

## HOW ARE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS FUNDED?

The parish or town council decides what it will need for the coming year and a sum of money called a precept is collected through the local council tax. This money is invested back into the local community to improve facilities and services. Many parish and town councils also supplement the precept with grants.

## WHY WOULD A NEW PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL BE GOOD FOR OUR AREA?

It would enable the community to have more control over the issues that affect us.

A parish or town council can act as a voice for local people and provides a forum for discussion about what local needs actually are.

It will provide support for the local community. A parish or town council can help support local groups and can seek grants and funding to top up money raised locally.

## HOW CAN WE GET A PARISH OR TOWN COUNCIL?

The principal authority will need to undertake a community governance review. They can opt to undertake a review or the local community can petition them to undertake one. Over the next few months we will be collecting signatures for a petition proposing a new parish or town council for our area.

## DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) website to find out more about the work of parish and town councils and the benefits they could bring to our community at [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk).

## GET INVOLVED!

Our campaign welcomes your views and invites you to get involved. For further details about the campaign please contact:

## SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR



**WE ARE SEEKING SUPPORT  
FOR A NEW LOCAL COUNCIL  
FOR OUR AREA**

## WHAT IS A PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL?

There are around 10,000 parish, town, community, neighbourhood and village councils across England. They represent around 35 million people in both rural and urban areas. They have powers to raise money locally (the precept), all of which is invested back into the community.

Parish and town councils are providing communities with a voice in their local area, delivering a variety of services and working hard to improve local quality of life.

Parish and town councils, often in partnerships with other local bodies including the local district, borough or unitary council, might provide, maintain or contribute to any of the following services (although the list is far from exhaustive):

Allotments, leisure facilities, local youth projects, community safety schemes, parks and open spaces, crime reduction measures, cycle paths, community centres, public lavatories, street cleaning, street lighting, tourism activities, festivals and celebrations, markets, community transport schemes, and the local environment

## WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Parish and town councils are involved in a wide variety of different activities bringing real benefits to their communities. Most importantly the activities are undertaken to target local needs.

Parish and town councils are very active in ensuring that young people are listened to and engaged. Many councils have set up youth councils made up of young people from the local area to help to ensure that the needs of young people are catered for. They also provide or support the provision of playgrounds, youth clubs, youth cafes, skateparks, sports facilities, arts and crafts and youth outreach.

Many parish and town councils own, manage or support community or arts centres. Community centres can form an invaluable hub for local people as a place to meet or engage in a variety of activities.

Crime is a concern for everyone but local councils can ensure safer streets through crime reduction measures. For example, funding Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), investing in street lighting or even CCTV.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Parish and town councils are made up of a number of councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council. They are local people who have stood for election to the local council.

Local councillors have three main areas of work:

**Decision-making** — Through attending council meetings and committees meetings with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent and which services should be delivered.

**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.