



Oundle Town Council

Democratic Engagement Policy

Electoral Mandate

Since Local Government reorganization in 1974 there have only been one or two occasions when insufficient candidates have been nominated for the next four year term. Oundle Town Council has a history of contested elections: all candidates, to date, standing as independent individuals.

Oundle Town Council is determined to build on its current successful procedures in the fourth year of the electoral cycle.

Oundle Oracle, the newsletter of Oundle Town Council, features an Election Countdown. There is a planned programme to raise awareness, provide information and signpost events. Profiles of Councillors who have publicly declared that they will not be standing for election have featured in previous cycles.

Oundle Town Council will provide links on its web site to any events organized by the Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils or principal authorities designed to encourage new Councillors.

The Clerk will maintain a list of Oundle Town Councillors willing to speak to local groups. All invitations should be handled by the office, so that a record can be kept.

Casual Vacancy Protocol

The Council makes provision in its annual budget for the cost of an election in case a casual vacancy occurs. Co-option to the Council is seen as a matter of last resort.

As soon as the casual vacancy is declared the Council is only required to post an official notification. This means the electorate may not see the notice in time, particularly as the 14 day statutory period for 10 voters to public to request a poll from East Northamptonshire Council is very tight.

In order that the news of the vacancy is widely known

Posters will be displayed on all Council notice boards and distributed to other established poster sites in the town centre.

Information will be published on the website

Information will be sent to local organizations via e-mail list eg Volunteer Action, Association of Trade, Rotary etc

Individuals who have expressed interest in standing for council (list kept) will also be contacted.

Oundle Town Council considers the extra cost of requesting Polling cards a worthwhile expense to increase elector awareness of a bye election.

Adopted by Full Council on 7th January 2010

Signed: 