



# QUENIBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## POLICY ON THE USE OF COUNCILLORS' PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

### 1. Introduction

Changes in the rules applying to local government elections responding to concerns from elected members about intimidation in public life, were introduced in 2019 and are now in force recommending that legislation should remove the requirement for candidates standing as local councillors to have their home addresses published on the ballot paper. The rules that apply to local government, parish council, and local and combined authority mayor elections, remove the requirement that each candidate's home address must be published during the election process and be included on the ballot paper. The requirement for each candidate's qualifying address to be published during that process has also been removed and Returning Officers and other electoral administrators should take care to avoid disclosing such addresses during an election count.

These changes mean that all members in local government in England will be able to request that their home address is not made public. Councillors will have a choice – they can continue to include a home address if they wish to highlight their local connection to their parish. The Statutory Instruments making these amendments and their explanatory memorandums setting out detail and policy background can be found here:

The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2018 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/1308/contents/made>

The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2018

Under the 1972 Local Government Act, home addresses are published as the norm. While a 2011 law allows this to be withheld if there are worries about threats or intimidation.

### 2. The Current Policy

- Councillors names, personal addresses and phone numbers will be posted on the website following consent.
- Councillors personal phone numbers should be displayed on all notice boards at all times following consent.
- If this isn't possible due to pressure of space, contact details should be displayed on the Parish Office door with notices on the Parish noticeboards to that effect.
- Parish Office phone/email contact details should be advertised in the Gazette.
- Councillors names, personal addresses and phone number to be displayed at the time of elections following consent.

- The Clerk only gives out the Parish office telephone number and asks that written correspondence be sent through the Parish Office.
- The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Cemetery Clerk have a @queniborough-pc.gov.uk email address.
- All Councillors will receive a new @queniborough-pc.gov.uk by the end of 2024.

### **3. Use of Personal Emails and Devices Information Commissioner Office (ICO) ruling**

- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) don't say which email systems or devices should be used but it is important that members familiarise themselves with the risks and the council's data protection obligations and responsibilities should they continue to use personal email addresses and devices.