



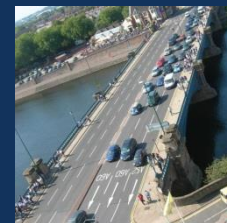
Rushcliffe  
Borough Council



# Parish and Town Council Elections – Thursday 2 May 2019

# Becoming a Parish Councillor

By Allen Graham – Returning Officer



**RUSHCLIFFE - GREAT PLACE • GREAT LIFESTYLE • GREAT SPORT**

# 2 May 2019

- # cillors do?



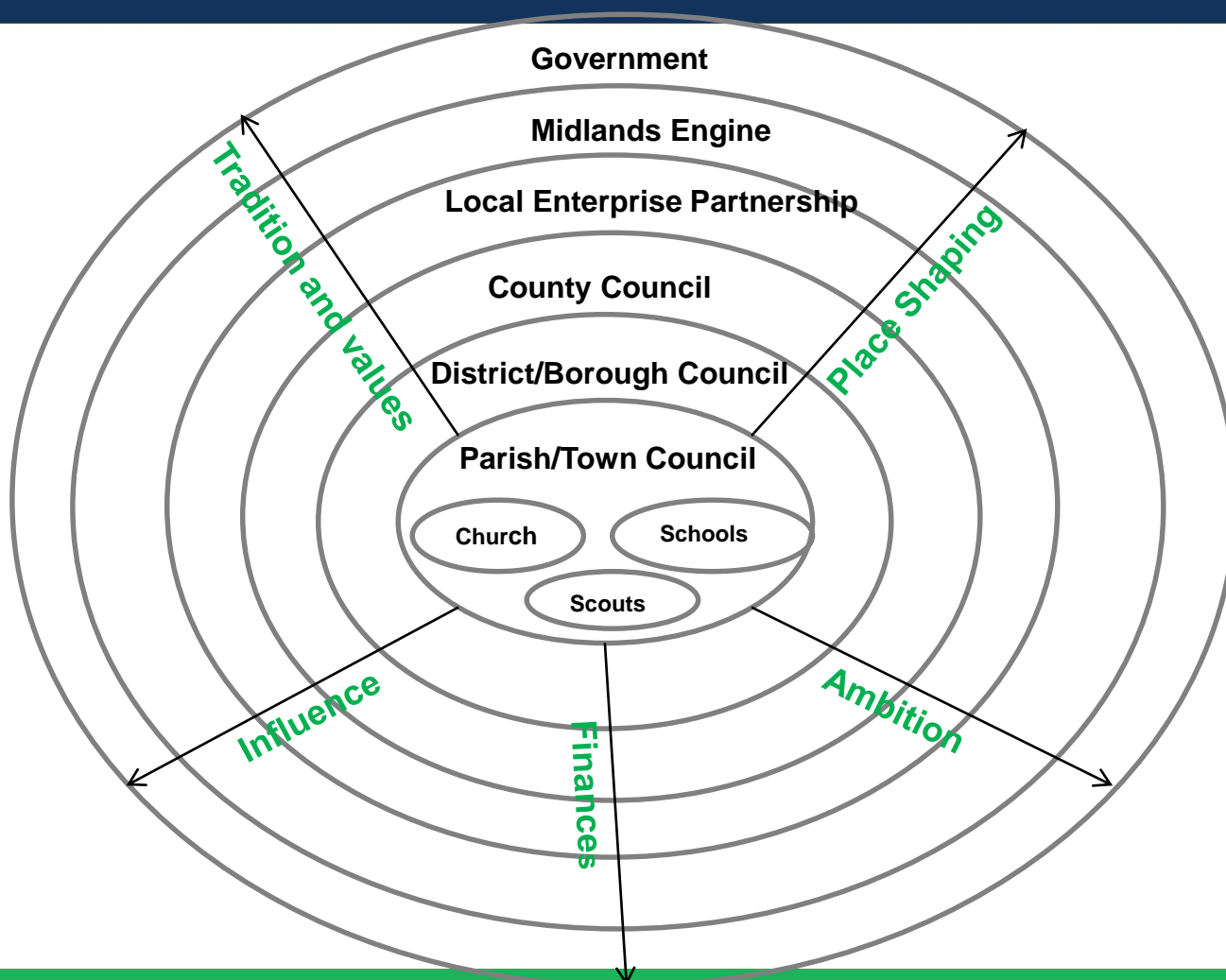
# What Are Parish/Town Councils?

- First tier of local government
- Statutory Body
- Elected by residents
- Can raise their own precept (form of council tax)
- There are 10,000 local councils in England
- There are 120,000 local councillors





# Parish/Town Councils





# What Parish/Town Councils do

- Delivery of services including:

- Allotments
- Leisure facilities
- Bus shelters
- Litter bins
- Car parks
- Community centres
- Parks and open spaces
- Public toilets
- Street lighting
- Festivals and celebrations





# What Parish/Town Councils do

- **Improve quality of life through:**

- Local housing and infrastructure through neighbourhood plans
- Promoting dementia friendly communities
- Tackling loneliness
- Acting as community hubs
- Funding community projects and vital services that have been cut





# What Parish/Town Councils do

- **Give communities a voice through representing:**
  - To the local police and health services
  - On planning matters with principal authorities and developers
  - To parliament and government





# How do Parish/Town Councils get things done?

- Made up of a number of councillors who meet regularly to make decisions about the parish councils direction and the work it does for the community
- They are financed by a sum of money each year (precept) collected through your council tax.
- This is then reinvested in the community to improve facilities and services.
- Can apply for grants and loans and if they own property they can receive money from rents or leases





# What Parish/Town Councillors do

- Local councillors have 3 main areas of work:
  - **Decision making**
    - through attending meetings with other elected members.
    - Deciding on which activities to support, where money can be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented
  - **Monitoring**
    - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working
  - **Getting involved locally**
    - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their residents and local organisations. This depends on what work the councillor wants to achieve and how much time they have available. It may include:
      - Attending meetings of local organisations and community groups
      - Taking up issues on behalf of residents and making representations to the Borough Council
      - Meeting with individual residents



# Could I become a local councillor?

- As a local councillor you become a voice for your community and make a real change
- Local councillors have to be residents of the area their local council serves
- Councillors spend on average about three hours a week on council work
- Working as a local councillor is a completely voluntary role without remuneration
- Councillors are elected by people who live in the parish

**Still interested?**



# Key Dates

- **Monday 18 March** – publish Notice of Election (legal process commences)
- **Wednesday 3 April (4pm)** – Close of Nominations – Legal Deadline
- **Friday 12 April** – deadline to register to vote
- **Thursday 2 May** – Polling Day
- **Friday 3 May** – Counting of the Votes





# How do I apply?

- Between **18 March** and 4pm on **3 April** must submit to Returning Officer:
  - Nomination Paper
  - Home Address Form
  - Consent to Nomination
  - Certificate of Authorisation if standing on behalf of a registered party



# Any Questions?