

Elections on Thursday 6 May 2021

Notes:

This document is designed to be used and read on-line, and will be updated at several points, in particular in the period between March 2021 and the date of the elections.

Click on the links in the following list to go straight to the subject shown. Alternatively, use “Bookmarks” to help you navigate the document; and

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Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley

On Thursday 6 May 2021 there will be an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley Police Area, which covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. All registered local government electors in West Oxfordshire will be eligible to vote.

Oxfordshire County Council Elections

On Thursday 6 May 2021 there will be elections for all the seats on the Oxfordshire County Council, then of which are for areas located within West Oxfordshire. One County Councillor will be elected for each of the following Electoral Divisions, for a term of four years:

Burford and Carterton North	Hanborough and Minster Lovell
Carterton South and West	Witney North and East
Charlbury and Wychwood	Witney South and Central
Chipping Norton	Witney West and Bampton
Eynsham	Woodstock

Details of current members of the County Council are available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk and [general information](#) on the elections is available on the County website.

West Oxfordshire District Council Elections

On Thursday 6 May 2021 there will be elections for 18 seats on the West Oxfordshire District Council. These will be for one seat in each of the following Wards (areas):

Bampton and Clanfield; Chadlington and Churchill; Charlbury and Finstock; Chipping Norton; Eynsham and Cassington; Freeland and Hanborough; Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leafield; Kingham, Rollright and Enstone; Milton under Wychwood; North Leigh; Standlake, Aston and Stanton Harcourt; Stonesfield and Tackley; Witney Central; Witney East; Witney North; Witney South; Witney West; and Woodstock and Bladon.

For details of current members of the District Council please see [the Council's website](#). The Councillors elected will serve a three-year term, to May 2024, with the exception of Bampton and Clanfield, where the election is to fill a vacancy and the term of office will be to May 2022.

Parish and Town Council Elections

Elections for 147 seats on 22 Parish/Town Councils are also scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021, as below (number of seats shown in brackets). Please note that those highlighted are the ones where there will be a poll. In all other cases the number of candidates nominated was equal to or fewer than the number of available seats:

Carterton Shillbrook Ward (1)*	North Leigh (9)
Chadlington (6)	Northmoor (5)
Charlbury (12)	Over Norton (5)
Chipping Norton (5)*	Rollright (5)
Churchill (5) & Sarsden (1)	Salford (5)
Eynsham (1)**	South Leigh (6)
Freeland (8)	Spelsbury (6)
Hanborough (12)	Stanton Harcourt (6)
Kingham (8)	Tackley (7)
Milton under Wychwood (8)	Woodstock (12)
Minster Lovell (7)	Wootton (7)

The Councillors elected will serve a three-year term, to May 2024, **except** that those marked with a single asterisk are to fill vacancies which have arisen, and the persons elected will serve until May 2023.

For the Eynsham Parish Council, there were no nominations and a further election has accordingly been scheduled for **Thursday 10 June**. The person elected to fill that vacancy will also serve until May 2023.

Police Area Returning Officer and the Nomination of Candidates

The Returning Officer for the Thames Valley Police area as a whole is Yvonne Rees, who is the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County and Cherwell District Councils.

The office of the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) may be contacted by email addressed to paro@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or via 01295 221534.

The PARO has overall responsibility for the election, but please also see the following paragraph. Please also note that the PARO deals with the nomination of candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner election and queries relating to candidature should therefore be directed to her office.

For further information, please see the [Cherwell District Council Police and Crime Commissioner website information](https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/11/elections/497/elections-2021/5)

(<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/11/elections/497/elections-2021/5>).

Details of the four candidates nominated have been published and information can be obtained from www.choosemypcc.org.uk, or via a candidates' helpline number of 0808 196 2170.

Local Returning Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election

Each District and Unitary Council in the Thames Valley has a Local Returning Officer who is responsible, subject to any directions and guidance from the PARO, for the conduct of the election in his/her area.

The Local Returning Officer for West Oxfordshire is Keith Butler and he may be contacted as set out [below](#).

Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer – County Council Elections

The Returning Officer for the County Council elections is Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive of the County Council. The Deputy Returning Officer for West Oxfordshire is Keith Butler and he is based at the offices of the District Council in Witney. See [below](#) for contact information.

The Returning Officer has overall responsibility for the election, but please note that the Deputy Returning Officer is responsible, subject to any directions and guidance from the Returning Officer, for the conduct of the elections within West Oxfordshire.

Returning Officer – District and Parish/Town Elections in West Oxfordshire

The Returning Officer for the District and Parish/Town Council elections is Keith Butler, who is based at the District Council offices at Woodgreen, Witney. See [below](#) for contact information.

Candidates' Nominations – County, District and Parish/Town Elections

The period for the nomination of candidates for the **County, District and Parish** elections ended at 4 pm on Thursday 8 April.

The names and descriptions of the candidates nominated are available from the [Elections](#) page of the website (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

In the case of Town and Parish Council elections, in those areas where the number of candidates nominated was not greater than the number of seats available, the persons nominated have been declared elected following an uncontested election.

