



about
becoming
a councillor

A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE
COUNCILLORS IN ST ALBANS

2013-14



Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Thank you for your interest in the work of St Albans District Council and in standing for election to be a councillor.

Councillors play a crucial role in providing local leadership by representing local residents' views and making decisions as to how the area is managed. Local democracy depends on people like you getting involved. We hope the information in this pack helps you think through whether to become a councillor, and that you might want to join us in the Council.

If you would like to talk with someone about becoming a councillor, please contact Mike Lovelady, Head of Legal and Democratic Services on (01727) 819502, or Jill Durham, Democratic Services Manager on (01727) 819519. You can also find information about the work of the council and elected members in particular on our website, www.stalbans.gov.uk.

Thank you once again for your interest in being a councillor.

James Blake
Chief Executive

Contents

Could you do it?.....	5
About becoming a Councillor	7
About St Albans City and District Council.....	10
The role of a councillor.....	13
Standards.....	16
How great a commitment will it need?.....	18
What support will I get?.....	20
Equality and diversity.....	23
I'd like to be a councillor. What do I do next?.....	25
Useful contacts.....	29

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide



Could you do it?

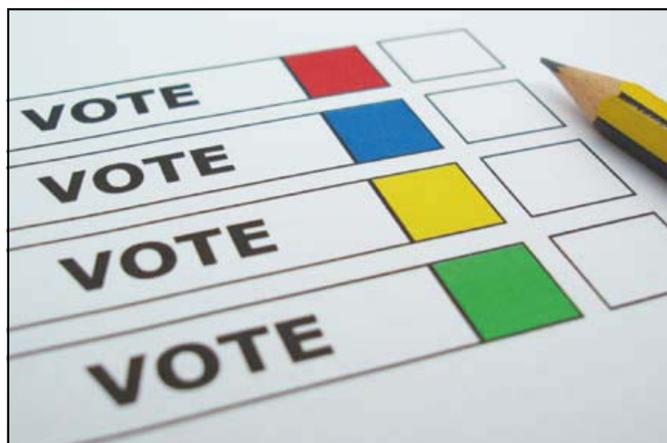
Interested in becoming a councillor ...?
... then read on and find out what it's all about and how you can stand for election.

A third of St Albans District Council seats are up for election in May 2014. This offers you the perfect opportunity to stand as a representative of your local community and become a St Albans district councillor (sometimes known as an elected member).

We hope that this information pack will be of interest to anyone who is thinking of standing for election or wishes to know more about the role of the councillor.

The local election process for St Albans District Council begins in March 2014 when a Notice of Election will be published in public places throughout the District.

If you are thinking about standing as a candidate you will have to formally submit your nomination papers. Information about the nomination process and what candidates need to do can be found later in this pack.



About becoming a councillor

What do councillors do and why are they important?

Councillors provide local leadership to help make the areas they serve better places to live. They are involved in improving services to local people and checking that local areas are being managed effectively. They represent local people's views and concerns. They also work with other bodies such as health services, police, businesses and voluntary and community groups to help achieve these aims.

What skills and qualifications do I need?

No formal qualifications are needed – the most important skills that councillors bring are those they have gained through life experience. Most people become councillors because they have an interest in speaking on behalf of local people and making their voices heard, and improving aspects of local communities and services. Some councillors have had previous experience of working with their local communities. Others bring skills that they have gained through paid or voluntary work.

Do I have to belong to a political party?

People who are interested in becoming a councillor do not have to belong to a political party. The majority of prospective councillors are affiliated with a political party, although some are independent of any party. If you are a member of a political party you will have the support of your political group, but some councillors prefer to stay completely independent or join the group of independent councillors.

However, to represent a particular party on St Albans District Council, you will need to be a member of that party.

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Who can become a councillor?

To stand for election, on the day of nomination and the day of the poll, you must be:

- 18 or over *and*
- a UK, EU or commonwealth citizen.

You must also:

- have registered to vote in the district of St Albans on the day of the nomination and the day of the poll and thereafter *or*
- for the whole 12 months preceding the date of the nomination and the date of the poll, you must have occupied, as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the district of St Albans *or*
- for the whole 12 months preceding the date of the nomination and the date of the poll worked (as principal employment) in the district of St Albans *or*
- for the whole 12 months preceding the date of the nomination and the date of the poll lived in the district of St Albans.

