

PARISH ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 2ND MAY

- **Would you like to stand for election for the Parish Council?**

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election in England or a community council election in Wales you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen* or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a) You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b) You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c) Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
 - d) You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election

**An eligible Commonwealth citizen is a Commonwealth citizen who either a) does not need leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or b) has indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom*

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified.

There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a parish or community council in England and Wales. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination and on polling day:

- a) You are *employed by the parish/community* or hold a paid office under the parish/community council (including joint boards or committees)
- b) You are the subject of a *bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order*.
- c) You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.
- d) You have *been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983* (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). The disqualification for an illegal practice begins from the date the person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for three years. The disqualification for a corrupt practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.

A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified for standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England) or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

IF YOU QUALIFY AND WOULD LIKE TO STAND FOR BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK ON TEL: 07783 223450 OR EMAIL: CLERK@BIDDENDEN.GOV.UK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION