



Stratton Parish News

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A Belated New Year Greeting

Welcome to the latest edition of Stratton Parish News.

Following a winter in which we have experienced most types of winter weather Spring is on its way with new life bursting out throughout the Parish.

2010 was a busy year for the Parish Council and 2011 promises to continue in the same vein. Following cuts to local government funding announced by the new Coalition Government the Parish Council has been working hard to identify efficiency savings within its own operation. A review of services has been underway with a particular focus on Stratton Leisure Centre. In addition Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has offered its assistance to Swindon Borough Council to help reduce the impact of the cuts locally.

Among the projects the Parish Council has delivered over the last twelve months is the upgrade of Delamere Drive (page 7), bulb planting in the Parish (Page 5) and the switching on of the Christmas Lights at the Leisure Centre. These are in addition to the many services delivered by the Council on behalf of the community.

The Parish Council has also set its precept for the financial year 2011/2012 (page 4) and a new Corporate Plan has been developed (page 5).

2011 will also see parish council elections (page 3) so if you would like to become involved please contact the Council for further information.

Finally as part of new financial requirements Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has published all its expenditure over £500. This can be found on the website. Please follow the link on the home page for further details.

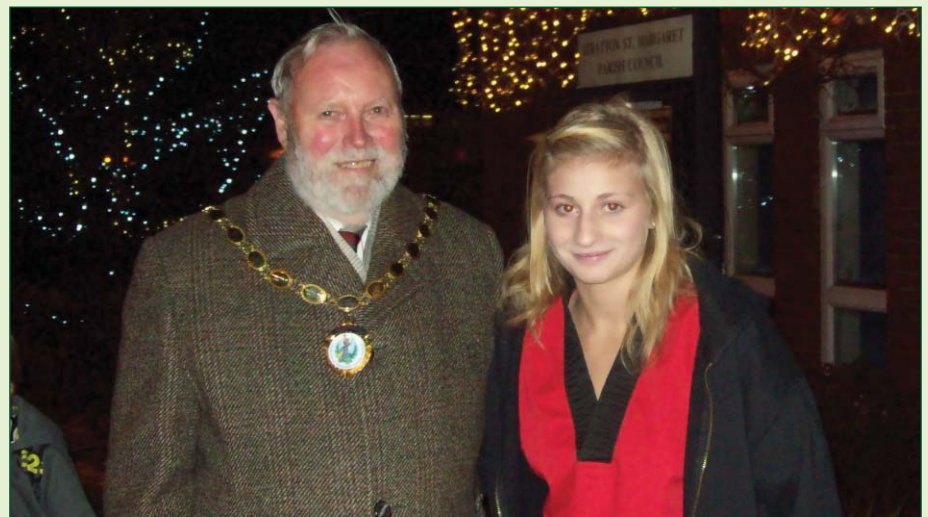
www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

So, from all the staff and Councillors at Stratton St Margaret Parish Council a belated Happy New Year.

Festive Lights

Although Christmas seems like a long time ago we hope you had the opportunity to enjoy the festive lights at Stratton Leisure Centre with our very own Santa Claus crawling up the roof and the 30 foot Christmas tree covered in lights. The 'switching on' of the lights was performed by Sophie Perrin, the British Jet Ski Champion who trains at Stratton Leisure Centre. You can find out all about her and her achievements at www.masracing.co.uk

The occasion was marked with Christmas Carols and Bible Readings led by Revd David Gray of the Methodist Church, Ermin Street and this was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and of course Father Christmas in his Grotto. Over 200 people attended the event and our thanks go to all those who helped and attended making this an enjoyable and memorable event.



Sophie Perrin and chair of council Cllr Peter Owen turn on the Christmas lights

Council Meetings

The Parish Council will be meeting on the following dates in 2011. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is committed to making local government open and transparent. All meetings are open to the public and press and are normally held on a Tuesday evening.

