



Elvetham Heath Matters...

Represent your community – make a difference!

A Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the people. Its main purpose is to improve the lives of the people in the local community and give that community a voice. It needs enthusiastic local residents to make that happen so why not consider giving it a go?

Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 3 May 2018. All seven parish council seats become available and, if more than seven people put themselves forward, you will be choosing between them on polling day.

Interested? Read on and also come to our open evening **Monday 26th March 7.30pm** at The Key Centre to chat to your current councillors and the council staff and to find out more about the role. Refreshments will be served and nomination papers will be available for collection.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

Being a Parish councillor is about being involved in your local community. It does not have to take up much of your time but the more you can put in, the more you will get out. With so much achieved so far, why not get involved to shape the future and help decide how the council spends the small parish part of your council tax.

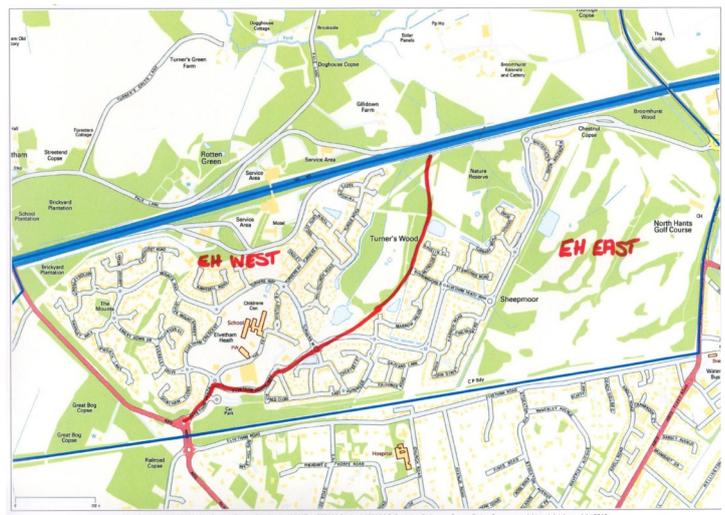
Elvetham Heath is a great place to live and your involvement could make it even better.

The Election, Thursday 3 May

For the first time the Parish has been split into two wards to coincide with the county council divisions - Elvetham Heath East and West. The dividing line goes through the nature reserve and along Elvetham Heath Way.

Three councillors will represent the East Ward & four will represent the West. Candidates must stand for one ward or the other. If a ward has more candidates than there are seats available, the residents of that ward will make their decision on polling day.

Don't forget to vote!



Your councillors

Marilyn Robson (Chair) Nicky Bond (Vice Chair) Claire Brooks-McGoldrick George Brown Gordon Smith
Emma Watmore Richard Woods Parish Clerk: Jan Hyatt
office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk 01252 819204 www.elvethamheath.org.uk

Timetable for the Election - check EHPC website for updates

- **13th March:** Nomination papers available from Hart District Council / Electoral Commission website
- **26th March:** EHPC Prospective Councillors evening – The Key Centre
- **27th March:** Nomination papers can be submitted **by hand** to Hart District Council
- **6th April, 4pm:** Closing date for submission of nomination papers
- **6th April, 4pm:** Last opportunity for withdrawal of nomination papers
- **3rd May:** Polling Day (7am – 10pm)

Interview with Marilyn Robson, Chair of Elvetham Heath Parish Council 2010 onwards

Why did you decide to become a councillor?

I have lived in Fleet for about 46 years and have always been involved with the community, as a member of school PTAs when my children were young, being a member of Hart Lions Club for over 20 years and being the Treasurer for Stepping Stones DS for about 5 years. When the idea of a Parish Council for Elvetham Heath was put forward, I felt that I had the drive to help get the Parish Council off the ground and the strong desire to build the community of Elvetham Heath.



How do you feel you make a difference?

I have tried very hard to make sure Elvetham Heath always has a voice. I have pushed for the roads to be adopted by the County Council and thankfully we are nearly there. I am proud of events like the Fete and Carols in The Key which bring our community together.

What is your proudest moment as a Councillor?

Can I have two? My first is setting up the Parish Council along with the Clerk. This for me was like leaping off a cliff as I had done nothing like this in my life. I had to learn quickly and I actually surprised myself with what I was able to achieve. My second proudest moment is representing Elvetham Heath at the Remembrance Parade and laying a wreath at the memorial in Gurkha Square on behalf of the residents.

How do you balance work & home life with being a Councillor?

