



Could you be a District Councillor for the Green Party?

Mid Suffolk Green Party is seeking candidates to stand for election to the District Council in May 2023. From a single Councillor being elected in 2003, we have grown to an amazing 12 Councillors, and need to win just a few more seats to take control of the Council and be able to enact some planet-friendly policies.

Being a Councillor is an important role, in terms of time-commitment it depends on what you can give, but essentially it is like a part-time job. Councillors are paid an allowance, currently it is **£ 5,240** per annum. Some Councillors fit their duties around a full-time job, some combine it with other flexible part-time roles such as self-employment or family responsibilities.

Mid-Suffolk Greens are one of the most successful local groups in the country in terms of getting people elected. We can offer lots of help and support to get your profile raised with the electorate, and to help you with campaigning in the run up to the election. We raise money to pay for printing leaflets and will organise volunteers to help you to deliver these.

The role of a Councillor:

Councillors are elected by communities to represent them and to run their local authority. Councillors represent a 'ward' – typically an area of several villages or part of a town. Mostly there is one for each ward, but some larger wards elect two Councillors.

Councillors are expected to be active in the life of their local communities and act as the voice of their constituents, raising any concerns with the local council on a range of matters related to the work of the council. From waste collection to street-lights, housing to social services, councillors talk to people about everything and anything. Green Party councillors represent the party and its policies, and are an important part of their local party, feeding back to members about what is happening at the council.

Councillors are elected for a four-year term unless they are elected at a by-election, in which case they must stand again at the next normal election for the seat. They are often referred to as 'members' of the council.

The council is controlled by either the political party which has a majority of councillors or, if no one party has a majority, there may be a coalition of parties or a minority administration. Currently in Mid-Suffolk we have a 'hung' Council where the Conservatives have 16 seats, so together with one Independent Councillor they can cling onto power by using the (Conservative) chairman's casting vote. The 12 Greens have formed a political group with 5 Liberal Democrat Councillors, making up half of the Council.

Your role as councillor will vary depending on where you represent, but will include some or all of the following broad responsibilities:

- dealing with individual pieces of casework for local residents and helping them resolve issues
- leading on local campaigns on behalf of the local community
- serving on council committees which look at decisions being made or have specific legal or 'regulatory' duties e.g planning or licencing
- acting as community leaders and helping local people get involved in the decisions made by the council.

Suggestion: Go online and explore the council's website. Find out what services it provides and how many wards and councillors there are.

There are no specific qualifications for the role of Councillor. Helpful skills are: listening and conversing with people; being friendly and approachable; having concern for your local community and the planet; IT skills (e-mail, Teams etc).

Next steps: If you are interested in being a candidate, you can have a chat with any of our current 12 Councillors (contact details are on the Council's website). Or email our campaign coordinator John Matthissen: john@suffolkgreenparty.org.uk We will soon be running a 'Campaign School' training event.