Adoption of Statement of Accounts. Single item agenda * Royal Wedding

Council	25 Jan	29 Mar	17 May	28 Jun#	26 July	27 Sept	29 Nov
	31 Jan						
Finance	22 Feb	26 Apr	28 June	6 Sept	25 Oct	20 Dec	
Community Centre	11 Jan	22 Mar	31 May	19 July	20 Sept	22 Nov	17 Jan
Recreation & Highways	8 Feb	12 Apr	14 June	13 Sept	11 Oct	13 Dec	
Allotments & Cemeteries	8 Mar	21 Jun	8 Nov				
Planning	10 Jan	1 Feb	1 Mar	5 Apr	3 May	7 June	5 July
	2 Aug	30 Aug	4 Oct	1 Nov	6 Dec	9 Jan	
Planning if required	15 Feb	15 Mar	24 May	21 June	19 July	20 Sep	18 Oct
	15 Nov	20 Dec	24 Jan				
Personnel	17 Feb	16 Jun	15 Sept	19 Jan			
Audit & Governance	18 Jan	15 Feb	15 Mar	24 May	12 July	18 Oct	15 Nov
	10 Jan						
Bank Holidays	22 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr*	2 May	30 May	29 Aug	26 Dec
	27 Dec	2 Jan					

Participatory Budgeting

Following on from last year's successful participatory budgeting event the Parish Council will be holding a second participatory budgeting event at its Annual Parish Assembly on Tuesday 19th April 2011. Groups and organisations operating within the Parish of Stratton St Margaret are invited to give a short presentation to the meeting where the

audience will decide which groups, based on their presentation, should receive a grant.

Grants of £250 will be awarded on the night by the Chairman of the Council and all groups participating will receive a token of appreciation for taking part. Last year's recipients were 2nd Stratton

St Margaret's Brownies, Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, Kidz Club, Upper Stratton Baptist Church and the Swindon Stroke Support Group.

If you would like to receive an information pack relating to this event please contact Liz Hawkes at the Parish Office (01793) 823 761.

Emergency Planning

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is working with Swindon Borough Council to develop an Emergency Plan for the Parish in the event of an emergency situation.

The emergency plan will cover potential emergencies including Natural Disaster, Severe Weather, Technological/Industrial Accidents, Power failures, Transport including road, rail and air, Terrorism and Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

The Plan will aim to enable community support, self-help and resilience when faced with an emergency situation. In normal circumstances the Police would be responsible for operational control at the scene of the emergency. Swindon Borough Council will act as the co-ordinator for the Local Authority response. Throughout the emergency the Parish Council will attempt, within the constraints of the situation, to provide information to both Swindon Borough Council acting as the co-ordinator of the local authority response, and to the people of the Parish. They will also, if requested, provide assistance to the Police, Emergency Services and Swindon Borough Council. With this in mind the Parish Council would

like to develop a contact list of volunteers who can be mobilised and called upon in a given emergency as well as identifying owners of relevant equipment to help in a possible emergency. Information that would be of particular use include contacts who are Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, First Aiders, Builders, Plumbers, Electricians, Engineers, HGV Licence holders, Mechanics, Vets, Plant Operators, Registered Corgi Gas Engineers, Fire Fighters, and Caterers. Useful equipment may include Tractors, 4x4 vehicles, Lorries or Vans, JCBs, Portable Heaters, Chainsaws, Water Pumps and Camping Equipment.

The plan will include direct access information to the emergency services and will offer local evacuation centres offering help and advice for any type of civil emergency.

In order to help compile the database the Council would be very grateful if you could please fill in the slip below if you are willing to take part. Any information collected would be kept confidential and would only be used for the purpose of the emergency plan.

For further information please contact Liz Hawkes (01793) 823 761

Elections

On Thursday 5th May 2011 parish elections will be held in Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. These elections will be held at the same time as elections to Swindon Borough Council. All 23 seats on the Parish Council will become vacant. So this is your chance to become involved in the Parish Council and contribute towards the development and delivery of local government services locally.

