



SUMMER E-PANEL SURVEY

319 e-panellists from across Kirklees took part in an online survey about local democracy, to inform the work of the Kirklees Democracy Commission. The survey ran throughout August 2016.

How should we do democracy here in Kirklees?

Elections

Have you voted in a **local election** in the last 3 years? (Please don't count the recent EU referendum).

307 (96%)	Yes
11 (3%)	No - I chose not to
1 (0%)	No - I wasn't eligible to vote

If you don't **always** vote, what do you think might encourage you to do so?

26 responses:

- More independent candidates.
- When a party pledges to resuscitate our stagnant and failing CBD.
- Truthful & deliverable local & regional policies that would benefit the area, region & nationally.
- Because where filled with false hope's.
- Having Cllr's worth voting for. They don't pay their Council Tax and they mis-use their car park passes so how can they be trusted.
- know something about all the people we are voting for not just one
- I do vote but where I live didn't get any election info at the last election. My ward has always returned candidates from the same party, so many people don't bother as they think there is no chance of change! People see Councillors taken to court for non-payment of council tax, for example, or we hear about claims for huge amounts of expenses - so some councillors need to up their game and people need to see them being held to account if there is to be any respect. If there is no respect, why would people vote?
- Policies that benefit the majority of working class people
- A wider variety of local candidates who live in the ward area.
- I always vote
- More information about local candidates and what they can do to influence changes/improvements in my area.
- A bit more info on what the impact will be
- Better understanding of what politicians are offering
- Higher visibility councillors.
- I do always vote, and no encouragement necessary
- It depends on the candidates, I don't always vote for a particular party.
- the facts off politicians instead of fiction
- Local policies. Past history of the candidates.
- Fines for non voters as already exist in Australia.
- time to go to polling station
- better councillors and systems
- Its usually childcare or time constraints to get to the polling station. As per the question below, if you could vote electronically I would always vote.

Do you think you should be able to vote electronically (on your smartphone, tablet, laptop etc)?

159 (50%)	Yes
90 (28%)	No
69 (22%)	Unsure

It would save money for us to elect Kirklees councillors only once every four years, but this would mean you would get to exercise your right to vote less often. How would you feel about this?

71 (22%)	It sounds like a great idea in principle	<input type="checkbox"/>
125 (39%)	Sounds okay but I would need to know more	61% in favour of 4 year voting
49 (15%)	It sounds like it would be a bad idea to me	<input type="checkbox"/>
73 (23%)	I would be totally against changing to four yearly elections	38% against changing

Making decisions

Thinking about how you feel about how Kirklees Council makes decisions now, please choose where you fit on the scale:

1 - I have no idea how decisions are made	2	3	4	5 - I fully understand the council's decision-making process
49 (16%)	61 (19%)	88 (28%)	78 (25%)	40 (13%)

1 - I'm completely uninterested in how decisions are made	2	3	4	5 - I'm extremely interested in how decisions are made
2 (1%)	11 (4%)	51 (16%)	130 (42%)	119 (38%)

1 - Councillors make decisions in secret in closed rooms	2	3	4	5 - Councillors make open decisions in public
40 (13%)	69 (22%)	110 (35%)	70 (22%)	24 (8%)

1 - No one can be involved unless councillors want them to be	2	3	4	5 - Anyone can get involved if they choose
38 (12%)	68 (22%)	107 (34%)	64 (20%)	39 (12%)

1 - I've never influenced a council decision	2	3	4	5 - I think I've influenced a council decision in the past
111 (35%)	62 (20%)	75 (24%)	34 (11%)	32 (10%)

Although our panellists are generally more politically engaged group than the average resident (with the first question demonstrating that 96% of respondents have voted locally in the past three years), this set of statements shows that there are very mixed perceptions on how decisions are made, and limited understanding of the process. A third believe they have never influenced a council decision, despite the majority saying they are interested in how decisions are made.

Do you think the voting age for local elections should be lowered to 16, to encourage more young people to participate in local politics?

161 (51%)	No
104 (33%)	Yes
53 (17%)	Unsure

Should councillors have less control and the local community have more?

163 (51%)	Yes
104 (33%)	Unsure
51 (16%)	No

Half of respondents feel the community should have more control over the local area. In a previous panel survey, 61% agreed that councillors should be helping and encouraging local people to solve problems for themselves (i.e. working with them, rather than working for them).

Councillors

78% of panel respondents told us that 'it's important to have a range of different ways of interacting with local councillors - online being just one of them.'

With this in mind, please pick up to three options you feel you would be most likely to make use of:

209 (67%)	Regular surgeries
183 (58%)	Social Media (Facebook, Twitter etc)
139 (44%)	Ad-hoc councillor drop-in sessions
105 (34%)	Councillor visits to schools (thinking about your family / young people you know)
71 (23%)	Webchat, Skype etc
45 (14%)	Something else:

49 responses received - mainly referring to email and telephone. There was also mention of potential to use forums or online forms on Kirklees.gov.uk, street surgeries, councillors approaching residents via existing groups, meetings and workplaces, doorstep contact, WhatsApp, and attendance at schools and colleges.

Considering this is an online survey made up of people that are happy to engage online, it's surprising how many respondents chose regular surgeries and drop in sessions as one of their top three options.

84% of you told us that when you're dealing with a councillor, 'political party doesn't matter all that much to me, it's more important that they are working for the good of the area'.

Have you had any good or bad experiences of local councillors, of your own or that you've heard you're your friends or family? Please tell us a little about what happened:

176 responses were receiving to this question. A full list of comments is included at the end.

There is clearly a huge strength of feeling about interactions with local councillors, and the comments received cover a broad range of interactions from a quick email to many years of ongoing relationships.

It's clear that many residents have high expectations that their local councillors will be there for them, promptly, and make time to listen and work with them – despite some understanding of busy workloads and commitments. Perceived bad experiences take time to be forgotten and once trust is lost, it is difficult to rebuild. Many positive comments were made showing there are areas of goodwill, understanding and joint working.

We know being a councillor isn't for everyone.. but what one thing might get you more interested in getting more involved with the work of councillors and the decisions they make? Please be honest!

210 responses received – a full list of comments at the end.

Many respondents indicated they would need more time or fewer responsibilities to be more involved, while some clearly felt jaded about local democracy, and that little can be changed. There was call for more honesty, clearer communication, and for councillors to be visible all year round not just at election time.

Some felt that they would be more likely to get involved if there was opportunity for short term projects, on topics of interest to them, that they could fit around other commitments. Some felt that party politics hinder decision making, fairness and working for the good of the community, and this is offputting to their further involvement.

