

# Electoral Process

The most recent Town Council elections took place on 4 May 2017. The next normal local elections are due to take place in May 2021. The elections process is managed by Wiltshire Council and the latest documentation and guidance can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections>.

Most people are eligible to stand for election but there are a few rules. For example you must be at least 18 or older on the day of nomination and be a UK, Commonwealth or European Union citizen. Detailed criteria for eligibility is set out in Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 80 of the Act sets out why a person may be disqualified and, therefore, ineligible. The legislation can be seen at [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/pdfs/ukpga\\_19720070\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/pdfs/ukpga_19720070_en.pdf).

## What do Councillors (also known as members/elected members) do?

An individual Councillor's role is to respond to the needs and aspirations of the local community and provide leadership. Councillors have three main elements to their work.

- 1) Decision making - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- 2) Monitoring - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- 3) Getting involved locally - As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the Councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.