



## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Part 1

Believe it or not, District and Parish Council elections are almost upon us. They are taking place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 so I thought I would take this opportunity of putting out some information as to what Parish and Town Councils do (Local Councils) and how Parish/Town councillors contribute to the well being of their local community.

Local Council is the tier of government closest to its community and they work towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level. As you are aware, with funding for the Principal Authorities becoming tighter, more is being devolved to Local Councils: the more pro active a Local Council is, the better service it provides. It has the added benefit that all the funds raised by the Precept, and other means, are **ALL** spent locally.

So exactly what services do Local Councils provide? They have an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of the local neighbourhood and this falls into 3 main categories:

1. Representing the local community
2. Delivering services to meet local needs
3. Striving to improve quality of life within the parish

In Bidford-on-Avon the Parish Council is also responsible **for providing, maintaining or contributing** to the following services:

- Allotments
- Bus shelters
- Cemeteries
- Dog and Litter bins
- Grants for local community groups and sports associations
- Parks & Open spaces – including the Big Meadow
- Street lights (some areas)

Currently, the Parish Council is actively working on a number of important projects:

- ✓ Improving the Youth and Community facilities
- ✓ Improving the Big Meadow facilities
- ✓ Helping businesses in the High Street
- ✓ Improving communication (**delete :and marketing**)

- ✓ Are **YOU** interested in improving Bidford-on-Avon and its facilities?
- ✓ Do **YOU** feel frustrated and **want** to **IMPROVE** things
- ✓ Have **YOU** got ideas that will benefit the local community and improve its quality of life?
- ✓ Do **YOU** want to be **HEARD**

Then, why not **CONSIDER** becoming a Parish Councillor in May.

The Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC) will be organising a drop in session where you can find out more about becoming a PARISH COUNCILLOR and you are always welcome to come and have a chat with me in the Parish Council Office in Bramley Way. Yes, it does require some effort and time, **BUT IT DOES** give satisfaction so why not **THINK ABOUT** it?

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS Part 2** look out for it in the next issue of the BIG Paper