The main criteria to stand for election to the Parish Council is as follows:

- **A commonwealth citizen (which includes a British subject) or a Euronational**
- **Is over 18**
- **Is an elector**
- **Resided in the locality or within three miles for twelve months**
- **Occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises therein**
- **Principle or only place of work within the parish, paid or unpaid**

You do not need to belong to any political party and all elected councillors are eligible to an allowance.

The Parish Council will be holding an introductory session for those who may be interested in standing and wish to find out more about the work of the Parish Council on Thursday 31st March 2011 starting at 7pm at the Meadowcroft Community Rooms. The session will be advertised on the Council's website www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk and on the parish notice boards.

For further details please contact the Parish Council office

Willing to take part? then please fill in this slip and return it to the council

Name:

Address:.....

Home Tel: Mobile:.....

Email:

In case of an emergency I would be willing to assist in the following way.

.....
.....

In case of emergency the following person / people would be vulnerable.

.....
.....

Should an emergency occur you can contact Swindon Borough Council 24 hours a day on (01793) 463 000 or the Parish Council on (01793) 823761.

The Stratton Community Bus

One of the many services provided by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is the community minibus. The minibus came into service in 1987 when it was used nearly every day of the week. However, over the last few years the level of usage of the minibus has declined significantly due to a number of organisations, especially lunch clubs, folding and the closing down of Age Concern Swindon.

The minibus is managed on behalf of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council by Swindon Dial-a-Ride and they look after the management, maintenance and hiring of the bus. Drivers are required to be trained to the MiDAS driving standard.

The current minibus was purchased in 2005. Stratton groups receive a 35% discount when using the Stratton community minibus so if you need to hire transport why not consider using this option first. Details of hire charges and availability can be obtained from Swindon Dial-a-Ride on 01793 617828.

SOS: Volunteer drivers needed to transport local residents every Monday to and from the Crocodile Lunch Club. Free lunch is on offer!

If you can help please contact either Dial-a-Ride or the Parish Clerk.



Allotments

This is a very busy time of year for allotment holders as they prepare to plant their allotments up with a range of fruit and vegetables. It is a pastime enjoyed by those lucky enough to have an allotment and is gaining in popularity.

Mr Battan has an allotment plot at the White Hart site which he has tended for the past 50 years having started working on a plot with his father in 1961. We believe this is the longest a plot has remained with a single resident in Stratton St Margaret Parish Council unless you can tell us differently so we would like to offer our hearty congratulations to Mr Battan and wish him green fingers for the forthcoming season.

The demand for allotments remains extremely high and the Parish Council is exploring the possibility of providing a third allotment site at Weedon Road in the near future.

Hyde Road

As we go to press the Parish Council understands that the proposal for 92 houses will be considered by Swindon Borough Council's Planning Committee within the next two months. Minor amendments were made to the original plans and submitted over the Christmas period.

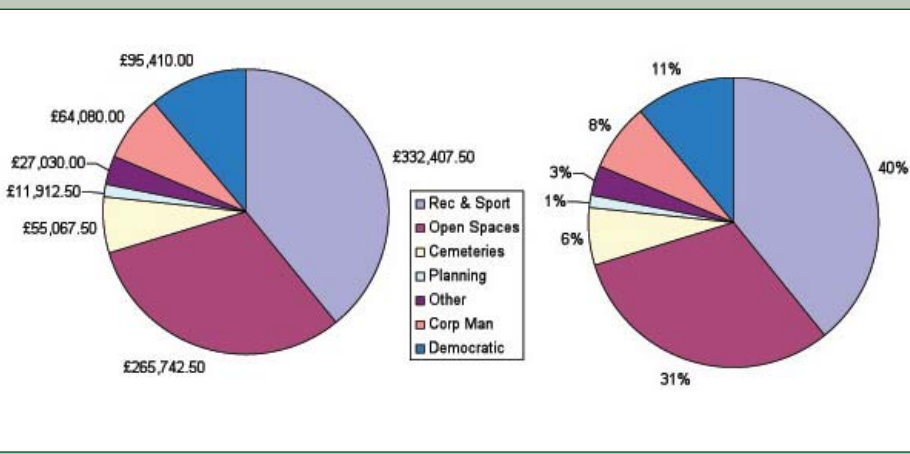
The application proposes 92 dwellings and as part of its mitigation a new all weather grass pitch will be provided at Kingsdown School.

