



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes
Association of Local Councils

Article 2

What do Councillors do?

While Parish/Town Councillors give their time freely, it is important to remember that they are not volunteers, but elected members of local government, they conduct their business within a legal framework and are responsible to all the residents in the parish/town. Councillors serve a four-year term (with possible extension).

Councillors are community-minded people with a desire to participate in shaping the future of their parish/town. Councillors represent a diversity of thinking and backgrounds, representative of everyone who lives in their community.

Councils have extensive powers and can lead on a range of issues. They can take climate action, encourage biodiversity, support residents in food and fuel poverty and create sustainable, happy communities with socially active young people and provision for the elderly.

Councillors could have responsibility for running local services which may include open spaces, play areas, village halls, community transport schemes and much more. They decide how much money to raise through the Council tax to deliver these Council's services.

They influence and shape the long-term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications. A Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan is its greatest insurance policy against inappropriate development; it goes a long way to preserving the parish heritage and lifestyle and is spearheaded by Councillors and residents who work together to improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area.

Councillors work to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents they represent.

They bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to attend their Council meetings to give them a clearer picture of what Councils do and the role they might play on their Council.

