

The



Factor

May 2019 -Stand Up!



Sandra Lamb,
Returning Officer
February 2019

Being a Councillor – What's it all about?

- Are you concerned about your local area?
- Do you want to represent the views of local people?
- Are you passionate about services provided to your community?
- Do you want to contribute to making a real difference in the communities of the Derbyshire Dales?

If yes, then Stand Up to the  factor and consider being a Councillor.

Elections to the District Council and 70 of the town and parish councils in the Derbyshire Dales takes place on 2 May 2019



What the job entails?

You could be the fresh new talent that your council is looking for.

- District parish and town councillors have a common purpose -
- They are elected to represent their local communities, not just those who may have voted for them
- They get involved in decision making by attending meetings and committees with other councillors to decide
 - What services should be delivered and how
 - How money should be spent

The District Council plays a bigger part in the local economy and may have a greater influence overall on many aspects of the lives of the people who live or work here. All Councils do the best they can for their local community.



Some frequently asked questions (and answers)

Who can be a councillor?

Almost anyone as long as you are:

- Over 18, British, Commonwealth or European Union citizen
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election

You cannot be a councillor if you:

- Work for the council you want to be a councillor for
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order
- Have been sentenced to prison for 3 months or more during the 5 year before election day

Can I be a Councillor and have a job?

- Yes. By law your employer must allow you to take reasonable time off. Discuss this with your employer before making a decision



FAQ's 2

I have a disability, can I be a councillor?

- Yes. Your council will work with you to overcome any barriers you may come across as a result of your disability.

Will I get paid for being a councillor?

- Councillors do not receive a salary. However most councils reimburse expenses incurred on official business and the District Council pays an allowance in recognition of time incurred. More information from your local council or through its website.

I don't have the time

- How much time you spend as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the particular commitments you take on. As a rough guide a district councillor can expect to spend from 5 to 20 hours a week . A parish/town councillor can expect to spend about 3 hours a week.



FAQ's 3

What skills will I need?

- Be a good listener
- Be a good communicator able to express needs of local residents at meetings of your Council and to be the voice of your Council
- Be a decisive and quick thinker;
- Able to maintain an objective, analytical and critical mind where the needs of the public come first
- Able to process large amounts of complex information, such as financial budgets;
- Negotiation abilities to resolve disagreements and conflict;
- Working knowledge of IT such as email and Microsoft Word. At District level all Councillors are issued with a tablet and work in a paperless environment



What's the Next Step?

- Decide if you want to represent a political party or want to be independent?
- If you want to represent a political party get involved with your preferred party as soon as possible. Contacts at the end.
- If you want to stand independently, start building your profile so that local people know who you are.
- Get up to speed on local issues and what your local council is doing – get ready to be challenged on the door step.
- Get a nomination pack download from www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk or call 01629 761335. (available from January 2019)



Key Dates

- 19 February Candidates Briefing to run through nomination process. 6pm Town Hall, Matlock
- 19 March 2019 - Notice of election for District and Parish Council Elections
- 19 March through to 4pm 3 April (working days 10am – 4pm receipt of nominations
- 4pm 3 April – close of nominations
- 9 April Candidates Briefing – run through of election do's and don'ts including the count procedure. 6pm Town Hall, Matlock
- 2 May – Election day if contested
- 2 May – 10pm Verification and Count for District Council Elections
- 3 May – 3pm Count for Town and Parish Council Elections



Key Contacts

- Election Helpdesk
- To make an appointment to check a nomination paper, enquiry about the electoral register or election process.
 - Tel. 01629 761335
 - Email electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
 - Web site www.derbyshirdales.gov.uk –
 - nomination packs including information, role profiles and nomination papers
 - Parish and town council contacts
- Electoral Commission
 - www.electoralcomission.org.uk –
 - Guides for candidates and agents



Key Contacts 2

- Political Parties
- To find out how to represent a political party please visit the following web sites. Please note this list is not intended to be a complete list of all political parties
- Conservative:
 - www.conservativecouncillors.com/become-councillor
- Green Party: <https://register.greenparty.org.uk/>
- Labour: www.labourcouncillor.org.uk
- Liberal Democrat:
 - www.bealibdemcouncillor.org.uk
- UKIP: www.ukip.org.uk



So what are you waiting for?



- Any questions or queries email electoral@derbyshiredales.gov.uk