

What is it really like to be on a parish council?

Parish councils, as depicted in the BBC series 'The Casual Vacancy', are rife with scheming and intrigue and peopled by oddballs - aren't they? This follows the long running BBC sitcom 'The Vicar of Dibley' that painted a frequently hilarious picture of parish councillors.

From my experience, as Clerk to the Parish Council for the last 15 months, both are inaccurate. Loggerheads should have a complement of 19 Councillors but the most I have worked with is 17 as there are always vacancies. Who wants to do a job with no pay, where residents may criticise a lack of action for things that are not within the responsibility of a parish council? For contrary to what many believe, parish councils have very little power and influence when it comes to planning. They can express an opinion, but that doesn't mean the Borough Council has to take any notice.

But what is common to all of our councillors is a desire to help to improve Ashley, Loggerheads, Mucklestone and Tyrley. You too could help to make a difference.

Contact the Clerk for further information.

What do existing councillors say?

"As one of the most recent additions to the Parish Council, I am still finding my feet, but am enjoying the role. Having lived in the village of Loggerheads for 6 years, I felt it time to get a little more involved in village life. The Parish Council are a real eclectic bunch, with varying backgrounds and opinions! I had no idea what I would be letting myself in for, finding the meetings much more varied than I thought they would be, but that's what makes it interesting."

"I recently became a Loggerheads Parish Councillor as I am passionate about our village and wanted to be able to contribute in some way towards its wellbeing for the present and future residents. In short I want it to be a desirable place to live with the necessary supporting infrastructure in place."

"I joined the Parish Council some many years ago so that I would be able to represent the residents of my ward and to be aware of important matters affecting the area and to support L.P.C to the best of my ability".

"Having been born and bred in the parish I thought it was time to put something back into the community".

If you wish to stand as a councillor you must satisfy these requirements:

- You must be over 18 years of age
- You must be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union
- You must be on the Electoral Register for the council area for which you wish to stand
- You must be a local government elector of the parish; or a person who during the whole of the previous 12 months occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish; or has resided in that area or within three miles thereof; or worked in the area

Important dates for applicants

Before 9 April	Deliver nomination papers to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council (between 10am and 4pm)
10 April	NuLBC will publish names of persons nominated
7 May	Polling Day

OTHER NEWS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Youth Club is set to re-open on Thursday, April 16th and will be held every Thursday. The Parish Council have succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Newcastle Partnership. **Volunteers** are now needed to sit on the Management Committee or attend the odd session of the club to assist a paid youth leader.

The **Loggerheads Speed Watch Group** has remained active all winter and has been praised by the police as the most active in the area. From 19 sessions in January & February 408 drivers have been sent letters by the police warning them about speeding in Loggerheads. Please think about your speed when you drive through the village. Are you interested in joining the Speed Watch Group and making a difference to road safety. Contact the Clerk for more information.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th May, 7:30pm at Hugo Meynell School. Come along & hear what the Parish Council has done this year & what the grant beneficiaries have done with the money.