

# Make A Stand in May 2023 and Make A Change - Become a Town Councillor for Bognor Regis



On Thursday 4 May 2023 Parish Elections in the Arun District will be held and in Bognor Regis 16 Members will be elected to the Town Council. ***One of them could be you!***

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding experience. A Councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the community, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision-making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and council decisions.

***Bognor Regis Town Council is responsible for:*** Allotments; organising and promoting Town events; Town Force; sponsored planting; some benches; input on planning applications; seafront beacon; improvement of signage and restoration of neglected architectural features; dealing with graffiti; seafront showers; In Bloom; Picturedrome cinema building and supporting local organisations and events via a grants programme.

## What is the time commitment?

We have Full Council Meetings approximately once every other month and there are also four Committees: – Community Engagement and Environment; Events, Promotion and Leisure; Planning and Licensing; Policy and Resources that each have scheduled meetings regularly throughout the year. Council and Committee Meetings usually begin at 6.30pm and are not intended to last for more than two hours.

The National Association of Local Council's (NALC's) Local Councillor Census Survey found that Councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for Council work. Council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the Council.

You do not need to be affiliated to a political party or group and, in fact, many Town Councillors stand as independent representatives and are totally unpolitical. Either way a Town Councillor is elected to serve and represent the residents who vote for them and strive to improve the community, its facilities and services. You don't need to be a political expert, just a local resident who really cares and who wants to have a direct influence on policy and decision making for the benefit of our Town.

For the Council to work most effectively, committed and enthusiastic team players are needed from diverse backgrounds and ages, with a broad range of skills and experience, so that all parts of our community are fully represented.

## Am I Eligible?

At the current time to be able to stand as a candidate at a town/parish council election in England you must be: - at least 18 years old; a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the EU; meet at least one of the following four qualifications: - You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards; You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election; Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area; You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

## Interested?

If you are interested in your Town, why not consider representing your community. Come and talk to us to find out more - we can give you the advice, information and the support you need to take your first steps towards helping to make your local area better. Contact Bognor Regis Town Council on 012473 867744 or email: [bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk](mailto:bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk) for more information. Further information about becoming a Councillor can also be found on [NALC's website](#).

Full details about Town and Parish Council Elections in the District can be found on [Arun District Council's website](#).

