

## What happens after the elections?

The eligibility of all candidates is checked and verified then an Election Results notice is published by Renfrewshire Council.

If there are more candidates than places available, a ballot will be held to select members. If not, eligible candidates will be deemed to have been elected unopposed.

Newly-elected members will be invited to attend the next community council meeting.

## Now I'm a member, what should I do?

You should attend meetings and participate by putting forward the views of residents in your area.

Speak to family, friends and neighbours about what really concerns them about the services and facilities they use, what's important or what's missing, and share this at meetings.

Your community council may want to deliver local community projects or events—volunteer to help in any way you find able.

Community council meetings are usually held one (weekday) evening each month and last about two hours.

# Want to join your local Community Council?

## Getting started...

### Interested?

Current community council members will automatically receive a nomination form for the next elections.

Anyone else interested in finding out more should contact:

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**[community-council.cs@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:community-council.cs@renfrewshire.gov.uk)**

**0141 618 7104**

You can read more online at:

**[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communitycouncils)**



**Thank you for your community spirit!**

## What is a Community Council?

It's a group of people who volunteer to help improve the area they live in and the public services they use.

Community councils are the first statutory (legal) level of democracy in Scotland, but they are not part of local government.

Renfrewshire is split into 25 community council areas – the boundaries take account of natural geography and traditional neighbourhood links. The community council represents all the people who live within its boundary.

## What are they for?

Community councils meet regularly (usually monthly) to discuss issues that affect or concern residents and the actions they can take to help resolve these issues.

They are a voice for local people; finding out what matters to local residents and making this known to the agencies delivering services in that area – such as Renfrewshire Council, the NHS, Police Scotland and local businesses.

Community councils also improve the quality of local life by generating community spirit, resilience and pride in the area. They act as a focal point for community activity by organising galas and events; deliver community improvements; and mobilise community efforts to, for example, deal with adverse winter weather.

## How do I join?

Depending on the size of the area it covers, your community council can have anywhere up to 30 members. Residents can be co-opted onto the community council to fill any places left vacant after an official election, or to fill vacancies that arise if a member retires or moves away from the area. To become a candidate for election, you submit a nomination form during an official election period.

You must be aged 16 or over; you must live in the community council area you want to represent; and you must be registered to vote.

## When are elections held?

Elections to community councils are held every four years. At that time, all current members must stand down and seek re-election.

The next community council elections are scheduled to take place in September 2019 and every four years thereafter. These elections are organised by Renfrewshire Council.

Vacancies can arise in between each four-yearly election. If a community council has reached its quota of co-opted members, it can decide to hold an interim election to fill the remaining vacant places.

Individual community councils will hold interim elections within their own area, with assistance from Renfrewshire Council to make sure the same rules apply at all community council elections.

