighbourhood Plan Referendums – Paul Wilson is the Counting Officer.
- For the County and PCC elections the RO and PARO and have delegated their powers to Paul Wilson as their Deputy for the Derbyshire Dales.

# Who's who?



- The Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for maintaining the register of electors and absent voters' lists. The Electoral Registration Officer is James McLaughlin.
- The person who manages the Elections Team at Derbyshire Dales District Council is Jason Spencer.
- Details on the best way contact us will be provided later.

## Election Timetable – Key Dates

Deadline for receiving new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxies)	5pm – 27 April
Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents	28 April
First date that electors can apply for a replacement for lost postal votes	29 April
Polling Day	7am – 10pm 6 May
Last time that electors can apply for a replacement for spoilt or lost postal votes	5pm – 6 May
Deadline for emergency proxy applications	5pm – 6 May

## Election Timetable – Key Dates

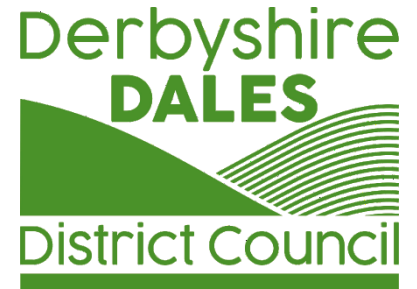
Verification of votes at Wirksworth Leisure Centre	6 May from 10pm
Counting of Votes for Derbyshire County Council at Wirksworth Leisure Centre	7 May from 10am
Counting of votes for Masson & Wirksworth by-elections and Neighbourhood Planning Referendums at Wirksworth Leisure Centre	7 May from 1.30pm
Counting of Votes for Police and Crime Commissioner Elections at Wirksworth Leisure Centre	7 May from 4pm
Counting of Votes for Winster Parish Council at Matlock Town Hall	10 May from 10am
Parish Candidate Spending Return Deadline	4 June 2021
County and District Candidate Spending Return Deadline	11 June 2021

## Polling Stations

- Details of all polling stations are included on the Notice of Poll for each contested election
- The general public health principles that everyone should already follow in all aspects of daily life should continue to be applied when participating in any aspect of these elections.
  - Maintain Social Distancing
  - Clean Hands Regularly
  - Avoid touching your face
  - Wear a face covering where necessary
  - No-one, including candidates and agents, should attend any electoral events if they are unwell, symptomatic with COVID-19, a confirmed case or a confirmed contact of someone who is self-isolating.

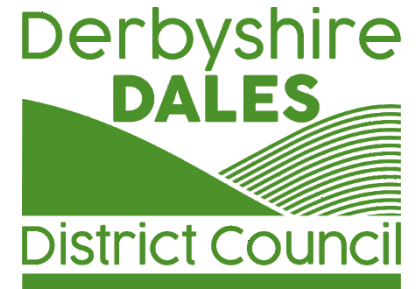


# Postal Votes



- Postal votes will begin to land on doorsteps at the end of this week
- Postal vote opening will formally commence on 26 April at Matlock Town Hall until 5 May and at Wirksworth Leisure Centre on 6 May.
- Candidates and election agents can appoint postal vote opening agents to attend postal vote openings on your behalf:
- The appointment of postal voting agents attending a particular opening session must be made before the start of the session. We will give 48 hours' notice.
- Voters can apply for a replacement postal vote pack from 29 April.

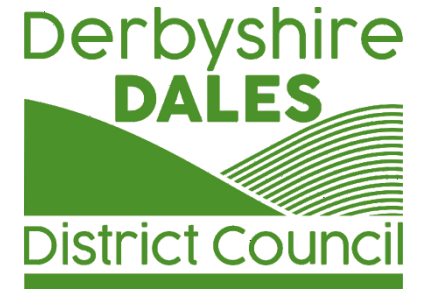
# Campaigning Code of Conduct



- Postal ballot packs:
  - Never touch a postal ballot paper
  - Never observe electors completing their postal vote.
  - Never handle or take any completed ballot paper or postal ballot pack from voters
- Campaigning outside polling stations:
  - You are allowed to put your messages to voters on polling day, including public spaces outside polling places.
  - Keep access to polling places and the pavements around polling places clear to allow voters to enter.
  - Behaviour within the vicinity of the polling place on polling day, in light of coronavirus

