

## **Becoming a Parish Councillor**

Becoming a Parish Councillor is ideal for those of us who can want to help the community in which we live and feel we can contribute to make a difference.

Councillors are volunteers, our aim is to ensure that the views and concerns of the residents in Reydon are heard and addressed.

### **The Role of a Parish Councillor**

Part of the role is to contribute to monthly meetings which are fairly informal, to discuss agenda items, which cover a range of topics and make the necessary decisions. It is expected that you join one or more of the Working Groups/Committees we have.

If you would like to get a sense of what is involved, please attend one of our meetings as a member of the public, the dates of which are on our website: [www.reydonvillage.org](http://www.reydonvillage.org).

Some of the key responsibilities:

- We are a main consultee on all planning applications for Reydon. At the meetings you have the opportunity to give your views on those applications and any other proposals that will affect the residents in our parish.
- Communication – Councillors are responsible for reporting back to residents on issues affecting the parish, and communicating council decisions.
- Decision-making – the Parish Council works as a team so it is important that you attend the monthly meetings.
- Engaging with the community – to understand differing individual views and needs, and to work with East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and other local organisations and businesses.
- Planning for the future – The Parish is facing challenging and exciting times with all the housing development and the threat of LionLink. We need your help to get better services, facilities, open spaces etc. These issues are discussed in smaller Working Groups and then reported at the next full Council Meeting where, if applicable, decisions will be made by all the Councillors. Housing developers make payments, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to the Parish Council to support projects that benefit the community. The Parish Council prioritises the allocation of CIL income to ensure that community benefits are realised. There are to be a significant number of new houses built within Reydon in the next few years. The CIL income will be substantial.

The Chair and the Parish Clerk are always more than happy to advise and support new and inexperienced Councillors – you only need to ask! Training is available from Suffolk Association of Local Councils. We are all on the same side and have the same aim, to improve the quality of life in the Parish and support the residents of Reydon in the very best way we can.