

About Daventry Town Council



What is a town council?

There are over 8,700 parish and town councils representing around 16 million people across England. They form the most local level of government and cover many rural and urban areas.

What's the difference between a parish council and a town council?

Not a great deal. They both have the same powers and can provide the same services. A town council serves a more urban area and has a Mayor who carries out civic functions in addition to the provision of standard parish services.

What services can it provide?

A parish or town council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. Its work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish

Daventry Town Council provides the following:

- CCTV
- Accredited museum
- Community transport
- Allotments
- Town and civic events
- Christmas lights and Town floral displays
- Consultee on matters relating to Daventry Town (Planning Applications)
- Community grants
- War memorial and Remembrance Day Parade

It also works with Daventry District Council, and Northamptonshire County Council and other community organisations to provide:

- Community support
- Community Safety
- Town Events
- Town Planning

How does it make decisions?

The Town Council is made up of 17 councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council, acting as a corporate body it is responsible to the people it represents – the local community.

Attending a council meeting is the best way to find out what it does. Go to the Town Council website www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk for further information on Town Council activities.

Where does it get its money from?

Each year a sum of money called a 'precept' is collected through the council tax. This money is used by the town council to improve facilities and services for local people and run the Council. The Town Councils can also apply for grants and loans and has previously been awarded funding from the Sita Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund.

How are parish or town councillors elected?

Town councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as a ward and are elected by people who live in the designated area every four years. The next election for Daventry Town council is May 2018.

What do town councillors do?

Councillors have three main areas of work:

1. Decision-making: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented;
2. Monitoring: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working;
3. Getting involved locally: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their parishioners and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The day-to-day work of a councillor may include:

- going to meetings of local organisations
- going to meetings of bodies that affect the wider community, such as the police, the Highways Authority, schools and colleges
- bringing parishioners concerns to the attention of the council

Parish Councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public.