



VACANCIES FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS

FIVE vacancies exist for the position of Town Councillor for

Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council

Pebsham Ward x 1

Old Town Ward x 2

Kewhurst Ward x 1

St Stephens Ward x 1

There were not enough candidates at the recent elections. The Town Council will now fill these vacancies by co-option at the next Council meeting on 24th May 2023.

Any persons interested in this role are asked to express their interest in writing to the Town Clerk no later than the 21st May 2023.

What is a Town Council?

A Town Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Town and is the level of government closest to the community. Town Councils are the first place that people go to with concerns or ideas and for this reason they are a vital part of any community.

Why become a Town Councillor?

By becoming a Town Councillor, you become somebody your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped to make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

What decisions do Town Councils make?

The most common areas that Town Councils get involved in include crime prevention, planning issues and managing open spaces and community centres. It is fair to say that on their own Town Councils have limited decision-making powers, but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those organisations that do make final decisions, such as District and County Councils, health authorities etc. These authorities know that a Town Council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and its views will be taken seriously.

How much time will it take up?

Town Councils typically meet once a month (often excluding August) for the council meeting to which the public are invited. Meetings might last 2-3 hours, depending on the length of the agenda of items to be discussed. Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council also has committees to deal with specific matters such as planning and finance. In addition to regular meetings councillors should also be prepared to attend occasional ad hoc meetings, for example task and finish groups.

How long does a Town Councillor serve for?

Once elected Town Councillors sit on the council for a maximum of 4 years at the end of which they can stand for re-election if they wish. The next elections will take place in May 2023. The period of co-option will be until this time.

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Interested?

Why not talk to your local councillors and find out what they think about the job. Alternatively contact the Town Clerk on **07769 254176** or email **town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk**

Criteria

The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the 'Voters Roll' or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date resided in or within three miles of the Town or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the Town.

The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.