# Polling Day

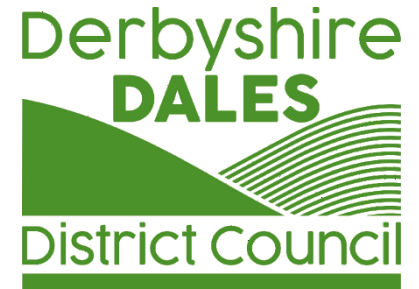
## 6 May 2021



- We have put arrangements in place to ensure that polling stations are safe places to vote
- Most of the measures that will be in place will be familiar to us all from visiting other public places such as shops and banks, for example floor markings to ensure social distancing and the provision of hand sanitiser on entry and exit
- Voters will be encouraged to bring their own pen or pencil for use in polling stations, but pencils will also be made available for anyone who needs one
- Voters should be encouraged to check their poll card before polling day, to see if their polling station has changed since previous elections.

# Polling Day

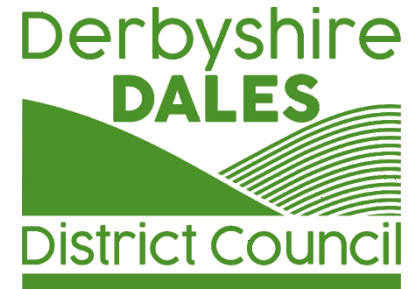
## 6 May 2021



- Polling stations open from 7am to 10pm
- Office open 8am to 6pm for queries or problems relating to the administration of the election
- for queries relating to election finance issues, contact the Electoral Commission (contact details shown later)
- Voters in the polling station or in a queue outside the polling station at 10 pm can apply for a ballot paper
- Postal votes – can be handed into polling stations within ward/division or delivered to the elections office until 10pm.
- A person in a queue at a polling station at 10pm waiting to hand in a postal vote can do so after 10pm.

# Verification Counting of Votes

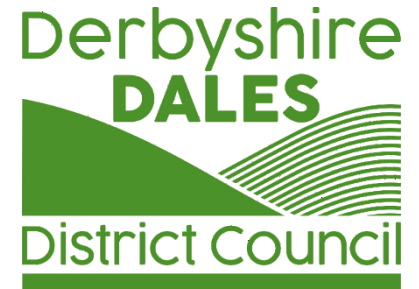
## 6 & 7 May 2021



- The verification and counts will be held at:
  - Wirksworth Leisure Centre, Hannage way, Off Water Lane, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, DE4 4JG
- Count centre will open to candidates and agents from 10pm on 6 May and 9.45am and 3.45pm on 7 May
- We have made adaptations to the verification and count in light of the public health situation.
- The anticipated duration of the count is likely to be longer than usual because of the impact of measures to ensure the safety of staff and observers.

# Verification of Votes

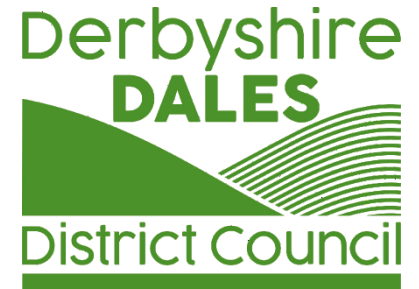
## 6 May 2021



- The number of people in the Count Hall has to be limited in line with Covid-19 guidelines and a risk assessment
- Each candidate is legally entitled to one guest and one counting agent – however we are in exceptional circumstances
- Pragmatic view is that each candidate has a guest which can double up as a counting agent
- Deadline for appointing Counting Agents is midnight on 28 April