1 - Full list of the 176 comments received regarding experiences of local councillors.

2 - Full list of the 210 comments received on one thing that might get you interested in getting more involved

Comments referring to individuals and individual councillors have been anonymised.

- Myself, family & friends have all had bad experiences with local councillors who have interfered with activities in the village that didn't involve them... some to the extent that they have had projects cancelled through contacts in Kirklees. There has been numerous complaints regarding the behaviour of local councillors but these seem to be generally brushed under the carpet.
- contacted a councillor re: busy traffic on Old Lane, he sympathised with me and replied to my e-mail but nothing has been done about it nor has he said it can or can't be done (speed bump).
- Parking issue near relatives home told council could not do anything as local councillor had made decision which made me feel powerless even though I'd approached the correct department.
- My local councillor has worked very hard for my local area, but my MP is very long winded at making something happen.
- Local councillor said attend community meetings and answer or find information out for us. They have all been helpful and it doesn't matter what political party they are from
- My local Councillors are too interested in their own opinions and those of their cliques to be interested in the views of a wider group.
- Yes when I have tried to contact Councillor with problem in council . They promised to deal with problem but never helped or got back in touch
- Lindley councillors from lib dems are very visible - couldn't say I've ever seen anyone from the other parties being proactive in the area
- Many good experiences of councillors supporting a local environmental charity that I work with.
- Labour and Lib Dem Councillors will not work together on a group I am involved in. This is to the detriment of people on the ward who elected them.
- Almost all my experiences have been very much person rather than party (I even vote that way).
- I have always found all my local Ward Councillors (Colne Valley Wards) approachable, diligent and helpful over a period of 20 years irrespective of party
- Found a Libdem cllr telling different stories on different streets
- Councillor and Councillor are amazing they care about there constituents.
- Since I voted for her, I have heard that one local councillor has a previous conviction for fraud/theft from a charity set up

- I firmly believe that the police later persuasion of a Councillor should be irrelevant! There are there to represent ALL of the community. The older Councillors seem to understand this ethos but sadly, younger elected members are more interested in their own glory!
- Local issues have been well supported the higher level politicking is a frustration
- I don't have direct experiences with my local councillors, partially as I work in Leeds, but I wholeheartedly do not believe that they work for the good of the area. The local council introduced bus gates into Huddersfield town centre which; congestion control in the town centre and introducing a financial deterrent for contravention is entirely appropriate. What is not appropriate is to allow Hackney taxis free access because their inflated prices support council funding whilst not granting non-Hackney taxis the same access. Even more ire-evoking and covert is that senior councillors are allowed free access through bus gates and granted a free pass to park wherever and whenever they please. Local businesses in the Huddersfield CBD are grown closer to extinction with no respite on lease prices in the town. We instead see more and more discount shops saturating our market and taking us further backwards. Places such as the White Hart public house, patrons of which flout their drunkenness for all shoppers to see, are of no interest despite the terrible picture it paints of our town. Kew's bar has repeatedly been the subject of drunken violence yet the local council vetoed the police attempts to restrict their opening hours; council finances before public safety.
- not following through on what promised
- Good - supporting our daughter (who has a Statement) in gaining a sixth form offer from Heckmondwike Grammar School (thanks) Not so good - general lack of presence / activity of councillors in Batley East.
- Local councillor very supportive but let down by socialist councillors looking after their own parties interests.
- If I thought that the councillors acted honestly for the communities and not their own self interests and not to suppress anyone that they disagree with and use the old boys network.
- I've heard that it can be really hard to get hold of our local councillors. And press reports about them have been less than good recently
- Much as I don't like Tories, they did help my friend with her daughter's health issues.
- Yes, I'm involved with a local volunteer group and we've had difficulty working with two of our ward councillors in the past because they perceive our group to be a political one (we're not) and that other members of the group (who happen to also be members of political parties - a different party to that represented by the ward councillors) are using the group for political point-scoring. This has negatively influenced the amount of support offered to the group when it comes to things like supporting our funding applications for community projects. Recently (after our latest project was rejected for funding by these councillors at a meeting we attended) we had a discussion with one of the councillors involved, challenging his misconceptions of the group and aiming to resolve our differences. However this has been made more difficult by said councillor saying to us that he 'doesn't do email', thus making it hard for us to contact him and pass on messages between him and other group members.
- My experience is that councillors are happy to deal with items that are simple to resolve but quickly drop the ball when problem or becomes more difficult/contentious to resolve. In my experience they seem to weigh up the benefit to themselves versus the effort. In addition some councillors feel that their opinion is more important than that of the local community.
- Councillors, like all MPs only want your vote, then follow the party line
- Reported drug dealing in the lane where I live and it was suggested to a councillor that cameras are put up, seemed like a good idea to the councillor but we didn't get a camera, we still get the drug dealers. This has been going on for many years.
- Local parish council is more interested in local issues and reflect local concerns more than a central councillor who knows nothing about your local issues.
- Some are good, unfortunately the majority are in it for themselves
- On the couple of occasions I've needed help/advice our local councillor has been fantastic!
- I have worked with local councillors as a member of a community group and have generally found them helpful.
- Contacted a councillor about the reduction in bus services round Falconers Ride at Netherton but this did not make any difference. Do not know who the local councillor is since she retired.
- Out of three councillors contacted re a neighbourhood problem, just one of them were of any assistance, and it really helped the situation. In my opinion, that's two bad experiences and one good.
- I invited all 3 councillors to a local event. Not one of them even responded.
- No good examples at all and that us sad.
- I had a conversation with a councillor and I asked for her thoughts on different subjects. She thought that the European arrest warrant was a wonderful thing. Where as I don't, I'd read a story about a man who was taken back to Greece over a parking ticket and he'd spent 3 years in a Greek jail and it cost him his house. Councillor also told me that the Industrial estate on the end of Cleckheaton, just before junction 26/M62/M606/A58. Was built with money from the EU, but it is widely known that we give the EU the money. And then the EU give the UK its own money back for projects like the Industrial estate. I told my neighbour over the road about what the councillor had said to me. And she told me that she and her husband had looked into how many businesses had gone from Cleckheaton in recent years, and that number was sixty. They have lived in and around Cleckheaton all their lives and have seen many changes in recent years that they are not very happy about, but feel there is little they can do now they are Senior Citizens.
- I have been a co-opted member of an ad hoc scrutiny panel and have been impressed by the process.
- Problem with a recently installed street light. The local council sorted it out very quickly.
- Councillor X is the only councillor I have spoken to he visited my street during snowy weather and took an interest in organising a grit box.
- I have had good experience from my communications with a councillor, who is a very helpful Denby Dale Councillor
- some mostly regarding the closure of hri
- My experiences of our local councillors has been very disappointing. They listen to the points we make about issues in which we are involved, make sympathetic and interested noises then do absolutely nothing to help. Our MP however, is a different matter altogether so if we want to make a point or get things done in our locality we would try to get him involved initially via his surgery.
- Cllr X answers problems brought to her attention, even if it is not the answer that I want.
- Councillors tend to follow the vocal minority interest not get behind Kirklees wide interests.
- When I needed help with my dad, not one of them helped me at that time, so to be honest not sure what they are meant to be doing to help people.

