

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;
- be at least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

You don't have to be connected to a political party.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

You cannot be a candidate if

- a. You are employed by the parish/community council or hold a paid office under the parish/community council (including joint boards or committees).
- b. You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- c. You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the previous five years.
- d. You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations).

A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England) or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

More information can be found in the following Electoral Commission publication:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/141798/Part-1-Can-you-stand-for-election-P-and-C.pdf