

### Parish Council Elections

The Parish Council Elections are to be held on Thursday 7th May, the same day as the General and Borough Elections. All votes can be cast at your local Banbury Lane polling station.

#### Don't lose your vote

Please do ensure that your name is on the electoral role, or you will be unable to vote in any of the upcoming May elections. Under the new electoral registration system, it is up to each eligible individual to register themselves, as the process is no longer carried out by household. If you have recently changed address, or have any other reason to believe you may not be on the list, visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>, or contact Northampton Borough Council on 0300 330 7000 - it only takes five minutes to register.

If, for any reason, you are unable to vote in person on the day, you may be entitled to vote by post or by proxy. Should you wish to apply for a postal or proxy vote (and have not already done so), see sections 6 and 7 of the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/overview> or contact the Borough Council as above.

#### Become A Parish Councillor

With the May elections approaching, we have the opportunity to refresh and reinvigorate our Parish Council. There are eight Parish Councillor positions, and we are always eager to have new, enthusiastic people on board. This is your chance to become involved, and to do something truly worthwhile for your local community.

#### What you can be a part of

The Parish Council has been in existence for two years now, and is made up of eight Hunsbury Meadows residents. People over the age of 18 who are registered to vote will be able to apply - some rare exceptions do exist, details of which can be found in the nomination papers. There are no political parties on the council; we work simply for the good of the community. The positive changes which you see happening around the

parish are down to us, from the road signs and daffodils at the entrance to Hunsbury Meadows, to forward thinking, innovative future projects which could change the face of the local area, such as a potential new community centre. Parish councils have the power to really make a difference, working with and for residents to improve the community, ensuring that services and facilities adhere to local needs. We meet with residents on the first Wednesday of every month at the Parsons Meade Community Room, Hunsbury Hill, at 7.15pm, to discuss community views and concerns. Above all, we share your pride in Hunsbury Meadows, and are passionate about keeping it a particularly enjoyable place to live.

#### The process

You will first need to obtain an application form - further details are available in the subsequent section. Nomination forms must be returned to the Guildhall by 4.00pm on Thursday 9th April. Should there be fewer than eight accepted nominees, and you are one of them, you will automatically become a Parish Councillor; in the instance of more than eight candidates applying, an election becomes necessary. If any vacancies remain following this process, councillors can 'co-opt' additional members to fill them.

#### What to do next

To obtain an application form, visit <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales> and print off the nomination papers, available in section 2a, or contact Electoral Registration at the Guildhall.

A meeting will be held at 5.30pm on 25th March at the Guildhall, where further information will be available to all potential applicants. For details of this meeting, contact Jackie Thy, Electoral Services Administrator at the Northampton Borough Council - [jthoy@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:jthoy@northampton.gov.uk)

If you would like further details about the process, we will be keeping you up-to-date on our website at [www.hunsburymeadows.co.uk](http://www.hunsburymeadows.co.uk)

### Litter Collection

We would like to issue a quick reminder that the residents' litter collection will convene at the Banbury Lane playground on **Saturday the 11th April at 10.30am**. This is the perfect opportunity to get our parish looking spick and span, and is a great way to meet other residents.

It would be really helpful if you could drop us a line at [hmpc13@gmail.com](mailto:hmpc13@gmail.com) to let us know that you're joining us - we'll have your equipment ready and waiting for you on the day.



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# Village Hall/Community Room - Residents' Survey

Following a suggestion from a previous Parish Council meeting, mention was made in our last newsletter about the possibility of providing a community centre within our parish. Similar centres have enjoyed great success in other areas of Northampton, notably the Elgar Centre at Upton, which has excellent facilities and maintains a lively social calendar for adults and children alike. A similar structure in the Hunsbury Meadows Parish has the potential to really become the hub of our community.

Clearly, this would be a major undertaking, and it is therefore essential for us to ascertain the views of the general public living within the parish. In order to help us do so, your Parish Council is initially asking for all households to consider and complete the short enclosed questionnaire (apologies for its omission from the previous newsletter!)

It is important to recognise that, at this moment time, the Parish Council does not own any land, so the first step in the process would be acquiring some. Any suggestions are very welcome.

In order to access and make the best use of available public funds, it would be essential for any such hall to be run entirely separately from the Parish Council, and to have its own

management committee, constitution, bank accounts etc. The project would also initially need an organising committee to arrange the fundraising and to see the project through, who may then go on to become the management committee should they wish to.

If there is general public support for the scheme, we will of course endeavour to make the necessary arrangements in order to raise sufficient funds to purchase land and to cover construction costs. It is entirely possible that this attractive project may take a number of years to reach fruition.

We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire so that we can gauge interest in this project.

You can reach the survey directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KT6BMHS>, or by visiting our website [www.hunsburymeadows.com](http://www.hunsburymeadows.com) and clicking on the link.

If you fill out the paper version, please deliver it to one of the following three addresses:

165 Riverstone Way  
11 Towpath Avenue, Pineham Lock  
3 Quarterstone

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1) Do you think it would be a good idea to have a community hall within the Parish? Yes / No

2) Where do you think such a hall should be sited (within the parish)?

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3) Would any member of your household be willing to serve on an organising committee for a village hall, involving drawing up plans, local authority contact, planning applications, progress chasing, project management, fund raising, etc? If yes, please provide contact details where indicated at the end of the survey. Yes / No

4) Similarly, would any member of your household be willing to serve on a management committee, if the plans were to come to fruition? Yes/ No

5) If such a parish community facility were to be provided, do you think it should be fully licensed, perhaps involving a private members club (if that were possible)? There are currently no licensed premises within walking distance of the parish. Yes/No

6) Do you have any further thoughts or comments on this proposed project?

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7) If you wish, and particularly if you are able to help us with this idea in any way, please provide your contact details below;

Name	Telephone no(s)	Email
Address		

Your help in completing this questionnaire is greatly appreciated Return addresses for completed questionnaires:  
165 Riverstone Way / 11 Towpath Avenue, Pineham Lock / 3 Quarterstone

[www.hunsburymeadows.co.uk](http://www.hunsburymeadows.co.uk)

Email: [hmhc13@gmail.com](mailto:hmhc13@gmail.com) Follow us on Facebook /Hunsbury-Meadows-Community