- When I lived in Milnsbridge (Golcar ward), had cause to raise a couple of issues with councillors. They were good at responding, even if the local authority employees were less so.
- councillors being involved with pressure groups action groups to stop building on green areas in Huddersfield - they were visible and helpful in this process
- I've met two of the three of my local councillors. obviously very focused on the area and genuinely want to make improvements, they are doing a good job and all contactable across various platforms but i do think they are missing opportunities to engage with residents by only having personal and not a 'party' presence on social media
- I think "political party" does matter. Its an indication of the issues a councillor will support. It is difficult for independent councillors to have a affect change and or challenge resource allocation. I realize the difficult role they have especially with the present cuts in funding.
- Have met local councillors and party leaders of all persuasions. Most listen, are well intentioned but mostly ineffective when confronted by the inflexibility of party politics
- I have contacted my councillor with varying results, I would just like an acknowledgement of my emails and confirmation that they have been read
- The ridiculous episode of erection of street lamp on non council land (ginnel off Crosland Hill Rd) - subsequently taken down. Followed by bollard placed in middle at end of ginnel (wide prams could not get through), subsequently taken out and low bar put in. This was all to stop unauthorised motor bikes. I believe Councillor X (who lives nearby) sanction this expensive fiasco - about 7/8 years ago
- I've seen the best councillors being hard working and supporting the greater good. The new dewsbury west councillor recently has done a lot of positive work for diamond wood school in terms of fundraising etc. Councillor X was always incredibly professional and supportive of individual families
- I couldn't say because you only see councillor's when there's an election.
- One of our local councillors in particular has always been very responsive - e.g. to complaints about local environmental issues. Another was very helpful when the council removed a grit bin from our road for no reason we could understand
- Nothing special recently although I worked with Cllrs for nearly 40 years and have plenty stories to tell, most of which I wouldn't commit to writing but I was threatened with the sack once by one particularly shouty member who happily came to a sticky political end. Tend to remember the ones that were decent, and they were always the ones who put their constituents interests above party politics.
- I have no idea who my local councillor is, or how to contact them. I certainly never see them in the area unless there is an election due.
- In Kirklees, the socialists in power appear to always favour the areas where they perceive their support is strong and they neglect areas where they have least support
- councillors just tend to promote those areas that are under represented without making any difference
- I asked my local councillor to look into a street light that was out for weeks. It was fixed within 48hours after their interjection.
- Excellent help from our local INDEPENDENT councillors in getting grants.
- Before election they are ready to lick your feet but once elected they are ghosts. Never seen Never heard.
- As a former voluntary member of a Scrutiny panel I got to know how hard most councillors work. However, different party newsletters often claim sole credit for the same community improvements. I'd like to see an annual survey for each ward where residents could let councillors know what they think should be done and how an area could be improved. In my local ward most initiatives are not in my locality.
- a councillor was very good in dealing with an issue for me when I lived in Crosland moor, even though I did not vote for him he really helped me out, shane he lost his seat n 2004
- Cllr X is fantastic. He works really hard for his ward, listens to what you have to say and tries to sort out any problems. At least two people I know who weren't traditional Labour voters voted for him in the last election as they were so impressed with what he has been doing. We only hear from the Tory councillors when it is election time.
- We have had a local Councillor come and talk to us during canvassing but couldn't speak English well so just shoved a flyer at us.
- My father in law was very impressed with a visit from Jo Cox who he mentioned a street light being out to and it was fixed the day after.
- I emailed a councillor 5 years ago about a highways matter and never even got a reply. I emailed our local MP at the time at the same time and had a reply within a week.
- Mixed with some Cllrs being remote and others very responsive on planning and local issues. Too little interaction on policy issues, cuts, campaigning
- When councillors visit the local front line points with their clients, they "queue" jump. these are councillors who do not have an appointment. It don't agree with this as those customers who have been waiting patiently are expected to wait even longer as the councillor comes in and takes their place in the queue. Those customers waiting patiently are "no less a being". Managers and councillors seem to give the priority to the councillor, which is not right.
- I was fighting for my disability a few years ago and an MP stepped up and wrote letters ect. This help tremendously
- having contacted them recently by email I have had no reply or recognition from the person
- Pot holes are a major problem in my area and I know that the local Councillors have tried to get something done about it. However financial restrictions have stopped them getting the problem completely solved. Our potholes continue to be regularly patched up which i'm sure is not financially viable either. I myself have major back problems causing me alot of pain when i have to drive over them.
- I recently emailed Cllr X with a relatively minor issue with a leak in my local area in Crosland Moor. She responded very quickly and the problem was attended to swiftly.
- Local conversations seem to focus on hearing people complain about councillor's claims for expenses. One of our councillors has been in court twice for non-payment of council tax. There is little respect!
- Usually good experiences when I make direct enquiries with councillors but otherwise I do not hear nearly enough from them. I have no idea what their concerns and priorities are from month to month. They don't even have a mailing list I can subscribe to.
- Some good but mostly bad
- Both myself and an acquaintance have had discussions with the same councillor and have felt that he though we didn't know what we were talking about. It was as though what we were saying went in one ear and out t'other.
- I have always had good experiences of my local councillor

