Why should I become a councillor?

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and affect real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve. Parish and Town Councillors are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. By standing for your parish council you could make a real difference to your local neighbourhood.

What councillors do?

Councillors have three main areas of work:

- **Decision-making**: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- **Monitoring**: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- **Getting involved locally**: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The day-to-day work of a parish councillor may include:

- attending meetings of local organisations and groups
- attending meetings of bodies that affect the wider community, such as the police, the Highways Authority, schools and colleges
- taking up issues on behalf of members of the public that affect your local area
- running a surgery for residents to bring up issues
- communicating with individual residents