

What does St Austell Town Council do?

The powers of a town council are wide and varied. The Council exists as the most localised form of government and is there to serve and represent the parish or town and residents and electors. St Austell Town Council's functions include:

- Allotments
- St Austell Library
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Grass cutting for Cornwall Council on highways and residential areas
- Town centre CCTV
- Priory and Tregonissey Lane End Car Parks
- Priory Car Park Public Conveniences
- The House Youth Centre

The Town Council plays a major role in local consultation. These include:

- Cornwall Council consultation on waste, tourism, education and transport.
- Consultation on planning in the parish, local plans for the area, provision of services within the area.
- Government consultation on legislation which might affect the future of the parish.
- Forming local policy – neighbourhood plans and emergency plans.

Is being a Councillor worthwhile?

Being a local Councillor can be a rewarding experience; here are some views of current Parish and Town Councillors provided by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC).

"I have fought hard to make my village a better place and for me it has been an enriching experience."

"The best part of being a Councillor is working with the community that you serve, along with other councillors, to achieve the very best outcome for everyone."

Cllr Helen Price, Local Councillor and Chairman of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils adds :

"Councillors are people from all walks of life, from all age groups who wish to give a little of their time and expertise to representing their community. A good parish council is active for its people, representative of and listening to ALL sections of its community. Such a council can only be achieved by a council drawn from a variety of different people from every adult age group.

They are people like you!"

A Councillor... Who Me?

**Could you be
a Town Councillor
and take a lead in
providing services
in your community?**



St Austell Town Council
The Stable Block, Pondhu House
Penwinnick Road, St Austell PL25 5DP

www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

01726 829859

A Councillor who me?

To be a Local Councillor you must be at least 18 and a British, Commonwealth or European Citizen. You also need to be:

- a local elector or;
- have worked or owned/rented a property in the parish for the last 12 months or;
- have lived in the parish (or within 4.8 kilometres of the boundary) for the last 12 months.

Why would I want to be a Councillor?

People stand for election for many reasons:

- To speak on behalf of the local community and help local people.
- To contribute professional skills to their community.
- To shape the future of their local community.

Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. They work with public, private and charitable bodies to improve their community.

Your council is the voice and champion of the parish. Being a local councillor can be exciting, intimidating, interesting and even frustrating at times. Above all it is a chance to make a real difference in the place where you live.

What's involved in being a Councillor?

St Austell Town Council normally holds full council meetings every 6 weeks and smaller committee meetings in between to discuss particular issues. You will need to attend regularly and be prepared to give time to being a councillor.

You will be asked to complete a public register of interests published on the Cornwall Council website, and to abide by the Town Council's code of conduct.

You will be asked to keep an open mind and take part in decision making for your area including spending money for local services and facilities.

So how do I get elected?

Local Council elections will be held on May 6th 2021. Further information including links to the nomination papers will be available from the council's website www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

To find out more about what is involved in being a St Austell Town Councillor, please contact David Pooley, Town Clerk or Sara Gwilliams, Deputy Town Clerk.

Tel 01726 829859

email info@staustell-tc.gov.uk

www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

If I am elected

What would my time commitment be?

- It will depend on the extent of your involvement and what role you choose to take in the work of the Council. Usually, you would have one or two meetings per month which will generally last 1 to 2 hours (6pm to 8pm on a Monday).

Can I afford it?

- Councillors are volunteers, but costs for approved travel and subsistence outside of the parish can be reimbursed.

What initial help will be given?

- Councillors are supported by a Clerk and a small team who are knowledgeable in Council procedures. Officers are always ready to advise new councillors and will provide an induction soon after your election to ease you into your role.

Will I receive any form of training?

- Training, seminars and courses for Councillors are organised throughout the year. Informal briefings will also be arranged to help Councillors consider key topics.

Where will meetings be held?

- At the present time all meetings are held virtually utilising Zoom. It is hoped that we will return to face to face meetings as soon as lockdown restrictions permit. These meetings will normally be held at The Stable Block (the Town Council's offices)