

# MAKE A CHANGE, BECOME A LOCAL PARISH COUNCILLOR

**Barton-le-Clay Parish Council is calling on residents, passionate about their community, to stand in the local elections in May 2019.**

## What is a Parish Council?

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and is a statutory body forming a vital part of the village. It serves the community, is elected by residents and is non-political. Barton-le-Clay Parish Council is responsible for the well-being of our community and is invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. The work of the Parish Council falls into 3 main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improving the quality of life for its residents
- Giving the community a democratic voice

To carry out this work, the Parish Council has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to Central Bedfordshire Council which collects all the tax for the Parish Council, Police and Fire & Rescue services.

## What does the Parish Council do for you?

Through an extensive range of discretionary powers, Barton-le-Clay Parish Council provides and maintains a variety of important and visible local services including:

- Provision and maintenance of our open spaces and play areas at Arnold Recreation Ground and Norman Road Play Area
- Providing allotments
- Managing the football facilities at the Luton Road Sports Field
- Management of the Burial ground and maintenance of St Nicholas churchyard
- Maintenance of the War Memorial and organising the annual Remembrance Sunday service
- Provision and regular maintenance of the Bus shelters
- Provision and maintenance of benches around the village
- Consultee on planning applications for Barton-le-Clay
- Working alongside Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways Department to implement traffic calming schemes in the village
- Provision of small financial grants to assist local groups and organisations

## What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community's needs.

## How long does it take?

Meetings are held on Monday evenings with the Full Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month and committee meetings as required on subsequent Monday's.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

## Can I stand?

There are only a few rules to stand for election. You must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live or work in an area that is served by Barton-le-Clay Parish Council

## How can I get involved?

To find out more contact **The Parish Clerk at 1 Windsor Parade, Windsor Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4NA, telephone us on 01582 883990 or email [theparishclerk@bartonleclay.co.uk](mailto:theparishclerk@bartonleclay.co.uk)** or visit **[www.nalc.gov.uk/elections](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/elections)**