

Your name on the ballot for **Kirkbymoorside** **Town Council?**

The town council **can** make a difference to local life – to do that, it needs vigorous, forward looking councillors. The whole of our town council is up for election on 5th May 2011. Have **you** thought about standing for election as a town councillor? It is an opportunity to serve your fellow townspeople as a member of the part of local government that is closest to our community.

What can the town council do?

The priorities for the council are to:

- ☐ represent and support citizens in their dealings with larger public authorities
- ☐ provide cash grants or practical assistance to promote local projects of value
- ☐ efficiently and economically provide a range of services, currently including provision of play areas, street lighting and the management of Manor Vale
- ☐ respond to consultation requests, including planning, from other authorities

What does a town councillor do?

Individual councillors have no special status. But when members meet together as a council, normally in public, they jointly make decisions about local matters. Full council meetings are usually once a month, but there are also committees to deal with particular areas. Council members need to allow some time for finding out about current issues, and for talking to townspeople about their hopes and fears.

The council has the power to raise money through the council tax collected by Ryedale District Council. Next year, the amount will be £80,000. Obviously, the council must try hard to spend this money sensibly, always aiming to gain the best possible advantage for the people of Kirkbymoorside.

How do you get to be a town councillor?

Once every four years, there is an election for the nine seats on Kirkbymoorside Town Council. Sadly, in the last two elections, there were too few candidates and so no poll was held. When vacancies occur between elections, they can be filled either by co-option or through a by-election. There was a by-election in Kirkbymoorside on 11th November 2010. The council clearly has a far better basis for representing the town if a diverse group of members has been elected. Could one of them be **you**?

More about Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Full meetings of the council currently take place on the third Monday of each month except August, usually in the Manor Close Community Centre.

At present, the council's main services are:

- ⑩ About half the town's street lighting
- ⑩ The town cemetery
- ⑩ Pavement sweeping & snow clearance
- ⑩ Christmas lights
- ⑩ Manor Vale conservation area
- ⑩ Play Areas, Old Road & Ryedale View
- ⑩ Public seats
- ⑩ Grass and hedge maintenance
- ⑩ Publications

The council is reviewing the need for additional, affordable services, especially those that can be supported by volunteer effort. In the budget for 2011-12 there is provision for £8,000 for new services and work is going on to seek the best ways to involve volunteers.

Policies are implemented by the Town Clerk and assistant, who are employed by the council, assisted by council members and others. Where required, contractors are brought in to provide services.

Calendar 2011

22nd March – Informal meeting with councillors
25th March – Formal notice of election
28th March – Earliest submission of nominations
4th April – Last day for nominations
6th April – List of candidates published
7th April – Last day to withdraw
8th April – Notice of poll
5th May – 7 am to 10 pm Election Day

Becoming a Candidate

There are a number of steps, but the process is really quite simple. Your main contact is Ryedale District Council. You need to:

- a) Obtain a candidate's pack from Democratic Services, Ryedale District Council
- b) Request a copy of the Kirkbymoorside electoral register, or borrow one
- c) Find two people to propose you as a candidate. They need to be on the

Kirkbymoorside electoral register and you will need their numbers from the register

- d) Complete the forms for yourself as candidate and get your proposers to sign the proposal form.
- e) Submit everything to Ryedale District Council
- f) Wait for the list confirming the candidates

The Election Campaign

It is entirely up to you how much effort you put into campaigning for election. People may be less inclined to vote for you if they do not know much about you.

Ryedale District Council will provide you with a Kirkbymoorside electoral register, on request, and you can use it to help plan your campaign.

You can spend money on your campaign if you wish; there is no public funding to support this. There is a limit on how much you can spend, which is a little above £600.

Meet the Council

An informal meeting has been arranged for 7 pm on 22nd March 2011 in the Manor Close Community Centre, when you can meet current town councillors, talk to them about the role of a council member and ask them questions.

Contacts

People who can help you include:

Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Feel free to contact any of the present council. Addresses and phone numbers can be found on the council notice board in the Market Place or on the council web site.

Ryedale District Council

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