## Q&A webinar

### How can candidates promote themselves during the COVID situation? / Can we use social media for promotional reasons?

Take a look at newly published guidance on [COVID-secure campaigning](ttps://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19#campaigning-safely-from-8-march).

You can also view the [May 2021 election delivery plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/may-2021-polls-delivery-plan/may-2021-polls-delivery-plan) online which sets out additional information.

### I am here on behalf of a small group of independent candidates who are united by the desire to remove party politics from our parish council. We aren't bound by a party whip and don't have a manifesto of policies. Do we need to stand as a party? Can we have a shared logo or website? And can we share publicity material, or does that mean we would have to register as a party, which we are obviously too late to do?

We would suggest you contact the [Electoral Commission](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/) or seek your own legal advice as the elections team cannot provide advice on this.

### Which date do postal votes go out?

Postal votes will be sent from around 20 April.

### Will the recording of this session be emailed out to participants or will we have to search for it?

### We will send a link of the recording to all those that we sent an original webinar invite too. The link will also be available on our [website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-2021).

### The recording will be available on our YouTube channel and we will also send out a link?

### We will send a link of the recording to all those that we sent an original webinar invite too. The link will also be available on our [website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-2021).

### Do you anticipate we will be able to deliver leaflets?

New guidance has been published and changes will be made to campaigning on 8 March. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19#campaigning-safely-from-8-march>

### Will the council be sending a mailing to encourage postal voting?

This was included in the household notification letter and we are also promoting this via the media and on our social media channels.

I clerk for a parish council that will be having a Development Plan referendum on 6 May. How will Neighbourhood Development Plan documents be shared for the appropriate amount of time in advance of the election?

We are currently working with Planning to finalise all the Neighbourhood Planning Referendums and will update our website shortly and also publish the timetable. However, I can advise that the referendum planning documents must be displayed by no later than 24 March.

### When can candidates or sitting councillors obtain a list of postal voters?

Candidates can request and receive a postal vote list for the area in which they are standing from 29 March.

Existing councillors can request a postal vote list in their capacity as an elected member for the **current area** they represent at any time.

### Will we get a PDF copy of the presentation?

A PDF copy of the presentation is available on [our website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-town-parish).

### Do we need to deliver the nomination form in person?

The nomination form must be delivered by hand and can be delivered by yourself or anyone you trust.

### If we can’t deliver leaflets this puts independent candidates at a huge disadvantage, how will this be compensated for?

[New guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19" \l "campaigning-safely-from-8-march) has been published which will allow leaflets to be delivered from 8 March.

### Where can we find a copy of the election timetable?

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The timetable is available on [our website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-2021).

### Have the forms been adjusted to account for the reduced number of nominations?

The forms are now available to download from the [Electoral Commission website](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/).

### Why not use recorded delivery which serves all legal documents?

That is not permissible under electoral law. Delivery other than by hand would require a change in the legislation.

### Can I make an appointment for someone to look over my nomination paper?

Yes you will be able to make an appointment using the council’s online appointment booking system available on [our website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-2021).

**Is delivery of nomination papers by appointment only?**

To ensure the safety of our staff and candidates we would prefer appointments to be made.

### Do existing parish councillors have to declare if they want to stand? And are they still required to submit all the forms?

### Yes, they do have to stand and follow the standard nomination process.

### If people make a mistake and put the wrong ballot paper in the wrong envelope, will their vote be excluded?

As long as we receive a correctly completed postal vote statement for each ballot paper that is returned, the ballot paper will be included in the count regardless if they are accidently put into the wrong envelope.

### How do we know the number of positions in each parish council?

The number of vacant seats for each town and parish council area will be detailed on the Notice of Election.

### Can you explain the ‘imprint’ requirement on flyers and website etc?

Whenever printed election material is produced, it must contain certain details, known as the imprint, to show who is responsible for the material. This helps to ensure there is transparency about who is campaigning. More information can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/Candidates%20imprints%20factsheet%20England%20and%20Wales%20May%202021.pdf).

### Why is it approximately 200,000 postal votes? The initial slide said there was 66,143 registered postal voters. Have you seen an increase in postal vote registrations?

We are expecting a large increase in postal vote applications, but the 200,000 figure relates to the fact that people will be sent a separate postal pack for each election type.  
  
When will a list of polling stations be issued?

This should be published on our website in the next few weeks.