The Parish Council remains opposed to the application and reiterated its objections in January following the amendments.

Precept 2011/2012

At its meeting on 25th January 2010 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council agreed its budget for 2010/2011. Once again the Parish Council has reduced its precept requirement for the second year running and the D Band equivalent for 2011/2012 will be £107.48, a 1.2% reduction on the

previous year. The Council is very aware that it needs to address the current economic climate and as such has endeavoured to identify savings and will continue to do so. The chart below outlines where the money is going in the forthcoming year.



Corporate Plan

As part of its commitment to keep residents informed of the work Stratton St Margaret Parish Council will be undertaking in the future the second Corporate Plan covering 2011/2012 has been developed.

The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's vision as well as its corporate priorities and key objectives. The following priorities have been adopted:

- **To represent residents, businesses and community groups in the Parish of Stratton St Margaret on key strategic issues facing the parish and community**
- **To improve and further develop the provision of green and open spaces in the Parish**
- **To continue to help improve, enhance, protect and deliver local government services for all sectors of the community**
- **To continue to develop, improve and enhance community and leisure services locally**

A copy of the Plan will be uploaded onto the Council's website as soon as it has been formally adopted.

Community Planting Scheme Update

Following on from the launch of the community planting initiative in September 2010 two community planting events were held at Delamere Drive Play area and the Green, Sywell Road. Both events attracted a good number of local residents and following the planting free burgers and soft drinks were provided.

Our thanks go to all those residents who attended, making the two days so successful. Thanks also go to the grounds team of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council who carried out site preparation and tidied up afterwards.



Young ones learn planting



The community pitches in

Delamere Drive Upgrade

The upgrading of the Delamere Drive Play area is currently being undertaken and should be completed by early March. This follows a significant public consultation undertaken by the parish council with local residents about what they would like to see in the play area.

Work commenced on clearing the site during the second week of January. The play equipment is being installed by the Stratton St Margaret Parish Council's grounds team and work should be completed by the end of March. The play area will be formally opened in May following the local elections so look out for further information on the Parish notice boards and in the local press.



Stratton Leisure Centre

News and information from the Stratton Leisure Centre and Health and Fitness studio

At the Community Centre Committee meeting held on 11th January 2011 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council agreed to rebrand the Stratton Community Leisure Centre to Stratton Leisure Centre. The shortened name

Statton Leisure Centre, committed to the community

**Fitness shouldn't cost an arm and a leg!
Membership from only £18.50 per month**

Membership includes unlimited access to the Stratton Health & Fitness Studio and aerobic classes including spinning.

You also get:

- Free induction
- Free reassessments
- Free gym pack including a towel, water bottle and gym bag

For further information contact

01793 825525 or email

leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Fees can be paid via Direct Debit

7 day gym pass FREE!

Why not try out our facilities for 7 days before committing yourself to membership? Bring this voucher in for a free 7 Day Pass

will hopefully be less of a mouthful and has been adopted to coincide with a new website for the centre which will be launched in April 2011. Links to the new website will be publicised when available.

Spinning Classes

A great all round cardiovascular exercise to aid weight loss and improve muscle tone. This class is for everyone!!! Nobody gets left behind. **Members = £4.20, Non-Members = £5.20, Gym Pass holders = FREE, 11-15yr olds = £2.80 members, £3.80 non members.**

5-7 year old ball skills

We have started a new session on Mondays from 3.40pm – 4.20pm introducing 5-7 year olds to find ball games and activities, developing coordination and basic skills.

