



# **Empowering Local Voices**

## **The Role of Elections in Parish and Town Councils**

**5 October 2024**

# The Nuts & Bolts

- Local Elections take place on **Thursday 1 May 2025**.
- Every seat on every parish and town council in Northamptonshire is up for election that day.
- Both unitary councils have elections that day too.
- The close of nominations will likely be Thursday 3 April 2025.
- All councillors retire in May 2025 but may seek re-election (If they do, they must submit nomination papers by 3 April 2025).



# The Nuts & Bolts

- If there are more candidates than seats, there will be a poll and the candidates with the most votes will be **declared elected**.
- If there are the same number of candidates or fewer, there will not be a poll and however many candidates there are will be **declared elected** uncontested.
- Contested / Uncontested but all **elected**.



# Aims & Objectives

- For every parish and town council in Northamptonshire to have a strongly contested election.
- To increase diversity
- To ensure effective community governance
- To strengthen democracy
- To improve the image of the sector



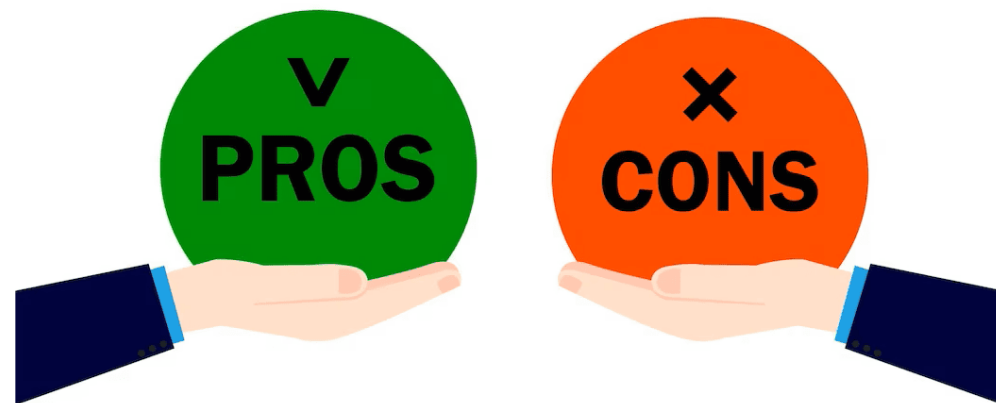
# Challenges

- Uncontested elections in 2021
- Volunteering has fallen dramatically since Covid
- Local Government Reorganisation & local government austerity
- Transfer of assets and services to parish and town councils
- Uncontested elections in 2023 in other counties



# Pros & Cons of a Contested Election

Pros	Cons
Strong mandate	Cost
Strengthened democracy	Cost/Benefit
Increased diversity	Extra work
Accountability	Destabilises team
Humility	Embarrassment



# Discussion



What do **you** think?



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