There are also certain matters which would disqualify a person from standing for election. Further details can be obtained from the Elections Officer on 01727 819565.



What do our current Councillors say?

Cllr Nigel Huddleston — Wheathampstead Ward *Conservative*



People become a councillor for a variety of reasons, but an interest in improving the environment in which we live is something that unites councillors across the country. I became a councillor because I love the village in which I live (Wheathampstead) and want to play my part in preserving the best bits and working to make it an even better place to live and work.

As a councillor you can influence how public money is spent. In Full Council meetings and committees you will vote on how the council's resources are deployed and what the priorities are for the coming years. Everyone you represent will have an opinion on how their taxes are spent - and as a councillor it is your role to represent the opinions of your ward effectively while also using your own judgement and experience.

Very soon after being elected you will receive advice and training on a variety of subjects that will help bring you up to speed on how the council works. In addition, there is informal support from councillors and staff. This is very useful because within days of being elected you will start to get enquiries from residents.

What has surprised me most is the wide range of issues people come to their district councillor with. As a district councillor you can be an effective navigator and are in a good position to help direct people to the right place which may indeed be someone at the Council or a local MP or another body. Being a helpful guide can be as satisfying and as useful as being an effective campaigner.

If you are the kind of person who likes to 'do' rather than just complain; who is not afraid of speaking up; and who has a sincere interest in improving the community in which you live then please do consider standing. The only way you can guarantee you will not win is if you don't stand in the first place!



About St Albans District Council

St Albans District Council covers the City of St Albans and the surrounding towns and villages of Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Redbourn, Colney Heath and London Colney.

The Council's vision, aims and commitments provide the over-riding direction for our work and help us to play our part in delivering the District's Sustainable Community Strategy, produced by the Local Strategic Partnership.

Vision and aims

- To contribute to a high quality of life for all residents
- To deliver excellent services to residents
- To support a cleaner, greener and safer District
- To support high quality local employment, business and tourism
- To represent the entire District and deliver localism by working closely with residents, community groups and Town and Parish councils

Commitments

- Protecting the vulnerable
- Planning for the future
- Delivering for young people and families
- Attracting more business and tourism

- Delivering sports and leisure facilities
- Enabling and delivering transport improvements
- Keeping the District cleaner, greener and safer
- Ensuring value for money and excellent customer service

How the council makes decisions

All 58 St Albans councillors attend full Council meetings. **Full Council** sets the budget and overall policy direction for St Albans District Council. Full council also appoints a **Cabinet** – the executive function of the council – whose role is to make decisions about how the council is run. It is made up of eight portfolio holders who make the day-to-day decisions affecting their areas of responsibility. It must work within the policy and budget framework set by the full council.



Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Overview and scrutiny committees also operate in the council to check on the actions of the executive. These have the power to look closely at the decisions of the cabinet and review and develop the policies of the council.

Citizens and communities of St Albans can have a say about the work of scrutiny. More information about this can be found at: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/overview-and-scrutiny/default.aspx>

How is the council made up politically?

The representation of councillors between the political groups for the current municipal year is as follows:

29 Conservative

19 Liberal Democrat

8 Labour

1 Independent

1 Green



What do our current Councillors say?

Cllr Simon Grover — St Peters Ward *Green*



If, like me, you're not with one of the three main parties, few people are going to vote for you without you convincing them to. All that convincing can be a lot of work.

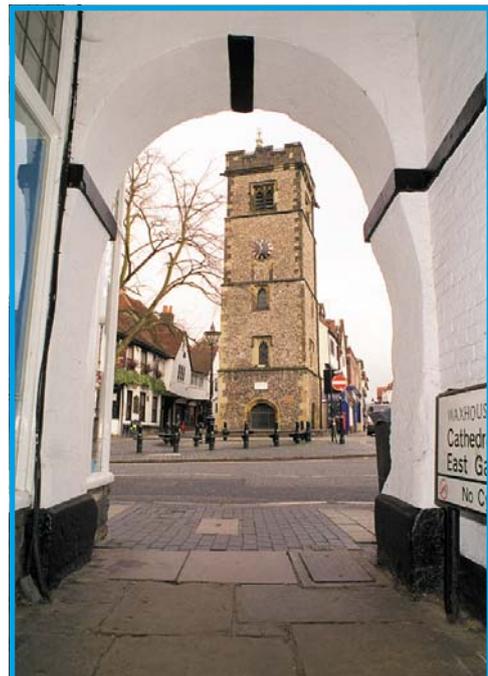
It took four years campaigning in my ward to get me elected. But over those years I had time to learn the ropes of local politics, what the big issues are and what the range of views is on them. I learnt to knock confidently on people's doors, to lead campaigns and work with the media.

