

Should I become a Parish Councillor?



What is a parish council?

A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish with an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community.

The Parish Council plays a vital role within the Parish of Whittington. It is the level of government closest to the community and for this reason the parish council is invariably the first place that residents will go with concerns or ideas.

On their own Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions. However, they can consult with those organisations that do make final decisions, such as County or District Councils, police etc. These organisations are aware that a Parish Council gives the best reflection of how a community feels and so its views will be taken seriously.

What are a Parish Councils responsibility?

Parish Councils may serve the community on many issues:

- crime and safety, planning, environment and highways
- local amenities and services such as playgrounds, cemeteries, allotments and other community facilities
- provide bus shelters, public toilets, litter bins and other street furniture



Parish Councils are often well placed to access grant funding which can be used for various projects to improve the community.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

As a Parish Councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better because of decisions you have helped make is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

How much time does it take up?

Whittington Parish Council usually meets once a month in the evening. In addition to these regular meetings Councillors may also act as representatives on an outside body, community activities, new projects for the community etc.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on the Parish Council you must:

- be over 18 years of age and on the electoral register
- be a Parish resident or business owner or live within 3 miles of the parish boundary
- be able to attend evening meetings every month
- be able to represent the views of local people
- have an interest in local issues and a desire to improve the quality of life in the Parish

The position is unpaid and voluntary, but some expenses such as training are paid for by the Parish Council.

Don't take our word for it. Come along to a Parish Council Meeting!

For further details contact Clerk to the Parish Council

David Hunter-Miller

Tel: 07513 122918

Email: whittingtonparish.gov.uk