Guidance for Candidates/Agents at the County, District and Town/Parish Council Elections

Information and guidance for **County** and **District** candidates prepared nationally by the Electoral Commission is available from the [Commission's website](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england) (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england>).

For Parish or Town candidates the Commission's information is at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-england>.

Count and Result – Police and Crime Commissioner Election

The count will take place during **Monday 10 May**.

The result will be available on the [Election Results](#) page of this website as soon as it is known (from www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

Counts and Results - County Council Elections

The counting of ballot papers for all contested elections will take place during the morning of Sunday 9 May 2021. The results for the Electoral Divisions in West Oxfordshire will be available on the [Election Results](#) page of this website as soon as all are known (from www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections); and the results across the whole county will be available from the [County Council's website](#).

Counts and Results - District and Town/Parish Council Elections

The counting of ballot papers will take place during the afternoon of Sunday 9 May.

The results will be available on the [Election Results](#) page of this website as soon as all are known (from www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

Polling Hours and Polling Stations

Polling hours on Thursday 6 May 2021 will be from 7 am until 10 pm.

Information about the location of polling stations has been published on the website and a polling station finder is available at <https://wheredoivote.co.uk/>. Please note that obtaining the location of your local polling station is not confirmation that you are registered/eligible to vote.

Covid-19 and Voting

We will be following government guidelines, and polling stations will be equipped with hand sanitiser, and subject to regular and frequent cleaning of touch points, with the numbers of voters inside the buildings at any one time being limited.

Voters will be asked to wear face coverings, and are encouraged to bring their own pencil or pen to mark their ballot papers.

Official Poll Cards

Official Poll Cards, stating the hours of the poll and the details of the polling station, were posted to all eligible registered voters on Monday 29 March 2021.

Poll cards are being sent at later dates for those who applied to be registered more recently.

Poll Cards for Postal Voters

Postal poll cards were posted to voters who have applied to vote by post on Monday 29 March 2021. For those who applied to vote by post after 19 March, the postal poll card will be sent at a later date.

Please note that if you have a postal or proxy voting arrangement in place, the deadline for applying to change it was 5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021 so it is now too late to do so other than in the covid-19 circumstances set out below under “Emergency Proxy appointments”.

Postal and Proxy Voting: Elections on Thursday 6 May 2021

Anyone who is registered to vote may apply to vote by **post**. An application form is obtainable from the [electoral registration](#) page of this website (from www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) or from the Elections Office at Woodgreen.

The deadline for receiving applications was **5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021** so it is now too late to apply for 6 May.

Alternatively, registered voters who are unable to go to the polling station on the day of the polls may apply to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. Applications to vote by proxy must be received by **no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021**. Please note that applications to vote by proxy have to be supported by a reason for requiring a proxy. This is detailed on the application form, obtainable on request. For information and/or an application form, please [contact electoral services](#).

The person appointed as proxy must be a registered voter, and must be able to go to your polling station to vote during the hours of the poll.

Emergency Proxy Appointments

After **5 pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021**, there is provision for the appointment of a proxy because of unforeseen illness/physical incapacity or on grounds of occupation, service or employment. Any such applications (i) can be allowed only if the circumstances which lead to the application occurred after that date and time; (ii) have to be attested (supported) by a specified person; and (iii) can be received from then, but no later than **5 pm** on polling day, **Thursday 6 May 2021**. Further guidance is obtainable from the elections office.

For these elections the following is also possible:

1. If you have appointed a proxy and he/she can no longer vote on your behalf because of having to self-isolate for covid-19 reasons, you can apply to appoint a different proxy, up until 5 pm on polling day.
2. If you have to self-isolate and cannot go to the polling station as intended, you can appoint a proxy, by the same deadline.

In these cases, there is no requirement for the application to be supported. Please contact us for advice on how to apply.

Posting of Postal Votes to Voters

The majority of postal ballot papers for Thursday 6 May 2021 were be posted on **Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

Postal packs for those whose application to vote by post is received after 31 March will be posted later. This is intended to be **Friday 23 April 2021** but may be **Monday 26 April**.

If you haven't received your postal packs by Wednesday 28 April, please contact us for advice.

Registering to Vote

For persons not included in the register of electors, applications for registration needed to be received by no later than **Monday 19 April 2021** in order to be effective for Thursday 6 May 2021.

If you are not registered, the easiest and quickest way to apply is via www.gov.uk/register-to-vote - you will need your national insurance number as part of the application process.

People who do not have internet access may contact electoral services for an application form.

If you are uncertain whether you are registered, please [contact electoral services](#) or telephone 01993 861410.

Further Information/Contact Us

For further information on elections in 2021, you may [contact electoral services](#) (this opens an email to us) or telephone during office hours via 01993 861410 or write to The Elections Office, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon, OX28 1NB. The email address is elections@westoxon.gov.uk

For detailed general information on all aspects of electoral matters, visit the website of the [Electoral Commission](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk). (www.electoralcommission.org.uk). The part of the Commission website specific to registering to vote and voter queries about forthcoming elections is at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>.

WODC Electoral Services
February 2021 [updated 20 April]