- I have not had any experience but I think the councillor should have good views to what the party represents and make good in the community
- to the Real Ale Trail in Marsden. I was outraged by Cllr X's reference to residents of the Colne Valley as 'dickheads' for their legitimate & understandable concerns about the council's poor performance on Winter gritting of local roads.
- both good and bad experiences. Councillor supporting local project and Councillor not doing what was promised.
- Good result about litter /rubbish being cleared Felt wrong planning decisions made. Having 3 building sights in the area = too many lorries Building site deliveries should be limited to after 9am and before 3pm and not at weekends
- Constant demise of town centres eg bus gates run down empty shops high rent. Lack of innovation and development/enterprise. Not sure who makes all these decisions and why. Whilst budgets are being cut lack of insight and proactibitu will lead to further demise and lack of investment in the town - less rent less money.
- I was having trouble getting my blue badge, and a councillor got the manager to come and see me. With this, I got one and the manager apologised that I had to go to such lengths.
- good experience with Councillor X locally
- Good experience of Lib Dem Cllr helping with local environmental/planning issue, where contractor cut down trees on site where he wanted to build, prior to getting planning permission, which concerned local residents as this was an area of wildlife interest. The result was that planning permission was not granted.
- I have heard very good things about Cllr X. He was very helpful with my partner regarding local transport and bus stops. I have also heard generally positive things about him from local people.
- I have experienced a cllr being sexist and patronising. I had to say his behaviour was not appropriate I have known of a local councillor who seemed to have sway on ensuring some people got social housing they wished for but felt this involved jumping queues. I have heard very stupid and single issue talk from a local councillor who had a bee in his bonnet about very narrow issues. I have felt very supported by a local councillor at work who is very pro active and enthusiastic and very good at encouraging other members of the community to get involved in voluntary work
- Good advice and support when seeking financial aid for local community group. Getting directly involved with community volunteer group.
- A couple of years ago, bins where I live were being missed regularly. I managed to sort this out myself but by then one of my local councillors had offered to help.
- A Councillor , standing for Re Election In the Greenhead ward , told Me PERSONALLY ! that after the Election , If He and Labour got In , the Bad and Hazardous parking by a Local Trader , which obscured a Busy Junction , would HAVE TO CEASE as this was on Kirklees Land This scenario , as a Result of the Election Happened , and nothing changed ! When I confronted him about His promise , he DENIED all Knowledge of our conversation / my complaint , and said nothing could be done anyway1 ... ALSO , the part about the ownership of the land , turned out to be a LIE..... FROM A PREVIOUSLY ELECTED COUNCILLOR !
- My local councillors are not members of the current decision making party, therefore, seem to have little or no voice on behalf of their constituents. This is not to say they don't TRY to make views known, however it does mean that they are often sidelined and what might be good for the area and residents they serve is often ignored. Ridiculous planning applications being passed with no thought of the consequences that will arise as a result.
- One C. completely ignores anything you ask him to do. Another one does his best to get things done . But does not always succeed !
- Good experience with councillor trying to stop local GPs cutting branch surgeries
- have had dealings with one councillor unfortunately now deceased she used to care about The Spen Valley area of Kirklees and its people immaterial of their political views.
- inactive councillors not responding to requests for assistance or advice
- Seem disinterested in individuals views...appear to be tied to the national party line not local.
- The complete indifference previous Councillors to the traffic, road condition, overhanging trees, leaves and litter in St. Helen's Gate, Almondbury. Some work is going on at the moment, but those living in the vicinity have not been consulted as to what they think needs doing. I have now lived in this area for forty years, during which time residents have always been ignored.
- My husband contacted the councillor about street lights being changed in our area (Netherthong) He got a reply then the councillor spoke to the relevant people and got back to us.
- I only see them when they want me to vote for them.
- Its not the local councillors that cause the problems. Its those that live outside an area and yet vote for things that affect others living there. Like voting on plans in Slaithwaite yet living in Dewsbury. That is not local, that's NIMBY. The diabolical actions of the ruling labour group in not sorting out a local plan is now leaving the whole town open to developers to run rings around them. It is also opening lots of rumours about the honesty of certain politicians, true or false. In other areas they allow development of hundreds of houses with no allocation for shops, hospitals or schools. No way to run a community. If they made a proper local plan then this would not happen. It is my opinion that there should be no permitted development in any area where the council has not provided a local plan that has government approval. I will be supporting a partition to get Parliament to do just that.
- I tried to get something done about parent parking at the school at the end of my road - they park so badly that we have to pull out blind into oncoming fast traffic - the local Councillors did not want to know.
- Good experiences - councillor assisted in getting action on neighbour noise and nuisance parking
- inconsiderate/illegal parking. problem was addressed but soon returned, no long term involvement/stratagy
- Fairly good regarding my sister's Bridal car parking issue around the Town Hall.
- Some local issues, local councillors have been helpful, e.g. getting passing places on Wood Lane tarmaced
- Lack of responses regarding hgv's using the local roads as a 'holding area', sent emails to all 3 councillors and didn't get a response from any of them, they should be compelled to respond and all official emails and replies officially logged by the council
- Both, it depends on the motivation of the Cllr.
- Lindley is a good example of how local councillors can get involved - ie sreet parties, Lindley library, etc

