

District and Parish Elections 5th May 2011

Parish Clerks Briefing



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Aims -

- To take some of the mystery out of the elections process.
- To help parish & town clerks deal with enquiries from existing councillors and prospective candidates.



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Health Warning -

- Combined elections in 2011 - National Referendum on the alternative voting system for the House of Commons and Local Elections
- Legislation is the same but the interpretation is a matter for the Returning Officer = there may be some local variation in procedures



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Parish Clerks have a valued role -

- Your partnership with the Returning Officer and the Electoral Services team is crucial to the successful running of the elections
- Existing councillors and candidates may look to you in the first instance and particularly at the nomination stage



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Things we will cover -

- Critical dates
- Notices and Forms
- Nominations Process
- Uncontested Elections
- Register of Electors
- Absent Voting
- Verification and Counting of Votes
- Results
- Expense Returns



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Critical Dates - The Elections Timetable

- Notice of Election
- Delivery of Nominations
- Publications of Statement of persons nominated
- Withdrawals
- Deadline for applications to register
- Absent Vote applications
- Notice of Poll
- Return of Election Expenses



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Notices and Forms -

- Nomination Packs
- Notice of Election
- Statement of Persons Nominated
- Notice of Poll
- Results Notices



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Nominations Process -

- Completion of Forms
 - Nomination Form
 - Names - Full name but can now use 'commonly known as'
 - Description - Registered Parties or Independent
 - Place of residence - 'home' and full
 - Proposer and Seconder - Elector for electoral area, Signature and Electoral letter and number
 - Consent to Nomination
 - Qualifications
- Delivery of Forms



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Uncontested Elections -

- Seats V Candidates after deadline for withdrawals at noon on 7 April 2011
- Notice to candidates
- Notice of Result of Uncontested Election
- Co-option Process



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Register of Electors -

- Canvass - Autumn 2010
- Rolling Registration
- Last date to apply to be registered to vote = Thursday 14th April
- Access to Register



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Absent Voting -

- Postal Votes
 - Deadline for new applications = 5pm Thursday 14 April
 - Postal Voting Packs despatch probably week of 18 April
 - Personal Identifiers
 - Postal vote opening
- Changes to existing arrangements - must be in writing by 5pm Thursday 14 April
- Proxy Votes
 - Deadline for new applications = 5pm Thursday 21 April
 - Except Medical Emergencies!



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Verification & Counting of Votes-

- Close of Poll at 10pm
- Verification of ballot boxes
- Postal Vote last opening
- Counting of Votes = after completion of District Count plus the National Referendum
- Attendance at Verification & Count



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Results -

- Announcement at Count
- Website
- Copies of Results Notices to Parish Clerks
- Notification to Candidates



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Expense Returns within 28 days -
2/3 June 2011

DON'T GET INVOLVED!



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QUESTIONS?


