

Join the Parish Council



Make a change: Become a parish councillor

Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council is made up of 12 Parish Councillors who are elected onto the council every four years. There are nominally 6 from Tanworth and 6 from Earlswood. The next Elections will take place in May 2023, but vacancies may also become available at other times.

The Parish Council's responsibilities

The Parish covers around 3000 residents in a large mainly rural area of South Warwickshire (Stratford-on-Avon North), including Tanworth-in-Arden itself, Earlswood, Wood End, Forshaw Heath, Aspley Heath, Danzey Green.

The Parish receives funding from a precept levied on council tax payers by Stratford District Council. It is involved in the delivery of services, improving the quality of life for residents and representing the voice of the community. The Parish Council's main responsibilities include Footway lighting, Earlswood Leisure Park & play area and Tanworth-in-Arden Village Green & War Memorial. The Parish Council also award grants and donations to local causes and works closely with other local community groups and organisations. The Council are at present in the final stages of producing the Neighbourhood Development Plan to go to public consultation.

What being a parish councillor entails

Parish councillors are community leaders who represent the interests of the community and are involved in decision-making, monitoring and getting involved locally. As a councillor representing your community, you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude, and be willing to work as part of a team.

The Parish Council meets 11 times a year in the evening of every third Thursday of the month. There are also four committees which meet regularly for detailed discussion of projects around the Parish. Councillors are invited to join a committee if they are interested in a particular area of work, but they are not required to do so.

If you would like to do more for your local area and have some time to spare, please do consider becoming a parish councillor. It is a rewarding experience which will involve you to work with a team of dedicated volunteers on a range of projects and initiatives.

How do I become a parish councillor?

Parish Councillors hold office for four years. When scheduled elections are held (usually the first Thursday in May, every four years), the terms of all the existing Councillors end on the fourth day after the day of the election, at which time the newly elected councillors succeed them. In order to stand for election, a candidate must submit a nomination paper which must be signed by two electors – a Proposer and a Secunder. Nomination papers must be hand delivered to Returning Officer or to Clerk by a specified date around a month before the election.

Should there be more nominations than number of seats on the council the Returning Officer will make arrangements for a poll to be held between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the day specified. If the number of nominations is the same as there are seats on the Council, the validly nominated candidates automatically become Councillors without a contest. If there are fewer candidates than there are seats on the Council, the validly nominated candidates take up office and the remaining seats may be filled by the process of co-option.

Co-option to fill vacancies

To fill a vacancy outside of an election, candidates apply through the process of co-option. Vacancies will be advertised as they become available and applicants should contact the **Parish Clerk** for more information. Applicants will be asked to give a short presentation to the Council at its monthly meeting as to why they would like to become a councillor, along a brief summary of their skills and experiences. A vote is then carried out at the meeting and, if successful, the applicant will be invited to join the Parish Council.

Requirements

Provided a person is 18 years of age or older on the day they become nominated for election and also satisfies at least ONE of the following they may apply:

- They are registered as a local Government elector for the parish
- They have during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the parish.
- Their principal place of work during the preceding 12 months have been in the parish •
They have during the whole of the preceding 12 months resided in the parish or within 4.8km (3 miles) of it.

The council may co-opt any person who is legally qualified to hold such office, and who is willing to serve provided they are a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and are neither the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order or have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of each month. If you would like any further information please call the Parish Clerk on 01564 703 200 or e-mail office@tanworth-pc.org.uk

Further information

Please contact the **Parish Clerk** if you would like to discuss the role of parish councillor or would like to talk to a councillor about their work.