- I emailed by councillor about having some electric car charging points installed around Cleckheaton. It took them weeks to get back to me. I replied asking about a different issues to do with making recycling easier for residents, and they never replied to that.
- None in my area, but Heckmondwike Councillors have been 100%
- At times emails/issues have been ignored.
- I used to have a robust and ongoing relationship with my local councillor who resolved some difficult issues in our street and helped to maintain safety with someone who was mentally unstable. We also jointly campaigned to remove wheelie bins from the street throughout the week - it took 8 years but we got there by being more robust in terms of following through on council policy to remove services and fine people. Since his departure I have made similar contact with our current councillor and not even had a reply. I think we now have a shocking lack of communication and the impact on the street is palpable. Furthermore finding a number to contact an appropriate service is getting harder and harder to achieve - the website deliberately obscures this - I often have to make several phone calls before I'm put through to the right person - we have a serious fly-tipping issue in our back alley that compromises our bin collection service.
- they cannot be bothered to follow through on actions they said they would. they do not bother to respond to correspondence.
- Not a councillor per se, but a canvasser. When I told him about our road being used as a rat-run & maybe traffic calming was in order he responded 'well he (the councillor) can't do anything about that'. Why ask me about my problem if you aren't prepared to listen?
- Couple of examples of local councillors behaving in a . difficult way at public meetings. Also have found a few couincillors to be uninformed and not very good at knowing a bigger picture about issues.
- one good experience 2 bad experiences
- In my experience, Councillors tend to act in favour of the public who are objecting to an issue, rather than supporting for change.
- personal a councillor, did her best to help when a labour councillor lost us 40k
- A local councilor interfering in a planning decision, ie telling the applicant that planning permission was a certainty despite outstanding appeals.
- My dealings with local councillors has always been very positive.
- Far too much emphasis is made of party political considerations rather than the interests of council tax payers.
- I find that local councillors hide behind 'Kirklees' if they are unable to help.
- Councillor X is my local councillor I have consulted him on various matters from blocked grates through to allotments and traffic. He is always quick to help.
- I have had a couple of instances where I needed some help. In one case the glass bottles hadn't been collected. I contacted the Cllrs and one of them went out of his way to ensure the problem was sorted. I also obtained a grit bin for the street by contacting a Cllr and asking his help. I haven't had bad experiences, but I have had emails asking for help left unanswered.
- Tried for over 30 years to get councillors to change Batley Girls High school into co ed, they are not interested, more so because cllr X had his wife's interest as priority for her to get a co ed school at Birkenshaw. Councillors are not interested in Birstall at all unless to further their own interests. Been trying to get speed restrictions on Upper Batley Low Lane for years too, but nothing has been done except introduce speed limits which are ignored. Buses, coaches and lorries should be banned along this country lane.
- Decisions the local businesses
- I raised a road safety issue with Councillor X and had to chase for a response. When response finally came it was nonsensical.
- My experiences with local councillors have not generally resulted in a good outcome. For example my daughter needed financial help with an extension as she is disabled. It took three years for a decision to say she wasn't entitled to any money as she worked. despite the councillors being contacted it made no difference in the time taken to reach a decision.
- being listened to is really good.
- Taking over a local group. Making decisions without consulting the people affected which then had a detrimental effect and didn't represent what was wanted.
- bad experience with Cllr X, I always voted Liberal until he was elected!
- councillor doing house visits was very informative and helpful, I agree, her political affiliations were less important to me and her views were sound although they did not match her political party,s manifesto. Empathy with the areas population and problems is vital.
- We always liaise with Councillor X at Honley as he has more time for the community than our own councillor.
- A local councillor, whilst canvassing for the local elections, enquired whether a local issue had been resolved, obviously aware of the local issues and checking whether action taken had been effective.
- As a relative to an old councillor I understand the work and commitment it requires, but I do feel they need to be more professional, whilst still remaining part and parcel of the community that elected them.
- My dad emailed a councillor recently worth no response, despite a follow up email. When a cllr visited school recently she didn't introduce herself so didn't make much impact on parents.
- We had problems with young people congregating and creating a nuisance. We felt that the presence of a bench didn't help matters and discussed it with our councillor and it was removed within days.
- Disturbingly, one of our Ward Councillors who sat on Planning Committttee and always withdrew from meetings when their ward had planning applications which we would have liked support with but were always denied this because the Councillor said they owned land themselves. This was not a legal requirement for withdrawing but after several years they retired and proceeded to make a huge amount of money by selling some land in a highly contentious development in their ward against the wishes of the majority of the people they originally represented. This Councillor should not have sat on a Planning Committee for all the years they did if they were prepared to put their interests above their communities interests.
- Councillors do not get back to you in Ashbrow, never see them.
- When living in Lepton the councillor was very responsive and used communication channels really effectively and we received timely responses

We know being a councillor isn't for everyone.. but what one thing might get you more interested in getting more involved with the work of councillors and the decisions they make? Please be honest!

210 responses received

- I have been asked by members of the community to stand to put an end to the corrupt activities of our existing councillors but the system is so outdated and biased I fear I would be wasting my time.
- Being made aware, in good time of the meetings with the chance to attend. I'd like to know exactly what justifies Directors of services salaries and pension payments and bonuses they receive as they are close to prime ministers salary already!
- Having more opportunity to change things. The councillor I contacted said he had to get in touch with Kirklees council re the road which I had already done years earlier!
- Less politics with a small p!
- If they were more visible and approachable I'm sure people would be more confident on being heard. Good or bad feedback is a way of life. In my experience councillors tend to be too political with their answers and tend to blame others when they don't want to take on your concern. Rather than be seen to be fighting for the majority they have their own agenda and concentrate solely on their own careers.
- I'm most likely to be involved when an issue/initiative comes up that is particular interest to me - so 'the one thing' is probably being made aware of what decisions are being made / items currently being consulted on by pushing information out to me. The weekly e-mails from Kirklees council are useful but could have more of this granular content (could be that I've not subscribed to enough topics).
- If more concentration on the community not on individual councillors political ambitions and their own network
- It would be good for local councillors to have regular contact with MP's, local councillors are not so much about politics in general but sometimes people like myself campaign for a national decision. It would be good for local councillors to act as a representative for campaigners to hold MP's to account. Such as putting on the pressure to speed things up. Campaigners can then act in liaison with councillor and MP without it being a conflict of interest. (Please take this seriously)
- That you are appreciated and can do something that will achieve something
- having a blog of what they do and developments they are supporting - its a role we don't know much about I am sure they work hard but the role is not transparent enough
- If more information was available on how to become a councillor.
- Less game playing and posturing
- Being able to do so at a time and place which suits me - i.e. online means I participate when I'm able.
- Immigration in our area
- just having more time; I'm quite involved already! I would stand in future, even though I wouldn't get in in my ward for my party :-)
- Less internal politics and more local decision making
- Better health ! I have been involved on the past. More electronic communication would make it easier for me.
- Less party politics and more space for independents.
- I am 66 and we need younger people than me involved.
- If I thought they would pay more attention to what electors want as opposed to what their party might want
- Working cllrs have limitations on time. Employees should give more support. Syngenta as an example talk the talk about communities but gave little support in the past to Cllr X.
- I don't want to be involved personally but more transparency can only be positive for everyone.
- Being open and honest - and demonstrating a full time commitment to help the local community - like Councillor X on Facebook.
- There Councillors for each ward is far too many. two is more than sufficient. it appears that the Officers employed by us, the Council Tax payers are the one that make decisions and use every which way they can to bulldoze their beliefs to elected members. For me the way all Councils run is firmly slanted to a small group and "consultations" are just lip service! We are all members of the community and each voice should be heard and reacted upon!
- Remove the party politics. For those of us that work - more chances to participate - not 9 to 5 Monday to Friday.
- Kirklees Council demonstrating good decisions for the community for once. Like firing those that have overdue council tax. WTH? Disgraceful. Then maybe I would have confidence in the council and want to get involved.
- More events where there can be interaction with Councillors. Previous art events have had members and officers separated from the public. Regretfully now the art events are being drastically cut.
- To see some transparency, or translucency at the very least(!), of the rationale behind their decisions.
- not being a full time carer without adequate support - ie Kirklees needs to support both carer and the cared for better
- Try communicating the role of councillor more effectively e.g. Your local area sales rep! Use language / analogies that more of us understand from our day to day lives. Positive role model – councillor and the Friends of Batley Station. This is what a councillor can do.
- Regular updates by them as to their activities and actions.
- When you go out and about everything looks the same. I know work is being done however I do not see a change anywhere. For example the roads around Kirklees are terrible despite people reporting potholes More awareness needs to be generated about what the council are doing that the community can become involved in. It is all good the council publishing their 5 year plan however I don't see how the community can help contribute towards that.
- As with school governors, magistrates etc people should be paid for taking on important responsibilities. Also, local councillors do not need be politically affiliated- it muddies the waters because national issues end up detracting from local priorities and concerns
- If I thought that the councillors acted honestly for the communities and not there own self interests
- Believing in their honesty and integrity