Now I've actually been elected, there's still more to learn. Every organisation has its own jargon and its own way of doing things, and councils are no exception. And the combination of changing administrations, unpredictable local issues, and local government reforms means there is always something new to get up to speed with.

On top of that, I'm the only Green Party councillor – the first ever in St Albans. So I don't have the support in Council of fellow party members who have been there for a while.

What I do have is campaign and administrative support from my local party members, and friendly advice from council officers and from other Green councillors around the country. And the other councillors in St Albans have been friendly too. Most of them remember what it was like to be a new councillor, and, by and large, are happy to help.

The workload is what you make of it. For me, it probably adds up to about a day and a half per week, mostly made up of emailing, phone calls and meetings. It can be hard fitting that round the rest of my life, but it's very rewarding. I recommend it to anyone who is motivated, well-organised, and has some spare time.



The role of a councillor

What responsibilities do councillors have?

Councillors are elected to represent a number of local residents in an area called a ward. The average population of a ward is 6,600 and all but two in St Albans have three councillors. The role of a councillor can be very varied and it is up to each individual councillor how they work, although there are a range of types of activity that councillors get involved in. Councillors have responsibilities to their ward, to the council and to the community.

Ward responsibilities include:

- listening to and representing the views of residents to make sure services are run effectively in their ward
- trying to secure extra resources for their ward
- helping out individual ward members on specific issues, known as 'casework'.

As a councillor you will find that much of your time is taken up by contact with local people. This could be in the form of dealing with complaints or enquiries. Your role will be to listen, explain council policy and make sure that the policy has been carried out fairly, according to official

procedures. You will get help and support from council officers to deal with constituents' enquiries and complaints.

As a ward representative you can represent views and issues associated with the council on constituents' behalf. You could also be representing an individual or family at special appeals.

Council responsibilities include:

- helping to form policy
- helping to develop the council's budget and agreeing the level of council tax making or scrutinising decisions.

Your role on the council as a whole is to plan, run, monitor and develop council business. Councillors are essential to deciding what is in the public interest amidst a range of conflicting issues and views.

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

As well as being a member of the council, you could also be on the cabinet, a scrutiny committee or a regulatory committee. In each of these settings, you will meet with other councillors from all political groups, to debate and approve council business in a formal setting. Most meetings are open to the press and public. There are written rules, called 'Procedure Rules', which govern behaviour and procedures at these meetings and these enable councillors to take part effectively.

You may also be involved in work with other agencies outside the council – such as the police, health services, county council, business and so on.

Councillors as community leaders

Managing and leading local areas in a changing world requires particular skills and abilities. In particular, councils need strong local leaders who are able to listen to their community and bring people together, giving life to a shared vision of how they can improve their local area.

As a front line councillor you will have a key role in this, representing and leading the communities in your ward. Local Government Improvement and

Development have suggested that there are two key elements to this role:

Community leader

- stimulating local organisations and individuals to take up opportunities to express their views
- representing local level concerns and perspectives
- maintaining a link between the users and providers of services
- encouraging the community to organise services for themselves
- working with other community leaders in the voluntary, community and business sectors
- offering vision and direction to local groups, and building support for that vision
- brokering agreements between different interests and partners
- contributing as an effective partner in neighbourhood arrangements.

Community advocate

- speaking up for and on behalf of residents and groups
- encouraging residents to engage and participate
- participating in plan making and planning decisions

What do our current Councillors say?

Councillor Jacob Quagliozi—London Colney Ward *Labour*



Being a district councillor is quite simply the best thing I have ever done. It is challenging, rewarding and exhausting, and often all of those at once. But most of all it's a privilege to represent residents and a humbling experience to have people place their trust in you. But then, I'm lucky because I represent the best ward in the district.

