

*Want to make a difference in your community?*

*Concerned about what happens in your local area?*

*Could you represent the views of your neighbourhood?*

*Cam needs YOU!*

## **YOUR GUIDE TO BECOMING A CAM PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Council currently has vacant places and volunteers are invited to apply (in writing or by email) for 'co- option' to the council.

Elections are only held if more people apply to be councillors than there are seats available.

A co-opted councillor is the same as an elected councillor, and has to meet the same criteria.

### **Why it's important to think about becoming a councillor.**

Cam Parish Council needs councillors from all backgrounds, with a wide range of skills and experience to get involved. It's a great opportunity to help to shape your community and improve life for the people of your neighbourhood. You will also benefit from support and training, helping you to gain new skills and confidence.

### **What does a councillor do?**

Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole. They speak on behalf of the people they represent and help to resolve and promote local issues and to make decisions about Cam's future.

It's not just about attending council meetings. You do have duties but these can often be matched to your skills and interests in the community. If you are good at talking to people that's a real asset.

### **Do you qualify to be a councillor?**

To stand as a councillor you must:

- Be over the age of 18
- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union.
- Be a local government elector of the parish; or a person who during the whole of the

twelve months before nomination as a candidate occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish. Or has, during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles (4.8km) thereof, or has during the same period, had a principal or only place of work in that area.

You may not be qualified if you have been convicted of a criminal offence in the last five years, or if you have been subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order might.

### **How much time will it take up?**

Cam Parish councillors meet the first Wednesday of each month and other commitments may be necessary depending on committee representation. Most meetings are held in the evenings. You will also need to make time to read papers in preparation for meetings.

The time you put in is, to some extent, up to you. Cam is looking for a commitment and enthusiasm from Councillors but at the same time recognises that as volunteers, with possibly busy lives outside of the council, levels of availability can vary.

### **What skills do I need?**

You don't need any professional or formal qualifications to be a councillor but the knowledge and experience you have picked up through your work and personal life could be useful. Communication, listening skills and problem solving skills will be an asset.

Full training and guidance is available.

### **Please contact us:**

The Clerk or any of the staff or councillors at Cam Parish Council for more information or to apply in writing: 4 Noel Lee Way, Cam, Glos, GL11 5PS Tel. 01453 548884

[Clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk) or [admin@camparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@camparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*We look forward to hearing from you!*