- Nothing would get me more interested - I would just like the chance
- No expenses, except for travelling, and no behind closed doors meetings with Little & Large
- Less of the above! E.g. councillors being more prepared to work together to make the best of the local council and its resources, rather than just throwing blame around.
- The councillors interacting more with the local community.
- Pointless, as they seem to do what the party line is
- Not interested really they all seem to be of one mind and it isn't mine .
- Knowing that big business or individual backers with financial clout do not have power over decisions especially planning applications
- If they stopped being so political and looked outside Huddersfield
- Information about how to go about it. The fact that councillors are associated with a political party tends to turn me off. Would prefer a 'best person for the job' system.
- appears that councillors tend to ignore public concerns unless it actually interests them. They also give the impression that they don't want to "rock the boat" especially on party political lines. I can give you one shining example of councillors/officials completely ignoring law breaking in our village but I honestly would be shocked if you asked me to explain and even more shocked if anything was done to rectify the problem.
- Better communication of issues and options being considered.
- If they were interested in what needs doing in Netherton. Netherton should be part of Holme Valley North not Crosland Moor. The only time we hear from Councillors is when local elections are coming up. Why do we need 3 Councillors in each ward? If this was reduced to 2 the £240000 saved in expenses would help to keep local libraries open and go towards cutting grass verges to a higher standard.
- Honesty
- Any meetings to be held locally and at times people who work can attend. More attention to protecting green spaces and quality of life.
- The ability to be able to influence decisions about my community. MPs who act for all sections of the community and listen responding not only to the ethnic minorities but to all people, in the community
- Send every Council tax payer an email to join them up to the e panel.
- greater range of responsibilities for the Local Authority i.e. fewer decisions being taken at Westminster
- More information about what they're doing
- more visibility around the ward, for instance, before the local elections we didn't see a single councillor
- Dishonesty they all seem as bad as each other so I am completely disconnected and have no idea who to vote for during the next election
- town planning.
- Where political agendas (party political) are obviously paramount to councillors, rather than the views of the electorate on specific issues.
- Child Welfare
- I think if they were not affiliated to political parties it would interest me more
- more communication in the press or leaflets letting us know how they feel
- If councillors weren't political!
- Having my concerns for our local area taken seriously and listened to properly by our local councillors. They are all Labour (and so am I incidentally) and in the forty three years I have lived in the area we have not been represented by any other party. I think this makes them complacent and sometimes a little lazy.
- It would be difficult for me to be more involved without being a councillor myself!
- A Facebook page of daily activities, what has been happening, things to discuss for future
- More honesty about the limits of what involvement can achieve. Local politics can't change the national direction
- Less bureaucratic processes. Watched some on line council meetings- don't know what they are on about half the time!
- Knowing more where I can make an impact without committing too much time on a regular basis
- If they were more down to earth instead of being stand offish.
- Need more information on the issues under consideration. It appears rare that we are told about these, many decisions seem to be made without any local input from residents being sought.
- Knowing more about what is involved and how the council actually works
- As above social media is a big engagement issue for me as it fits around my life. it really could be used as a debate tool amongst the community. Lots of people want a say but formal meetings etc aren't always practical for everyone. We have three Labour councillors in Dewsbury West who we have to contact individually. one single point of contact such as a Dewsbury West Labour fb page or twitter account would make things easier
- I work full time so maybe a job share councillor role, I have skills and an interest in health and wellbeing , so a task and finish group would suit me, or maybe some workshop sessions to assist councillors in looking outside of their usual ideas.
- A particular issue I feel strongly about and perhaps opportunity
- Less adherence to the party line and greater appreciation of what is best for the community. Flexibility and an open mind rather than myopic rigidity.
- Easier access to speak face to face
- Regular email about what councillors are due to discuss, where, when and if public are admitted
- I was on Scrutiny panel for a few years & stopped in 2012. The main comment I have with the scrutiny process is "how to measure success" of the scrutiny panels, and what evidence can be put in writing substantiating it's success. I asked this question a number of times and did not get a satisfactory answer. Also what corrective action will be taken to correct/improve procedures/personnel & again no satisfactory answer of specific actions. Lack of action against errors & incompetence seems the norm. I think this typical of Councillors & others in the organisation. The current permits for cars at tips is another waste of money, with refuse employees checking registrations on laptops - at least it gives some of the Vine Street employees something to do for a change. This is an example of Councillors or someone in the Kirklees Organisation having a job to look at changes - if no change is made the individual would not have a job. The reason non Kirklees use Kirklees tips is convenience to their work location. Similarly Kirklees residents will use non Kirklees tips, so if all Councils follow the same Permit System, all we have gained is an extra costly admin system.

