



Stand for what you believe in

The next election for the Town Council is on 2nd MAY 2019

Become a Town Councillor

The best way to find out what it's like to be a town councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. In Bewdley the council has a website where you can get the names and contact details of the current clerk and councillors, and the dates of all meetings. Council meetings are open to the public and you can go along to a Town council meeting, speak to one of the councillors and find out what they think of the position. By becoming a Town councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support as a community leader with power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Getting Elected

To stand for election to the Town council, you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union, and
- be at least 18 years old

You don't have to be connected to a political party, but you must:

- be an elector of the civil parish of Bewdley, or
- in the past 12 months have occupied land or other premises in the civil parish (as owner or tenant), or
- work in the civil parish (as your principal or only place of work), or
- live within three miles of the civil parish boundary.



What do Parish and Town councils do?

Parish and Town councils are local authorities that make decisions on behalf of the people in the parish or town. They are the level of local government closest to the community, with the district authority and the county authority further up the hierarchy.

Parish and Town councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that Parish and Town councils get involved with are planning matters, crime prevention, the environment and roads & highways.

Parish and Town councils have a number of powers they can use and they negotiate with other decision-making organisations such as the district and county councils, health authorities, police etc. These organisations know that Parish and Town councils give the best reflection of how a community feels about something and that its views should be taken seriously.



How much time does it take up?

Bewdley Town Council meets once a month for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on what's on the list of items to discuss. It also has committees to deal with specific subjects, such as Finance and General Purposes, Planning & Neighbourhood Plan.



How long do I serve for as a Town or Town Councillor?

Once elected, Town councillors sit on the council for four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election. This does not mean that you have to stay for four years. If you find it's not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down at any time.

**For more information, please contact the Town Council: 25(A) Load Street, DY12 2AE
Tel: 01299 400157 Email: office@bewdleytowncouncil.org Website: www.bewdleytowncouncil.org**