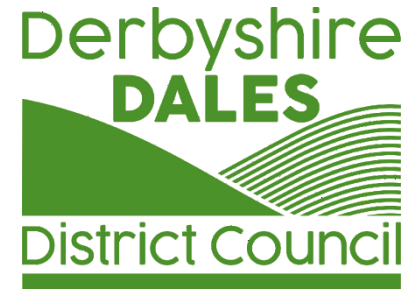
# Verification of Votes

## 6 May 2021



- Checking the right number of ballot papers are in the ballot box(es) for each election (County, District, Parish, PCC and Neighbourhood Planning Referendum) against each Ballot Paper Account per polling station and separating the ballot papers by colour
  - PCC – White
  - County – Green
  - District – Lilac
  - Parish – Blue
  - Neighbourhood Plan – Yellow
- We do not put into candidate piles – not part of the verification process
- Will start from 10pm (close of polls) and is estimated to take around 4 hours

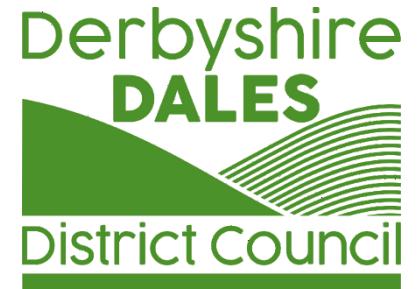
# Counting of Votes – Derbyshire County Council - 7 May 2021



- Count will commence at 10am
- Calculations for the numbers allowed into the Count Hall within Covid regulations and based on Electoral Commission guidance
- Due to Covid restrictions, three teams with ten counters – 30 in total
- Legal duty of care to staff, candidates, agents and other attendees
- Only candidates, election agents and a count agent per candidate can attend this Count
- Ballot papers sorted into candidate piles and then counted
- RO will consult with candidates on the doubtful ballot papers and the provisional result before making declarations



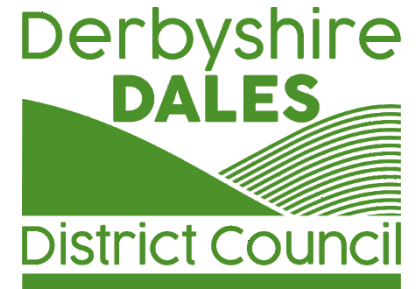
# Counting of Votes – Derbyshire County Council - Rules



- Masks must be worn at all times unless medically exempt and you have your certificate with you
- 1 metre plus unless you are not wearing a mask because you are medically exempt then it is 2 metres
- Don't touch the ballot papers!
- Don't talk to the counters – if you have an issue discuss with the RO or the Deputy ROs
- You will be required to leave once your Division has been formally declared. This is to allow cleaning down etc. to ensure we can start the next count session promptly.

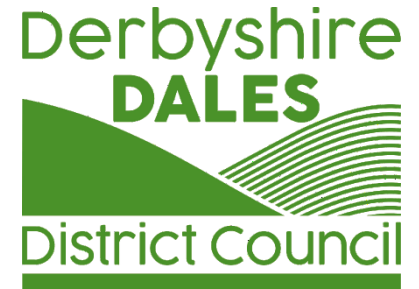
# Counting of Votes – District By-Elections and NP Referendums

## 7 May 2021



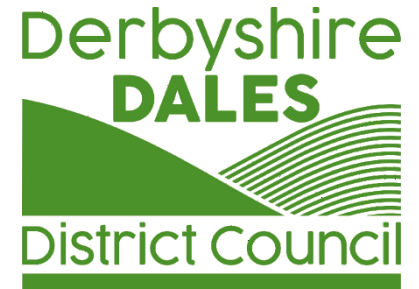
- Counting of votes for Masson, Wirksworth and neighbourhood planning referendums will commence at 1.30pm
- Covid secure count, like the County Council count earlier
- Only candidates, agents and a counting agent per candidate may be in attendance for the district by-election
- RO will consult with candidates on the doubtful ballot papers and the provisional result before making declarations

