

How Community Council elections happen



How elections happen



An **election** is the way people vote to choose someone to be part of an organisation.

Elections make sure local people are well represented.

Community Councils should get support to have elections if they need it.



Voting for candidates for election to a Community Council can be done by:

- secret ballot



A secret ballot means you put your vote on a voting paper and put it into a ballot box so no-one can see who you have voted for.

One person counts all the votes to see who has got the most.



- a **show of hands** – putting your hand in the air to show who you are supporting when their name is called



There must be a **publicly advertised** notice at least 28 days before the date of the election.



The notice must say when the election will happen and ask for **nominations**.

Publicly advertised means it must be available for most people to see, for example in a local newspaper, website or social media.



Nominations are when names are put forward for something – in this case, people who want to be Community Councillors.



The notice must give information about:

- the date of the election
- information about how the election will be run
- the name and address of the person who sends out and receives nomination forms
- the closing date and time for receiving nomination forms



This must be at least 14 days before the election date.



- the closing date and time for receiving application forms for inclusion in the **supplementary roll**

This must be at least 14 days before the election date.

The **supplementary roll** is the information that has:



- the names of voters on the main voting roll
- the names of people whose names have been taken off the main roll

Community Council elections can happen without a ballot.



If the number of people nominated is less more than the number needed to start a Community Council, then everyone nominated is elected to the Community Council.

There are 3 types of Community Council election:



- starting a Community Council

This begins with a **petition** to start a Community Council where there has not been one before.

A **petition** is a written request to ask an official or an organisation to do something.

It is signed by many people.



- re-starting a Community Council when it has not happened for a while



- to fill spaces in the Community Council