



## Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

Parish councillors have an opportunity to make a real difference to their community, at a small cost in time and effort. Have you considered becoming a Parish councillor? It may be easier and more rewarding than you think.



*A council litter pick gets underway*

Parish councillors represent the electors in their parish ward and are accessible to parish residents to listen to their concerns and to address their issues. As a Parish councillor you will have the opportunity to work closely with the local community and to help solve real problems. Perhaps you have a particular area, such as traffic or young people, on which you want to focus. Or may be you simply want to put something back into the village in which you live. Being a Parish councillor will give you the opportunity.

Parish councils are the elected first layer of local government and, as such, are closest to the electors, taking responsibility for a range of local matters and community needs. The councils can identify, support and manage local project initiatives and can also fund grants to local organisations such as clubs and charities. They look after local facilities such as children's playgrounds, ponds, allotments and the council-owned common land.

The Parish Council is a channel for the expression of local views to influence policy, and acts as a sounding board on issues. The council comments on planning applications in the parish, and is consulted by the Borough and County Council on a range of other topics. It is therefore able to exert influence even in areas where it does not have direct responsibility.

As a councillor you will have substantial support in performing your duties. First of all there is the Parish clerk, to advise and guide you and to deal with the administration. Fellow councillors are always there to support each other. Training is also available, as and when you need it, covering all aspects of the role.



*One of our playgrounds*

If you would like to find out more about being a local parish councillor and to learn how you might get involved in parish activities, please contact any of the current councillors or the clerk at [clerk@wonershparish.org](mailto:clerk@wonershparish.org) or at the Parish office (01483 892601) in the Wonersh sports pavilion any Tuesday morning. You can also visit the parish website at [www.wonershparish.org](http://www.wonershparish.org), or meet and spend time with councillors. You will be very welcome.

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