# Counting of Votes – District By-Election - Rules



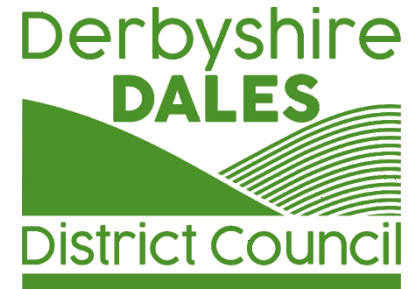
- Masks must be worn at all times unless medically exempt and you have your certificate with you
- 1 metre plus unless you are not wearing a mask because you are medically exempt then it is 2 metres
- Don't touch the ballot papers!
- Don't talk to the counters – if you have an issue discuss with the RO or the Deputy ROs
- You will be required to leave once your Ward has been formally declared. This is to allow cleaning down etc. to ensure we can start the next count session promptly.

# Counting of Votes – Police and Crime Commissioner



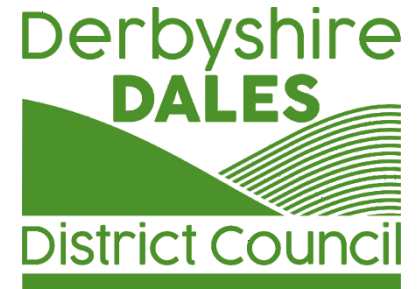
- Counting of votes will commence at 4pm
- Only candidates, agents and a counting agent per candidate may be in attendance for this count
- Two stage count
- First Preference Count where a candidate needs over 50% of the vote across the Police Area to be elected
- If not, top 2 candidates remain and second preference votes from eliminated candidates are count in the Second Preference Count

# Counting of Votes – Police and Crime Commissioner



- Decisions in respect of the Count will be dictated by the Police Area Returning Officer
- The Count is part of a number of other counts to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner, so there is a chance that there may be a long wait between the First Preference Count and the Second Preference Count and also before a declaration is made in Derby

# Counting of Votes – Police and Crime Commissioner - Rules



- Masks must be worn at all times unless medically exempt and you have your certificate with you
- 1 metre plus unless you are not wearing a mask because you are medically exempt then it is 2 metres
- Don't touch the ballot papers!
- Don't talk to the counters – if you have an issue discuss with the RO or the Deputy ROs
- You will be required to leave once your Ward has been formally declared. This is to allow cleaning down etc. to ensure we can start the next count session promptly.

# Contacts

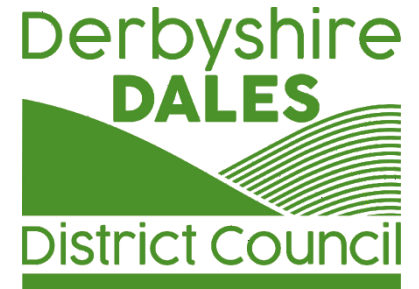
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Neighbourhood Plan Referendums

# Contacts



- Elections office
  - Email – [electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)
  - Telephone 01629 761 335  
This number is covered 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
  - Information is available on our website at [www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/elections/2021-elections](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/your-council/elections/2021-elections)
- Electoral Commission contacts
  - 0333 103 1928
  - Detailed information on their website at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent>



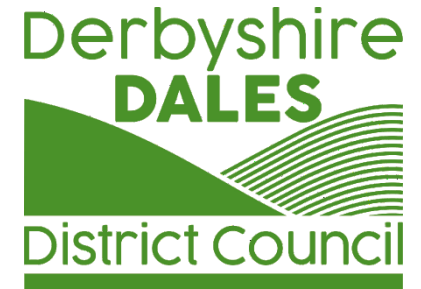
# Questions

Derbyshire County Council elections

Derbyshire Dales District Council and Parish By-Elections

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

Neighbourhood Plan Referendums



# Thank You!

Derbyshire County Council elections

Derbyshire Dales District Council and Parish By-Elections

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

Neighbourhood Plan Referendums