Shop & Drop

Available During School Term Times

Members: £3.50 Non-Members: £4.50

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9.30am-11.30am

Ask at reception for more details.

Little Snappers Crèche 0-5yrs

Available During School Term Times

Members: £2.50 Non-Members: 3.50

Free to Gym Members (one child only)

Hall space for hire.

Holding a function or event and wondering where to hold it. Look no further. Our Stratton Suite and Main Hall are available for hire with catering for Weddings, Birthdays and other celebrations. **Contact the Centre Manager on 01793 825525 for the latest special offers.**

Class timetable – Prices on application or as part of your Gym Membership

Monday	Aerobics	10am - 11am
Monday	Circuits	1.45pm - 2.30pm
Monday	Teen Gym	5pm - 6pm
Monday	Body Tone	6pm - 7pm
Monday	Spinning	7pm - 8pm
Tuesday	Young @ Heart	9.30am - 12.00pm
Tuesday	Body Conditioning	6.15pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday	Spinning	10am - 11am
Wednesday	Walking Club	11.45am - 1pm
Wednesday	Teen Gym	6pm - 7pm
Wednesday	Stretch and Flex	6.15pm - 7.15pm
Wednesday	Spinning	7.15pm - 8.15pm
Thursday	Young @ Heart	9.30am - 12.00pm
Thursday	Legs, Tums & Bums	6.15pm - 7.15pm
Fridays	Tai Chi	9.30am - 10.30am
Fridays	Spinning	10am - 11am
Saturdays	Spinning	9.30am - 10.30am
Saturdays	Teen Gym	10.30am - 11.30am

Become a member of **Stratton Community Leisure Centre**: Prices from £9 a year. For more information contact the Centre on **01793 825525**.

Thursday lunch

During March there will be a **Thursday Specials Menu**

Plus a great choice of 'lite snacks' available in the Grange Bar during lunchtimes everyday except Sundays
See meal voucher

Crazy Crocs

The next **Crazy Croc** sessions are:
April 11th - 21st, May 31st - June 3rd
Members £15 - Non members £16

Forthcoming entertainment

Tea Dances

Will be held on Thursday 10th March, Thursday 7th April, no Tea Dance in May, 2nd June 2011.

Quizzes

Don't forget our popular Quiz Nights in the Members Bar.

Saturday 26th February, 12th March and 26th March 2011.

Squash Courts

The two squash courts were refurbished in November providing excellent playing conditions. Squash Prices are as follows:

40 minutes

Members £6.00
Non members £8.00

Weekend squash 40 minutes

Members £2.60
Non members £4.60

Squash coaching adult

Members £3.80
Non members £4.80
Mondays 4:40pm - 7pm

Squash coaching junior

Members £2.80
Non members £3.80
Mondays 4:40pm - 7pm

Meadowcroft Community Centre

Don't forget the Meadowcroft Community Centre for all your meeting needs. Fully equipped kitchen and good access and parking. An ideal venue for children's parties, small and large meetings, clubs, band practices and family occasions. Competitive rates available.

Get £1 off you meal throughout March

Just present this voucher at the grange bar when purchasing

Swindon Rugby Football Club

Following on from the article that appeared in the Spring Issue 4 published in 2010, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is pleased to report that a lease has been entered into for the Greenbridge Playing Field and Pavilion with Swindon Rugby Football Club. The lease was formally signed at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 25th January 2011.

The objective of granting the lease for 50 years is to expand the training facilities for the growing number of members in the junior section of the rugby club. To enable this expansion to succeed, the rugby club required additional land suitable for rugby

pitches and junior training.

It is hoped that the lease will enable the Rugby Club to submit grant applications to improve the facilities as well as enabling the promotion of women's rugby.

