



Clerk: Mrs. C.M.Tobin
FSLCC.,

SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS RELEASE

February 2019

Further to comments made by members of the public on the Southwater Community Facebook site, (reported directly to the Facebook moderators who immediately removed the comment), residents should be reminded that all councillors must abide by a code of conduct setting out the following standards <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2> . All parish councillors are local residents with families living in the community; many work in areas where they are required to retain such standards and comments in relation to potential “corruption” can affect their employment.

As previously stated should members of the public wish to report matters relating to corruption then they should report this directly to Sussex Police. Should the public feel that a member of Council has not adhered to the above principles and have therefore, breached the Council’s Code of Conduct there are avenues where this can be independently reported through the District Council’s Monitoring Officer, Horsham District Council, Telephone No: 01403 215100.

Likewise, the Council may take legal steps if necessary to protect not only the Council’s reputation, which reflects on our community, but will also protect employees from unnecessary public comment. Members of the public can make an appointment to discuss such matters with the Council’s Clerk and Chairman.

MAKE A CHANGE, BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Southwater Parish Council is calling on residents, passionate about their community to stand in the local elections in May 2019.

What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community’s needs.

How long does it take?

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work, however many Southwater

Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Fairbank Road, Southwater, West Sussex RH13 9LA
Telephone No. 01403 733202 Fax 01403 732420 Email: catherine@southwater-pc.gov.uk

Councillors spend on average eight hours per week on Council related business. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

Can I stand?

There are only a few rules to stand for election. You must be:-

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council

How can I get involved?

Contact the Clerk at Southwater Parish Council at Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Southwater, West Sussex RH13 9LA or telephone 01403 733202 or email: catherine.tobin@southwater.net or, to find out more or visit www.nalc.gov.uk/elections. Alternatively contact elections@horsham.gov.uk who can provide you with the relevant papers at the appointed time.

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About Southwater

Southwater is located within Horsham District and is one of the largest rural communities in West Sussex. The Parish has 10,500 residents and includes the village of Southwater, Newfoundout, Christ's Hospital, Tower Hill & Two Mile Ash. At the heart of the village lies Lintot Square with a wide variety of excellent shops, pubs, restaurants, library, post office, youth centre and health centre. Elsewhere within the Parish are two business parks, home to local companies and some of the largest businesses in the District. Recreation opportunities include our very own Leisure Centre, Country Park, and a huge range of sports and community clubs.

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