Its certainly a juggling act to balance the work load with the day job along with your personal and family life. As a new councillor I'm still learning how to get that balance right. You live a strange life as a councillor, spending late nights trawling various documents to see how an issue affects your residents; a bulging email inbox is the norm with slightest problem to an internet connection or fault with your blackberry becoming a catastrophe.

It's not just about meetings, though there are quite a few of those. I feel there's an obligation on me to make sure I know what is going on in my ward so it's often about getting out and about and talking to people. For me it puts life in perspective too, national politics is about debates and headlines, but some of the most rewarding moments I've had as a district councillor are about the small things which matter to a particular resident or group of residents. I find it very much a 24/7 job too. If I'm out for a drink or just popping to shop to grab a loaf of bread a resident will often grab me to ask what is going on with a particular issue or alert me to new one.

What advice would I give to those thinking of becoming a councillor? Don't take advice from sitting councillors, do things your way, its much more fun and this place needs shaking up a bit. Oh, and buy a microwave you're going to miss a few meals."



Standards

Probity and integrity

Special standards apply to councillors (also referred to as 'members'). As a councillor, your conduct is formally governed by a Code of Conduct, which every council has adopted. This Code of Conduct sets out the rules that you must work to.

Members should also work to the ten General Principles of Public Life, namely:

selflessness – members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person

honesty and integrity – members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour

objectivity – members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits

accountability – members should be accountable to the public for their actions and in the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office

openness – members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions

personal judgement – members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions

respect for others – members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees

duty to uphold the law – members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them

stewardship – members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law

leadership – members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

There are also two very important provisions by which members are bound at all times. These are:

- they should not do anything which brings their council or office into disrepute
- they should not misuse their official position to their own advantage or to the disadvantage of others.

Political Conventions

As ground rules for transparency and consistency in everyday working relationships, the Conventions are based on these principles:

- councillors have a 'need to know' the information reasonably required to perform their role
- officers must serve the whole council objectively, and provide unified advice
- political processes and councillors' different roles are a legitimate part of local democracy
- councillors cannot be involved in any matter where they or their family/business have an interest. This is known as a pecuniary interest and must be declared.

The full version is available on request and will be made available to all councillors. The Political Conventions document is reviewed regularly and all councillors are notified of any changes.

All councillors have agreed to follow the General Principles, Code of Conduct and Political Conventions so as to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties.



How great a commitment will it need?

It is for you to decide the level of commitment you are able to give to being a councillor. It also depends on your role within the council and the number of duties you decide to take on. It could range from a few hours each week to a few hours each day at busier times.

- There are some issues you will need to consider.

How will your role as a councillor affect your family and personal relationships? You will need their support and understanding as you may be spending a lot of your spare time on council business.

- The people you represent will look to you for help in dealing with their problems. You are likely to receive a lot of post, emails and a great many telephone calls, and not every caller will telephone at what you might think is a reasonable hour!
- Most councillors hold at least one drop-in surgery each month with their constituents. You may spend some of your time visiting constituents at their homes, or at the council offices, and you may also have to meet with officers of the council to help you with any issues.

- There are usually seven full council meetings each year, which you will be expected to attend.
- You are likely to be a member of at least one committee. Your meetings may not be evenly spread out over the cycle, so some weeks you may be out more evenings than others.
- The average length of a committee meeting is approximately two hours, but this could vary.
- Many councillors also represent the council on one or more outside bodies. Background reading and attendance at meetings of these bodies would increase your time commitment.
- For most of the meetings you attend there will be papers that you will need to read beforehand. These papers can be quite detailed and take time to read and understand.
- If you are elected as a chair, spokesperson or member of the cabinet, the role can be very demanding as you will take responsibility for some of the council's £75 million turnover each year.

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

- If you are a member of a political party there will be additional calls on your time. Political groups require their members to attend group meetings, which are normally held in advance of council meetings, and you may also attend training events and seminars organised by the political party.

You will receive a lot of information as a councillor: managing this and prioritising it will be important if you want to make an impact and not spread yourself too thinly.

It is worth remembering that the officers employed by the council are there to provide you with briefings and help on specific issues.

The roles of the **chief executive** and the council's monitoring officer are particularly important.