Swindon Rugby Football Club has a long history. SRFC was founded in 1895, but its roots go back to Swindon Rangers Rugby Football Club, which was formed in 1870. This continuity, going back over 140 years, makes SFRC one of the oldest rugby clubs in the world; quite an achievement in itself, and something that the Parish Council believes is worthy of support.



Action at the rugby club

Climate Week

You may be interested to know that Climate Week will be held on 21-27 March 2011 and will involve events and activities all over the UK showcasing the solutions and positive steps that will help combat climate change.

The Met Office is the lead science advisor to Climate Week, and will help to explain key scientific issues around climate

change. Other organisations backing Climate Week include the TUC, Manchester United, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Engineering Council, Eco Schools England and Glasgow City Council.

Further information regarding Climate Week can be obtained from **www.climateweek.com**.

Headlands Site

As the newsletter was going to press Stratton St Margaret Parish Council was notified that an outline planning application had been submitted by Swindon Borough Council for the former Headlands School site to build 152 new dwellings. The application includes public open space, play facilities and sports pitches as well as the retention of the community and gymnastics facility. The application number is S/11/0084/KIWA and you can obtain further information regarding the outline

proposals by visiting www.swindon.gov.uk/environment/planning or contacting the Planning Officer, Miss Walter, on 01793 466294. A further application related to the Headlands Site has been submitted for change of use at St Luke's School/Merton Fields to provide two junior and two mini playing pitches, changing rooms and revised car park layout. The application number is S/11/0086.



Contact information

Parish Councillors Ward Key: **C** Coleview, **SM** Stratton St Margaret, **SP** St Philips, **LCN** Lower Coleview & Nythe

SM - Mrs B Archer

15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4LY
822263

SM - Mr N P Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PQ
346165

SM - Mrs A M Chalk

5 Days Close, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4PQ
346165

SP - Mr M R Cook

26 St Philips Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QH
825535

SM - Mrs C Ennis

Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village, SWINDON, SN3 4XH
Contact via office

SP - Mrs E A Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

SP - Mr J Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

C - Miss T Page

82 Cloche Way, Swindon, SN2 7JN
826378

LCN - Mr D K Holmes

89 Wheeler Avenue, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7HL
520017

SP - Mr G Lawson

24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QB
Contact via office

LCN - Mr P Mane

8 Lansbury Drive, Upper Stratton, Swindon, SN2 7LF
Contact via office

SP - Mrs A L Murphy

2 Orchard Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QR
337144

SP - Mr P Owen BEM

192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7LH
822164

SP - Mrs T Page

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QN
825481

C - Mr D R Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mrs P M Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivenham, Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mr R A Smith

39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4WE
Contact via office

LCN - Mrs P Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SM - Mr M Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe, SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SP - Mr P A Steele

25 Okus Grove, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, SN2 7QA
723744

C - Mrs R Tran

44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON, SN3 4HE
826283

LCN - Mr J Tray

3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret, SWINDON
07813170202

C - Vacancy

Clerk to the Council

Mr P Russell, Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, SWINDON, Wiltshire, SN2 7JX
Tel: 01793 823761

clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Member of Parliament

Justin Tomlinson, MP - 01793 533393
justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4JY
Tel : 01793 825525 Fax : 01793 832201
E: leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Paul Findlow, 879959 St Philips Ward
Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips Ward

Janet Heenan 337591 St Philips Ward

Russell Holland, 07999566623 St Margaret Ward

Mark Edwards 709834 St Margaret Ward

Ray Fisher 07791500164 St Margaret Ward

Glenn Smith 725649 Covingham & Nythe

Dale Heenan 613189 Covingham & Nythe

Richard Hurley 07966533997 Covingham & Nythe

Become a Councillor?

We currently have one vacancy for a Councillor so if you would like to learn more about how to be involved in the local democratic process of the Parish Council please contact the Clerk, Mr Paul Russell (01793) 823 761.