

GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!



Have you ever thought of becoming a Community Councillor?

Have you wondered what it would involve?

We need you - so please see below for answers to some key questions...

What is a Community Councillor?

Community Councillors are residents who volunteer their time towards the provision of services and improving local areas. Community Councillors must either live or work in the area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding form of public service; Councillors are in a position to make a difference to the local community and those living there. It is a voluntary role but there is an annual payment available towards expenses, and other payments available if you have caring responsibilities, to enable you to attend meetings and still provide care.

A Community Councillor has shared responsibility for the success of the Community Council. All members can contribute to discussions and decisions concerning the work of the Community Council. All Councillors are committed to upholding the standards and values of the Community Council

What does a Community Councillor do?

The Council raises a budget each year (the Precept) which is contributed from the rates paid by local households to spend in the Community Council area. Council responsibilities include provision of footway lighting, the Cemetery, school crossing patrols and the children's playgrounds. Councillors can influence how this money is prioritised, as well as commenting on local planning applications and policing priorities. They can grant money to local organisations towards equipment or schemes so that initiatives for improvements within the local area are taken forward.

You will bring your own experience, interest and expertise to help the Council in meeting its priorities. Training is available from an external provider - the costs are met by the Community Council.

I live in the area - could I become a Community Councillor?

The Gresford Community Council area covers all of Gresford, Marford and Hoseley plus parts of Borrass; anyone aged 18 or over, who lives or works in or within three miles of the area is eligible to apply to become a Gresford Community Councillor when a vacancy arises. We currently have places for 14 Community Councillors – the number is calculated based on our population.

Would it take up a lot of my time?

You would be required to attend a Full Council meeting once a month; these last for around two-and-a-half hours. These are formal meetings but are relaxed in nature. Other meetings can crop up from time-to-time, such as committee meetings or task groups to look at specific issues; these are generally much shorter than the monthly meetings.

Why should I do it?

Because you CARE about what is happening in your local area and are willing to give some time to YOUR community. Lots of people comment (and moan) about things in the villages they're unhappy with; joining the Community Council is a chance to 'put your money where your mouth is' and get involved in making things better – be part of the solution and help to get things done.

Sounds great - how can I join?

Councillors can be elected or 'co-opted' onto to the Community Council. When a vacancy occurs we publish a NOTICE advertising this. Residents then have 14 working days to let WCBC know if they want a by-election to be held. TEN people have to request this in order for it to happen. If ten people do not request a by-election the selection process moves to on co-option. In this process people send in application forms to the Clerk and Community Councillors vote for the applicant they want to join them on the Council.

Look out for information and NOTICES that appear from time-to-time on our noticeboards and on our website www.gresfordcommunitycouncil.gov.uk.