The chief executive is responsible for the following:

- managing the council effectively
- providing advice to the chair of cabinet, the executive, group leaders, the council as a whole and, where appropriate, individual councillors in relation to identifying and developing of strategic policy objectives and priorities

- inspiring and leading the senior management team and council staff in delivering the council's vision
- acting as an ambassador of the council
- determining and publicising the structure and staffing of the council.

The **monitoring officer** in St Albans, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, is responsible for the following:

- maintaining the Constitution
- ensuring the lawfulness and fairness of decision making
- advising whether executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework
- ensuring access to information
- providing advice to all councillors on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues.

What support will I get?

What support will I receive if I am elected?

Information to help you deal with ward matters and other work you do as a councillor will be provided by officers of the council, but it is more likely that help and guidance on your role will come from the senior officers, including the heads of service. All newly elected councillors are allocated an officer who will act as their 'buddy', answering questions and providing assistance during their first few months.

The Democratic Services Department provides full time dedicated support to meet the needs of councillors. You will have access to fully equipped members' rooms and meeting rooms at the council offices. All these rooms have facilities for both formal and informal use, including telephones, computers and printers. You will also have access to some secretarial support.

If you need any other help or assistance after you have been elected, don't be afraid to ask.

Will I get any training?

When you are newly elected, there will be an induction training period. If you are a

member of a political party or other group, they will probably provide some training and support too. There is also a full training programme for councillors, provided by the council after your induction period ends: this will be matched to your needs and is regularly reviewed. Further details of the Member Development Programme at St Albans City and District Council can be found on our website: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-council/councillors-and-committees/memberdevelopmentprogramme.aspx>

Will I get time off work?

If you are working, by law your employer must allow you to take a reasonable amount of time off during working hours to perform your duties as a councillor. The amount of time will depend on your responsibilities and the effect of your absence on your employer's business. You should discuss this with your employer before making the



Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Will I get paid for duties as a councillor?

There is no salary for being a councillor. However, you will be paid an allowance to reimburse you for time and expenses you incur while on council business.

Councillors are entitled to a basic allowance, currently £5,535, and extra payments for additional duties they take on.

- Carers' allowances – for example for a child or dependent relative – are also payable.
- Travel, subsistence and expenses will be covered as appropriate.

For more information about the Members' Allowance Scheme please see the council's constitution which can be found at <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-council/council-publications/>



A Day in the Life of a District Councillor

Councillor Frances Leonard - Sandridge Ward Conservative



I try to leave for work no later than 8.30 a.m. I am lucky that I work a short drive away in Harpenden and travel against the traffic.

Unfortunately this doesn't help me once I get to Harpenden which, just like most mornings is pretty much congested. On my way to work I notice that some considerate soul has dumped a load of rubbish in a lay-by, which also happens to be in my ward. I make a mental note to call the 'litter line' as soon as I arrive at work. If you can drive to a lay-by, why not just carry on to the Council tip?

I manage the pharmacy department in a local private hospital and arrive at work about the same time as my colleagues. Morning pleasantries over we set to work, which is challenging, interesting, rewarding and quite often, surprising, but then I suppose most people think that about their jobs. During the course of the day I come into contact with many different people from many walks of life, from hospital consultants to patients who may be concerned or worried, to delivery drivers and Pharmaceutical company representatives.

Whilst I have my mobile turned on I decide to call a Council officer on behalf of a resident who is having problems with alterations to a listed building. This is when my mobile phone becomes really mobile as reception in my office is poor so I need to 'wander about a bit'; nevertheless the officer is available and my question is answered. I strike while the reception is good and contact another officer about problems with rubbish collection for an elderly resident. The afternoon flies past, I have a nagging feeling I've forgotten something - I have, the rubbish in the lay-by, quick call to the litter line to report it, then home.

Kettle on then check phone messages, one from a resident, note this then check my emails for communications from the Council and residents. Quite a number from the Council, nothing from residents today but two from my political group to remind me of a group meeting later in the week. There is a planning committee meeting for me this evening, I read the paperwork and visited the sites over the weekend, so it's just a case of collecting the papers and going to the Council offices. The meeting is finished by 9.00 p.m. so not a late night.

Apart from my group meeting there are no more evening meetings for me this week. I have promised to call in on a resident on my way home from work one day later in the week and I do have rather a large bundle of papers to read for a meeting in a week's time.