I am retired but still have a very busy life. I have always said, even when I worked full time, that if you really want to do something you will find the time. The Parish Council meets once a month but as Chairman I do attend some extra meetings and events. Somehow I manage to fit everything in and my family are understanding as they know I like to be busy.

How has Elvetham Heath Parish Council helped to build a sense of community?

I always think of Elvetham Heath as a modern day village. We have our shop, pub, church, school and a wonderful array of facilities. When the Parish Council was formed it provided our village with a group of people who really care and who give their time to make sure that the EH remains a wonderful place to live. The community events put on by the Parish Council have given the opportunity for the residents to really have a sense of belonging. It makes me very proud when I am attending meetings that Elvetham Heath is so often mentioned as a great place to live with a wonderful community feel.

Why should people get involved locally?

If you like the place you live you should definitely get involved. It will give you a real sense of belonging and you really can make a difference.

Being a Parish Councillor

by Emma Watmore

“My day job is that of real-time stenographer, working in the High Court and on international arbitrations. Being a parish councillor provides me with a completely different and more varied role. I have worked with Councillor George Brown to introduce the Concert on the Green, and more recently I planned and organised the Countryside Day. I have also worked on introducing the allotments and the Key Centre garden, and have some more schemes up my sleeve!



Although being a parish councillor can be time-consuming and even frustrating on occasions, I have found contributing something to the community to be very satisfying.

Perhaps you should give it a try!”

Why I became a Parish Councillor

by Nicky Bond



“I decided to get involved with the Parish Council as I have always been interested in the area I live, having been born and brought up locally. Having seen first-hand how Fleet and the surrounding areas have changed over my lifetime, I saw this as an opportunity to be involved in shaping the area I now live in and to have a say about the future developments.

I have enjoyed my time so far as a Parish Councillor and get involved as much as I can, getting particularly involved in the planning of the play area at The Key.

I work full time as a night care assistant for a small residential home within Fleet but have found I can fit my role within the Parish Council around my working commitments.”

What has Elvetham Heath Parish Council done for me?

Elvetham Heath PC has been in existence since April 2010. Over the last 8 years your elected members have worked to improve the area and help build the sense of community. A lot has been achieved:

- EH now has an allotment site with 20 small plots, a much-improved new play area at the Key, 2 additional post boxes, Christmas lights & a tree and a community orchard;
- The local scout group has a home at the converted sports pavilion;
- Regular community events have been established – the annual fete, the concert, Carols in The Key and the monthly farmers’ market;
- The landscaping throughout the area is being regularly maintained to a higher standard than before – EHPC is the first and only parish in the whole of Hampshire to maintain the roadside verges & roundabouts;
- The Key Centre has seen several major and necessary improvements.

In addition, the council represents the community’s interests, for example:

- By lobbying on road adoption, potholes, litter and fly tipping;
- As a consultee in the planning process—recently opposing the Pale Lane Farm development.
- By working with District and County Councils, the Police and others to improve life on Elvetham Heath

Open Evening for Prospective Councillors

Monday 26 March 2018, 7.30pm

Come to our open evening Monday 26th March 7.30pm at The Key Centre if you are interested in getting involved. You will be able to chat to some of your current councillors and staff to find out more about being a member of the Parish Council.

Refreshments will be served and nomination papers will be available for collection.

Please consider getting involved.

Annual Residents' Evening

Wednesday 30 May 2018, 7.00pm

Please join us for our Annual Residents' Evening on Wednesday 30 May from 7.00pm .

Join us for a glass of wine and an update on what has been going on locally.

It will be your opportunity to meet your newly elected councillors and put forward ideas to steer the new council over the next 4 years.

If you have any specific questions you would like to ask please email us at office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk so we can answer your questions more fully on the evening.

This is your meeting so come along and have your say.

Parish Precept

When you receive your council tax information from Hart District Council, you will notice that the annual parish element, the precept, has increased by just over 3.25% which equates to an increase of just over £2 per year on a Band D property. The parish council decided it was necessary to make this small increase to help future proof the finances of the parish.

Currently the total council precept stands at just over £126,000 per year. The costs of all its services is nearer £300,000. The shortfall is covered by income from the Key Centre & other facilities and what is left of the developer's contribution. This contribution has to be used to fund some of the annual grounds maintenance costs. Over £50,000 of this money is used each year and at this rate the money will last for less than 10 more years.

Small precept increases now will be used to extend the life of the developer fund and build a cushion to prevent a large increase in a few years' time.

Look out for our next newsletter introducing your new Parish Council and our upcoming summer events. To be published late May.

Parish Council Office

Office Hours Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm 01252 819204

Email office@elvethamheath-pc.org.uk