### Who will be allowed to attend the count?

We are awaiting guidance from central government and we will provide this information as soon as we are able to.

### Where do we submit our election expenses? Do election expenses include all expenses prior to being formally nominated?

Election expenses (including NIL returns) must be submitted to the Returning Officer, Electoral Services, County Hall, Trowbridge. The Returning Officer must receive town and parish council candidate expenses returns by Thursday 3 June 2021 and for unitary candidates it is by Monday 14 June 2021.

### Do we need a proposer and a seconder as well as two subscribers?

No you just need to have two subscriber signatures on your nomination form which will be the proposer and the seconder.

### When will the count results be announced?

The election count will take place over a number of days. The unitary count will be on Saturday 8 May, town and parish council and neighbourhood planning referendums on Sunday 9 May and the Police and Crime Commissioner on Monday 10 May. Further details will be provided closer to the time and when the number of contested elections are known.

### Is a map of wards available?

Yes this is available on [our website](file:///C:\Users\kaylum.house\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\MM2GJH3N\our%20website).

### Where can I get a list instead of a map of all the streets in my ward?

If you email [candidates@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:candidates@wiltshire.gov.uk) we can provide you with that information.

### Will you be holding another webinar on 8 March or just updating the website?

We will be looking to hold another webinar shortly after 9 April when the list of persons nominated, and the number of election contests are known.

We will regularly update our website so please check our [webpages](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-2021).

### Why is Devizes not a count location this year?

We have not used a count centre in Devizes for the last few years because of shortage of experienced staff to oversee this count centre.

### Can subscribers sign digitally?

No subscribers cannot sign digitally.

### What is the expectation of the role of the parish clerk in this process?

Parish clerks can assist by downloading the statutory election notices published on our website and displaying them in the parish. They may wish to deliver nomination papers on behalf of candidates to the nomination venues.

### Where can I find the number of electors for my ward?

Please email [candidates@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:candidates@wiltshire.gov.uk) and we can provide you with this information.

### With postal votes going out in two batches, do we know which areas each batch is covering?

The batches will be across Wiltshire. People already registered for a postal vote up to 20 March 2021 will be in the first mailing and those that apply for a postal vote after this date will receive their postal vote in the second mailing.

### When does the regulated period start?

Please see [Electoral Commission guidance](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-02/Locals%20England%20Part%203%20C%26A%202021%20FINAL.pdf) which advises the regulated period commences from 30 March.

### When will we know if an election for town or parish councils will be taking place?

This information will be available no later than 4pm on 9 April 2021 when the statement of persons nominated is published.

### If I am standing for town or parish and unitary, do I have two sets of expenses?

Yes. You will need to complete expenses returns for each election type.

### Will telling be allowed, if so, what restrictions will there be?

### Please see the [Government’s updated guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19#campaigning-safely-from-8-march).

### Where will the count for Amesbury East and Bulford take place?

This will take place at Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Salisbury if it is contested.

### Do nomination papers have to be downloaded or can hard copies be provided?

We encourage candidates to download their nomination papers from the Electoral Commission website. However, if this is not possible you can visit one of the Council offices and ask them to print you a copy or phone 0300 456 0112 for a form to be sent to you. However, please allow plenty of time to make this request so you can receive and return the nomination papers in good time and before the deadline date.

### When will we be able to see the candidates standing in a particular ward?

This will be available when the statement of persons nominated is published no later than 4pm on 9 April.

### Does the council have enough pencils for the polling station to be COVID-secure?

We will be encouraging people to bring their own pen or pencil with them on polling day.

### What is the maximum amount of nominations you can book to submit at one time?

You can submit as many nominations as you wish and will have to select the type and electoral area for each nomination paper you are submitting. However, you can only deliver nominations to the location published on the Notice of Election.

### Will the names of subscribers be published?

Subscribers’ details will be published on statutory notices so please make them aware as they cannot withdraw their name once a nomination has been formally accepted

### Can a subscriber be related or live at the same address?

Yes, they can be related or live at the same address.

### Can you share the links for the packs please?

Unitary nomination packs: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-unitary>

Town and Parish nomination packs: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-town-parish>

### Is it possible to add postcodes to new unitary divisions on the Wiltshire Council website as I am being approached by residents who are unsure what division they live in?

The maps of the new boundaries are on [our website](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/elections-unitary).