

# ELECTION TO CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

## About Town/Parish Councils in England

There are 10,000 local (town and parish) councils in England, with 100,000 Councillors serving their communities. You can be one of them.

Cumnor Parish Council is non-political so you don't need to be a member of a political party or have any background in politics. You just need to be passionate and want to make a positive change to make life better for others.

The next local elections are on 2 May 2019 and are held every 4 years.

## What are Local Councils?

A local council is a universal term for community, neighbourhood, parish and town councils. They are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies. They serve electorates and are independently elected and raise their own precept (a form of council tax).

## What do Local Councils do?

Local councils represent their communities giving them a voice and democratic structure to take action and improve their local area.

Some typical issues local councils get involved with are, planning, neighbourhood plans, road and highways, playgrounds, burial grounds, allotments, transport, saving public assets, open spaces and general civic duties.

## Getting Elected

To stand for election to a local 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
- Be an elector of the local council or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant) or work in the area the local council serves (as your principal or only place of work) or live within 3 miles of the local council boundary.

There are some conditions that might disqualify some people eg. Bankruptcy, imprisonment, these can be checked when needed.

In Cumnor Parish there is a total of 15 councillor places available. **If fewer than 15 nominations are received then those who submitted papers will be elected unopposed as no ballot is required.**

## Getting Co-opted

**Local councils also have a mechanism to co-opt councillors onto their council. If a councillor resigns during the 4 years of a council's term the vacancy will be publicised on the Council noticeboards, website and in the Cumnor Parish News.**

How Much Time Does It Take?

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Councillor Census Survey found on average that 70% of councillors spend 1 - 15 hours per month of council duties. Cumnor Parish Council holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month which typically run between 2 and 3 hours. The Planning Committee meets every third Monday to catch planning applications that are received after the Council meeting which typically run for an hour. The Recreation and Playing Fields and Highways Committees meet quarterly on a Tuesday and typically run for 2 hours. The Staffing and Finance and General Purposes Committees meet annually in October and typically run between 1 and 2 hours. Times are dependent on what is on the agenda.

### **How Long Can You Serve as a Councillor?**

Once elected, councillors can sit on the local council for 4 years. If they want to continue in the post they can stand for re-election. This does not mean that you have to stay for 4 years. If you find it's not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment you can stand down at any time.

### **Cumnor Parish**

Cumnor Parish is a 'warded' parish, any qualifying resident of the parish may stand for election or co-option for any ward. The wards are:

- **Cumnor Hill** which includes the following areas: Barn Close, Bertie Road, Boars Hill (Chilswell Farm), Chawley Lane, Chilswell Boars Hill, Chilswell Lane, Clover Close, Colegrove Down, Cotswold Road, Cumnor Hill (67 on but not 68), Delamare Way, Halls Close, Hids Copse Road, Hurst Lane, Kimmeridge Road, Norreys Road, Oakwood Way, Oxford Road, Seven Sisters Way, Turnpike Road.
- **Cumnor Village** which includes the following areas: Abingdon Road, Appleton Road, Bablock Hythe Road, Denmans Lane, Eynsham Road (Denmans farm), Faringdon Road, Forster Lane, Glebe Road, Henwood Boars Hill, Henwood Drive Boars Hill, High Street, Kenilworth Road, Leys Road, Oxford Road, Robsart Place, Sands Close, The Glebe, The Park, The Winnyards, Tumbledown.
- **Dean Court** which includes the following areas: Arnolds Way, Ashcroft Close, Broad Close, Browns Close, Bushy Close, Cumnor Hill (12- 66 +68 Mortimer Court), Cumnor Rise Road 2-14, Dean Court Road, Deanfield Road, Denton Close, Dover Close, Evelyn Close, Eynsham Road, Fogwell Road, Green Lane, Hanson Drive, Homestall Close, Hope Way, Hurst Rise Road 68 - 98, Hutchcombe Farm Close, Long Close, Marley Close, Martin Close, Nobles Close, Nobles Lane, Orchard Road, Owlington Close, Pinnocks Way, Pottle Close, Queens Close, Scholar Place, Sir Bevys Close, Songers Close, Stanville Road, Stimpsons Close, Stone Close, Stubble Close, Third Acre Rise, Tilbury Lane.
- **Farmoor** which includes the following areas: Church Close, Cumnor Road, Eynsham Road (Parklands, Oakenholt Care Home), Lower Whitley Road, Mayfield Road, Meadow Close, Oakes Lane, Oaklands (Oxford Road), Oxford Road, Swinford (Eynsham Lock House, Cottages, Manor Farm, Toll House, Waterworks Cottage)

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