Equality and diversity

Equality is about making sure people are treated fairly and given fair chances.

Equality is not about treating everyone in the same way but recognising that their needs are met in different ways. Diversity is about valuing individual differences and recognising that our service users and members of our community come from different backgrounds.

As well as Statutory Duties to promote equality of opportunity, local authorities have a key role in challenging discrimination and prejudice and working with partners to improve equality of opportunity, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. St Albans City and District Council has a firm commitment to Equality and Diversity and recognises its responsibility as an employer, service provider and procurer of goods and services.

Our communities are fast changing and becoming more and more diverse.

Understanding our communities and their particular needs and issues, and translating them into service delivery is a central role for local government, its staff and elected members. In support of this, the Council provides on-going Equality Awareness training for both its staff and members which not only highlights our Statutory Equality Duties and legislation but how these can be put into practice to provide an excellent service to all our citizens, customers, service users, staff, elected members, stakeholders and partner organisations irrespective of their age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

What do our current Councillors say?

Cllr Alec — St Peters Ward *Conservative*



I have been interested in politics at local, national and international level for several years so I decided to get involved and joined my local political association. This gave me an awareness of how politics worked at the local level. I was asked to stand in St Peter's Ward in May 2011 when a by-election was called. I canvassed the ward in the run up to the election, listening to people's issues and presenting my ideas for improving St Albans. I work as an engineer and thought that these skills could help the city & district council.

Since being elected I serve on Planning, Overview & Scrutiny, and Licensing & Regulatory committees. It has taken me a while to find my voice as I am naturally an introvert. However, I have started to understand how the meetings work and have contributed where I felt it added

value. Most meetings are run in a very businesslike way and it has been very rewarding to engage in the debates. I have also learnt new communication skills that will help in my day job. I have helped and advised a number of local residents and this has been especially rewarding.

I now believe the role of councillor is much more important than when I was first elected and this responsibility helps me to focus on doing a good job. I do find that the council as a whole is very constructive, friendly and welcoming and this has made the job more enjoyable. There are also social events that help build cross party relationships.

If you're not sure whether to stand for election, then you could consider supporting a local councillor to get a better idea of what is involved. I would encourage anybody with a passion for improving the city & district to consider becoming a councillor as we need the highest calibre councillors to push the council forward.



I'd like to be a councillor. What do I do next?

Nominations

Once you have decided to stand for election as a councillor, you will need to be proposed and seconded by two people and have a further eight people as 'assentors' to your nomination.

Full details of the electoral process, including the nomination procedure, is available on request from the council's Elections Officer on 01727 819565.

The nomination pack will include nomination forms, timetables and guidance notes. The timetable for the next local election is available on request. As a candidate, you will be invited to a meeting held by the council to inform you about things like postal votes, where the polling stations are going to be and where the count of the votes will be held, and to answer any questions you may have.

It is your responsibility, or your agent's (see the next page), to present your nomination papers to the returning officer before the statutory deadline.

Nomination forms

Some points you should consider:

Do not leave this task until the last minute, as there may be a mistake in your papers and you will need time to rectify this.

It is important to read the nomination papers and supporting material and make a careful note of when each of the various papers need to be returned. The returning officer can help with any queries.

When collecting your 10 signatures, which must be from the ward you are standing in, it is useful to take a copy of the voters' list with you. You can then compare the name with that on the nomination form and write down the assentor's number. The name and number should be exactly the same.

Make sure the people nominating or seconding you have nominated only you.

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Electoral register

In the run up to the election, candidates can have a free copy of the electoral register for the ward for which they are standing, which lists residents who can vote at the next election and includes a map showing the ward boundaries.

Do I need an election agent?

You do not have to have an election agent – you can take on this role yourself – but most people standing for election find that having an agent is a great help.

It is the agent's responsibility to make sure that all the necessary forms are sent in at the correct times, and to keep a clear and accurate record of financial expenditure, to be submitted after the election.

You should work closely with your agent and act as a 'double check' that everything is done correctly.

