

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE BEDALE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

A **vacancy** has arisen for a **seat** on Bedale Town Council. The Council is inviting anyone interested in being co-opted as a Councillor to contact the Town Council.

The Town Council can make a difference to local life – but to do that, it needs vigorous, forward looking Councillors.

Have **you** thought about becoming a **Town Councillor**? It is an opportunity to serve your fellow townspeople as a member of the part of local government that is closest to our community.

What does **Bedale Town Council** do?

The priorities for the Council are to:

- represent and support citizens in their dealings with larger public authorities
- efficiently and economically provide a range of services, currently including provision of play areas
- provide cash grants or practical assistance to promote local projects of value
- respond to consultation requests, including planning, from other authorities

The Town Council has the power to raise money through the Council Tax collected by Hambleton District Council. Next year, the amount will be approximately £57,500. Obviously, the Town Council must try hard to spend this money sensibly, always aiming to gain the best possible advantage for the people of Bedale

The Council clearly has a far better basis for representing the town if a diverse group of members has been elected.
Could one of them be **you**?

What does a **Town Councillor** do?

Individual Councillors have no special status, but when members **meet** together as a Council, normally **in public**, they **jointly make decisions** about **local matters**. Full council **meetings** are usually **once a month**, but there are also **committees** to deal with particular areas. Council members need to allow some time for finding out about current issues, and for talking to townspeople about their hopes and fears.

More about **Bedale Town Council**

You may not wish to stand as Councillor yourself. However your voice still counts. Why not propose someone who you believe might do a good job and encourage them to contact the Council.

Full meetings of the Council are held on the second **Monday** of each month at **Bedale Hall**.

Presently, the Council's main responsibilities include:

- Promoting and Supporting the Economic Wellbeing of Bedale
- Bedale Weekly Market and the Monthly Sunday Food Market
- Bedale Car Boot Sales
- Bedale Park, the Beckside and Public Open Spaces
- Bedale Bonfire and Fireworks, Bedale Christmas Lights
- Grass Cutting and around the town
- Provision and Maintenance of the Public Toilets
- Play Area Provision, Inspection and Maintenance

Decisions of the Town Council are monitored and actioned by the Town Clerk, who is employed by the Town Council, and policies are established in conjunction with the Council and Councillors and implemented by the Town Clerk. Where required, contractors are brought in to provide services.

Eligibility

To be eligible for co-option you must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European citizen and on the day of nomination be 18 years of age or over. In addition you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Be on the electoral register for the parish
2. For the previous 12 months, have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish
3. For the previous 12 months, had a principal or only place of work in the parish
4. For the previous 12 months, resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it

The Co-option Process

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please write to the Town Council and include a few details about your background and explaining briefly why you would like to join the Council.

The **closing date** for applications is the **30th November 2017**.

Those wishing to fill the vacancy will be **invited** to **attend** the **Council Meeting** on **Monday 11th December**, to be held at **7:00pm** in **Bedale Hall**. You will be given a few minutes to outline your reasons for wishing to be considered and the Councillors will vote for who they wish to be co-opted.

As soon as the vote is concluded, the successful candidate will take their seat on the Council (once they have signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office).

(Within 28 days of becoming the newly co-opted member must notify the monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have at the time of the notification)

If you would like any further information about the role, please contact

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