- If they don't score points and behave unprofessionally. The best councillors act strategically for the greater good and use their influence to do the best for all areas.
- Been able to listen, and not to give false hope's.
- I do not respects councillors who have not paid their council tax - if they were disqualified for this I would feel happier.
- Area Cttees are a good idea in principle, but having attended a few they appear to be more consultative than decision making. Not many people will spare the time to be a spectator at a decision making cttee, so local involvement in decision making where there is a genuine possibility of affecting the outcome would help. There's a problem with inviting non elected representatives to be directly involved in the decision making process, but unless people feel they have a direct input which will influence a decision then there will be little interest in taking part.
- It seems very much like a "closed shop" and unless you are related to, or are a close friend of, an existing councillor there seems to be little opportunity for involvement.
- The thought that the 'ruling' party might be fair and even-handed with decisions.
- If they were more interactive and worked for all courses rather than just selected few. get seen out and about only when elections are around corner
- If they didn't simply send leaflets at election time. Promote local surgeries more.
- Councillors to have an email circulation list on a regular basis, much as MPs do in the local press.
- Timeline of projects via kirklees website
- Less of hypocrisy n more of honesty by councillors
- if it was easier for working people to get involved because of the hours its hard for working people to get involved
- Time
- Making the information more easily accessible and an open process. At the moment it feels very closed and clique.
- I would like to be involved but don't have time really
- Getting something done in our local area and listening to the people instead of just riding rough shod over everyone and doing what they want.
- Used to be councillor many years ago. Nowadays they are very constrained in managing services due to centralised approach from successive governments. The one thing Would be greater role in community campaigning.
- You can't please everyone, always differences of opinion. I couldn't cope with that.
- I would like the councillor to admit when they have been involved in a decision. The council makes proposals and goes ahead with changes once it has all been agreed. The councillors are involved in the decision. But when the customers / members of the public get annoyed etc, the councillors themselves seem to take a backward step and supporting the community saying it is a wrong decision, instead of guiding the community and admitting they were part of the decision making process and the reasons behind the changes. I find the councillors quite 2 faced and do not like to admit the truth to the public.
- Knowing more about their job role, how they prioritise issues and how decisions are made.
- I need to believe that Councillors are working on behalf of ALL and not just for a particular section of the community. I also need to believe they are honest. Local experience leads us to believe this is not always the case. It should not be about personal gain. Much more effort needs to be given to bringing our different communities together instead of the ghettos that seem to be evolving now - more so since the effect of all the cuts is now having a visible impact all around us.
- I would like to feel that the voices of the residents are heard more and that those council it's who abuse the system are bought to rights
- knowing more about what the job is and bot having to be affiliated with political parties to be able to be involved
- to know who they are
- As i am disabled myself I would like to have more input with disabled issues in my area if possible. My problem would be getting to meetings & handling steps. I can use a computer which could help me keep in touch. I have also got a son with mental health problems & I would be keen to be involved with issues regarding issues of this nature.
- I don't have any spare time, but if I did I would love to be more involved.
- Get rid of the undemocratic leader and cabinet system and reinstate decision-making by Committees, as permitted under the Localism Act 2011. This would be far more representative than having one party with a minority of councillors in de facto control, as we have in Kirklees at the moment.
- Create a parish council in Cleckheaton.
- More hours in the day? Better communication of local issues that I might have a chance to influence - interest grows from knowing what the issues are, the options and being able to make a difference
- For the council and councillor to listen to the general public. Make reasonable responses to criticism of what appear to be controversial decisions.
- would like to be kept up to date on what latest decisions
- That they listen and act as quickly as possible to resolve problems.
- If I wanted to be a social worker there are several COMPULSORY qualifications that I must obtain including a statutory work placement. However, an elected member can serve on any of the committees he/she has an interest in without having any knowledge of the work undertaken on a day-to-day basis by officers and managers. **NO COUNCILLOR SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAKE PLANNING DECISIONS UNLESS THEY RESIDE IN THE AREA THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS PERTAIN TO.** Councillors should submit all letters from constituents expressing concerns over planning proposals and/or planning applications to whoever is responsible these days for compiling, collating and distributing of committee papers and agendas. **NO PLANNING DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN PRIVATE.** Members of the public who wish to attend committee meetings should be excluded or asked to leave even if an agenda item is marked as private. The only Committee agenda items that should exclude the public are those where discussions regarding the placement of vulnerable children into secure care and adoption/fostering placements outside Kirklees. Far too many councillors appear to be doing the job of a councillor to further their own aspiring political careers or for their own glorification. They should listen more to their constituents and be more accountable and open to public scrutiny if it is considered they are not acting in the best interests of their constituents. Councillors should NOT automatically qualify for parking permits unless Kirklees Council revokes all the permits it has taken away from staff over the

last fifteen or so years. Kirklees should investigate the number of deliberately spoils voting slips and find out why so many people decline to exercise their right to vote. My own view is that we simply do not have any trust or faith in the individuals we are being asked to choose from.. Councillors should have compulsory work placements within the council of the departments for which the committees they serve on are responsible. Councillors of all parties should cease their constant backstabbing and snide comments. They should be reminded we read about their antics in the local press and occasionally in the tabloids and we do more than merely tut, I can tell you. Stop acting like petulant children just because another councillor has a different view to your own. Grow up, for heavens sake. Surely it is a privilege to serve as a councillor not a right and you were only voted in because the POLITICAL PARTY you're supposedly affiliated to got the tick in the little box and because many more didn't see the point in traipsing around to cast their vote as it appears to be pretty obvious to them that whoever they vote for, they're not going to see any benefits in the long run.

- If some decisions were offered out in a poll (for example) to get some idea of local feeling, and for Councillors to take this into account a little more when making decisions. Obviously this shouldn't be the final decision, but would gauge local opinions and may help to steer Councillors during this time of austerity.
- Having a single political party whose policies I agree with
- The age profile of co
- Surveys
- Local councils should be non political and simply focus on the needs of the local community
- not putting their political interests before the public interest
- All they can do is what central government tells them to do. At present this means cutting local services to the bone and being the scapegoats for public anger whilst central government can spend what they like and hide from any accountability. Bearing in mind that Councillors carry individual statutory responsibility if I was a Councillor now I would resign and refuse to do the government's bidding.
- Not sure I have the time or energy to do more.
- Having some input into how day to day decisions are made
- Time!
- dramatically improved communications from KMC councillors and officers...currently appalling
- Wouldn't have a clue as to how I could get more involved - more information on how I could get more involved might get me more interested!
- Knowing what they do
- I think knowing more about it. And getting information from the Council on what is going on in my local area and what my councillor is doing. I have no idea who my local councillor is and we didn't get any information for local elections so I voted purely on which main party I support politically and not an actual candidate. I understand that due to recent cuts that money may be an issue for producing printed material, but I would be happy to receive information electronically instead.
- Knowing their political interest and the reasons they are councillors: straight up with no spin
- Being able to be a councillor full time .
- Need to trust them and they make good on what they say they are going to get done .
- Local meetings to discuss significant changes, e.g. future of A & E at HRI, moves toward Acadamisation of schools.
- Nothing , as they are all out to line their own pockets and think they are better than anyone else ! Example ? Recent council Tax Evasion and actions by council Employees who are Resident in HD1
- If I were sure my voice would be heard I might be more interested. Sadly, I fear I would be in the minority to suggest that some recent decisions made at Kirklees Council level are clearly wrong, if not crackpot, and in need of change - bus gates; a cycle lane to nowhere!; museum closures; and cuts in Arts funding (music education in particular) to name a few.
- I have no spare time as I am retired but have many family responsibilities.
- If I was younger and well.
- Money seems to be wasted on the wrong things. high salaries which cannot be justified, I know quite a few people employed by Kirklees council and they all say the same thing, their workload has been increased nobody listens to their ideas but the people in charge do not take any notice. People in charge of departments should be held accountable for their depts. failures not rewarded.
- More information about what it involves
- regular feedback
- I work for the Council - that's enough
- hat they are always around, not just when they need the votes!
- To be honest, working f/t and having MS mean I'm not in a position to get involved. When I've retired the situation might well change!
- If they kept party politics out of it. Example. ..in past week had 2 councilors knock on door...touting for votes..all they did was rubbish their opponents...one even said 'do you know the labour guy lives in a big posh house outside our area'. Why? Because in my view, as I live in a 'not posh'house, he assumed I was a labour voter. He was touting for the conservatives. .it's all a sad sad situation.
- I consider myself too old now, although I still take part in some aspects of community life.
- If I had more time
- If they were involved in a project in my area that concerned or interested me I might get involved. I would be more likely to be involved if there was a public meeting in the area explaining what the public could do to help
- If the councillors dealt with higher level things. It's the publics fault as they appear to contact their councillors to report basic standard things which the Council has well publicised systems to deal with (I'd never contact my councillor to report a wonky pavement). They need to be free to work on more important things such as supporting business, young people etc to contribute to the whole overall prosperity and success of our area. Councillors should be presented with statistics for the areas they are elected to cover, showing the number of businesses, business rates £, number of unemployment - they can then work towards improving these statistics.
- If the council was not run by a small group from one party, who have rigged the voting system especially for planning meetings so that only their party can make any decisions. Its disgraceful that one man can use his casting vote on three occasions to enable a building to be built where most of the locals who were surveyed voted against it.
- Less political infighting.