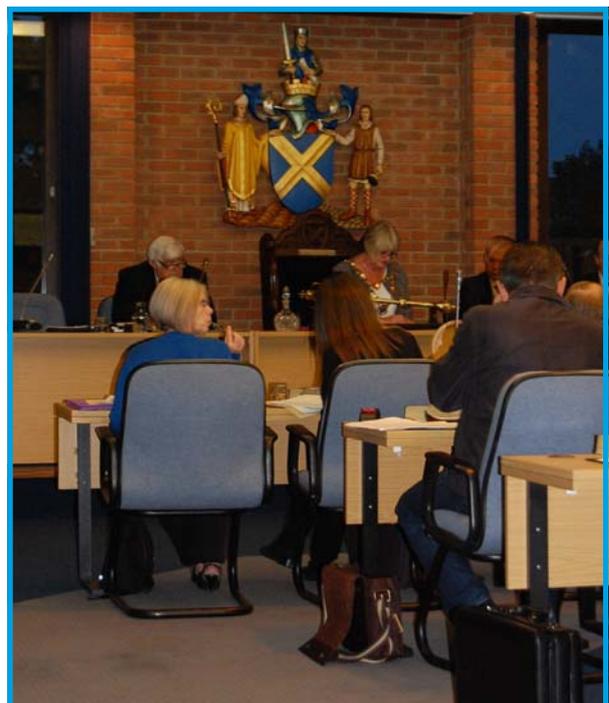
If you are in a political party, it's quite common to share an election agent with several other candidates.

What are 'polling agents' and 'counting agents'?

Polling agents and counting agents play an important role in making sure that elections are fair. You can nominate your own polling and counting agents.

- Polling agents are people you can nominate to go into the polling stations to ensure that things are being done correctly and run fairly.
- Counting agents attend the vote counting to ensure that everything is done fairly and accurately.
- Polling agents and counting agents are not permitted to ask the polling clerks who has or has not voted.

You may find your friends and helpers are keen to be involved as polling agents or counting agents.



Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Election expenses: who pays?

If you decide to become a councillor, it is important to note that you will have to pay for your own publicity material, property, services or items used for your election campaign.

However, if you are a member of a political party or some other group, you may find that it will provide some financial help with your campaign. You will need to check this with your political party or group.

Furthermore, although you or your party or group pays your election expenses, you

must keep all your receipts. You will need to submit a statement of election expenses, supported by receipts, shortly after the election. This is done to make sure that the money you spend on the election campaign does not go over the set limit. This limit is currently £600.00, plus an additional 5p for every entry in the electoral register of the ward to which you are seeking to be elected. If you have any queries about election expenses please contact the Elections Officer on 01727 819565.



Useful Contacts

Contacts at St Albans City and District Council

Main switchboard

01727 866100

www.stalbans.gov.uk

Chief Executive

James Blake

01727 819302

daniel.goodwin@stalbans.gov.uk

Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Monitoring Officer and Returning Officer

Mike Lovelady

01727 819502

mike.lovelady@stalbans.gov.uk

Democratic Services Manager

Jill Durham

01727 819519

jill.durham@stalbans.gov.uk

Elections Officer

01727 819565

elections@stalbans.gov.uk

Local government useful contacts

Local Government Association (LGA)

Local Government House

Smith Square

London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

www.lga.gov.uk

Audit Commission

1st floor, Millbank Tower

Millbank

London SW1P 4HQ

Tel: 0844 798 3131

www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)

22 Upper Woburn Place

London WC1H 0TB

Tel: 020 7554 2800

www.lgiu.gov.uk

Becoming a Councillor - an introductory guide

Political party useful contacts

LABOUR

Local

01727 752183

stalbanlabourparty@yahoo.co.uk

National

www.labour.org.uk

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Local

01727 855523

info@stalbanlibdems.org.uk

National

www.libdems.org.uk

CONSERVATIVE

Local

For Hitchin and Harpenden constituency:

01582 834344

tory-herts@btconnect.com

For St Albans constituency:

01727 825100

stalban@tory-herts.org

National

www.conservatives.com

INDEPENDENT

Head of Independent Group

Local Government Association (LGA)

Local Government House

Smith Square

London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3224

Independent.group@lga.gov.uk

www.picx.co.uk

GREEN

Local

01727 866973

info@sagreens.org.uk

National

www.greenparty.org.uk

If you are interested in other political parties, please visit the Electoral Commission's website for the Register of Political Parties.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission site also includes information on local elections including a guide for candidates and agents

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/>



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