

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Nominations for the local elections within the district of Hertsmere Borough closed on 3rd April. In **South Mimms Parish Council**, only THREE out of FIVE available vacancies have been filled by nomination.

Where there is a vacancy after elections through insufficient candidates – such as the TWO occurring this year at South Mimms - the Parish Council will seek to recruit new Councillors by co-option. *Co-option is an appointment rather than an election, but once appointed co-opted members have fully the same status and responsibilities as elected Councillors.*

Applications from interested candidates for co-option to South Mimms Parish Council will be considered at the Meeting to be held on Thursday 16th May. If you care about South Mimms, want to help shape its future and are willing to give time to work for the community [please get in touch below](#) to find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor.

COULD I BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Being a Parish Councillor is a great opportunity to work for the community and help decide how to meet the concerns of residents and what is best for South Mimms. Parish councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters, keeping in mind the best interests of the community as a whole. No individual Councillor is responsible for any single decision.

Parish Councils benefit from diversity and we welcome interest from people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences and abilities. Good communication skills, problem solving, analytical thinking and being a team player are all useful skills, and it doesn't matter whether you acquired these from your professional life or from community, voluntary or social experience. The most important thing is that you care about South Mimms and are willing to take an active role.

All Councillors are required to abide by the Code of Conduct and by law you must register financial, business and other interests in the Parish.

DO I QUALIFY?

Anyone can stand as a candidate provided they meet the qualification requirements.

You should be aged over 18 and a registered elector, and a British or Commonwealth Citizen or a Citizen of an EU* country. Also, in the 12 months prior to the day of election/co-option you must have:

- been resident, or occupied land or premises for 12 months as owner or tenant - either in the parish or within 3 miles, or;
- been working principally either in the parish or within 3 miles.

But you cannot become a Councillor if you have been:

- declared bankrupt within the last five years if you have not repaid your debts.
- convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to not less than three months imprisonment (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine within the last five years.
- disqualified under any legislation relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

If you are thinking about becoming a Parish Councillor we will be pleased to arrange for you to speak to one of our current Members. In the first instance please email us at southmimmspc@gmail.com or leave your name and number at [07542 568476](tel:07542568476) and we will call you back.

**subject to confirmation after leaving the European Union*