- There is an email service called 'They Work For You', which reports on the activities of our local MP with respect to questions she asks in the Commons and/or written questions. A similar approach to this, reporting on the committees served on by our local councillors, and the outcome of voted decisions in council meetings would encourage more participation for me, and allow more directed voting at local elections..
- On line discussion/proposal forums - paper and on line referendums for local issues .
- councillors made more accountable
- Knowing how and where to influence the future plans for regeneration of the town centre.
- If they were more accessible/available then a working rapport could be established
- On line meetings and more open debate.
- regular knowledge of what Councillors do via newsletter or similar
- I think councillors should have to send an email newsletter to their constituents every month detailing the decisions they have made on our behalf. The newsletter should be free of any party political content / branding and focussed entirely on the work they have been doing.
- Grass roots, what is important to the local. Where I live, Moor Lane is used as a rat run, as is Queen St. Make both a "One Way", this should address the issue.
- Actually be listened, not be seen as a silly student deodorant care about the town, lived here my whole life and do care about the town and how it's changes.
- knowing where to find the information, knowing how to be involved and having a support worker to bring me to be involved.
- If they were more open about their decisions and the decision-making process and they were less party political. Sorry - I know that's two things! The party politics is anathema though.
- People matter and opinions are key to a stable society.
- I am already involved as I am a co-optee. I think people need educating about the work of councillors and one way is for them to comment on local facebook pages to explain things and to encourage people to give their opinions.
- Happy to campaign for local councillors and count some of them as friends
- If I was a lot ounger
- Budgeting, If roads & buildings could be repaired correctly, instead of a cheap patch job, this does not look good for the Councillors, would be embarrassing to be one
- Libraries Schools
- i would become a councilor but i would probably be too opinionated
- Being able to stand for office from scratch, as an independent Councillor, party free.
- If it was more local and regular
- letting people in to see what goes on
- Already interested as a party political member
- Being involved in a dedicated team to tackle individual local issues rather than anything of a party political nature.
- Regular accurate reporting of debates and decisions in the local paper with more detail on anticipated impact.
- Knowing how my background and experience might be useful. I don't want to simply sit in on meetings if I am not sure I can make a useful contribution. The impression I have is that those with experience of the political side of local authority activity are likely to suppress newcomers with 'red tape' or protocols rather than help implement change because it is always difficult. Impressions can be wrong of course.
- Publication of all council voting and that of councillors in order that voters can see whether their councillor is actually representing their best interests or simply following a political lead.
- Honesty. A passion for local matters.
- It is a role I would consider undertaking in the future. I think meetings and decisions need to be more transparent and clerks to the council helpful at all times. I also feel younger people should be encouraged to become councillors and youth engagement is something that needs more work. Women should also receive more support eg meetings at 7.30pm are not family friendly.
- ad hoc opportunities to get involved
- If it doesn't involve sitting in a meeting.
- They should take more interest in the communities they serve, going into schools, holding informal meetings and encouraging Kirklees to look at Birstall as a tourist attraction and to prevent more businesses opening there unless they are selling items to encourage people to shop there, not hairdressers, beauty salons or takeaways. Maybe incentives to encourage businesses to open there would be a start, more weekend markets too, we have had one continental market since the marketplace was revamped years ago, bring people into the village, promote it more to get shoppers going there instead of j27. Appreciate the history of the area, provide more on street parking in the centre and bring back the character of the area by removing the Tarmac from the cobbles in Bond Street. Come on Birstall councillors, get working for those of us who voted you in! Join the Birstall (West Yorkshire) Facebook page and see what locals are saying!
- If it is a topic I am interested in. Health and wellbeing of young people
- More transparency in the decision making process
- More decisions to help retain local businesses and put something back into local communities
- Integrity!
- Being offered a small financial reward as it can be very time consuming attending public meetings for example.
- Decisions being able to be made faster.
- To benefit my community.
- more honesty! I don't feel that all Councillors have the interests of the public at heart. I also worry that they abuse their positions in our community
- My age and the total commitment required.
- Dedicated support for disabled candidates and a decent salary.
- Councillors should follow through with their promises. feels like often decisions are made before consultation so is there any point.

- If I could feel confident that all are genuinely working for the good of the townspeople and not more interested in petty politics and the amount they can make in expenses.
- If they had more say on the decisions on a regional and local level, but that would take central government will, de-centralisation and realistic regional democracy
- Understanding what they actually do!!
- Facebook presence
- More practical work in the local community to replace all those meetings.
- Understanding the process and procedures of the running of the council. Trust and honesty.
- If the Cabinet showed more respect to residents and tried harder to support them which would hopefully encourage the rest of the Councillors to do the same and put aside outdated Party Politics and represent their people and not their Party.
- to improve area
- If councillors had more of a real input, rather than officers.
- I think local councillors should live in their elected area to fully understand the needs of the area. It takes people to complain to make a change but the change isn't always good for the whole of the area. An issue in my particular village Shepley is the Speed Gateway was removed in the village as the speed limit was reduced to 30mph from Birds Edge and through the Sovereign , this has led to a very dangerous village now, with the crossing to school being particularly dangerous both at school times and on an evening. People complaining got it changed but the consequences weren't thought through, those that were happy with how it was didn't say anything it was only when it has been changed that there are now a lot of very unhappy and unsafe residents. I am concerned it will take a couple of serious accidents before this is rectified.