

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. Ten of those seats are for areas located within West Oxfordshire, and one County Councillor will be elected for each of the following Electoral Divisions. For four-year terms.

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 17 seats on the West Oxfordshire District Council. These will be for one seat in each of the following Wards (areas):

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

For details of current members of the District Council please see [the Council's website](#). The elections for these seats were postponed in May 2020, meaning that the Councillors elected will serve a three-year term, to May 2024.

Parish and Town Council Elections

Elections for 147 seats on 22 Parish/Town Councils are also scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021, as follows (number of seats shown in brackets):

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 elections for these seats were postponed in May 2020, meaning that the Councillors elected will serve a three-year term, to May 2024, **except** that those marked with an asterisk are to fill vacancies which have arisen, and the persons elected will 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 also 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>).

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 is Keith Butler and he is based at the offices of West Oxfordshire District Council in Witney. See [below](#) for contact information.

The Returning Officer has overall responsibility for the election, but please note that the 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

Candidates' nominations for the **County, District and Parish** elections have to be submitted to the Returning Officer, via Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney from Monday 29 March 2021 and by **no later than 4 pm on Thursday 8 April 2021**.

Nomination Papers will be available from the Returning Officer from the beginning of March. For more information about nominations please [contact electoral services](#).

The names and descriptions of the candidates nominated will be available from the [Elections](#) page of the website as soon as possible after the closing time of 4 pm on Thursday 8 April 2021 (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

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>.

Please note that nomination papers for candidates will not be available from the District Council's website, but will be supplied by the Elections Office, on request. Alternatively, they may be downloaded from the Electoral Commission website as referenced above. If using the forms from the Commission, it is essential that you print all the necessary documents in full.

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 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 for all contested elections is expected to take place during Friday 7 May 2021 and/or Sunday 9 May 2021, but this will be confirmed in due course.

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 will be available on the District Council website, from early in April.

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, will be sent to all eligible registered voters. It is expected that these will be posted on or very soon after Monday 29 March 2021.

Poll Cards for Postal Voters

Persons registered to vote by post, do not receive an "Official Poll Card". However, a poll card for postal voters will be sent to them to confirm that they are registered to receive a postal ballot pack and giving other information, including how to change or cancel the arrangement. It is anticipated that the postal poll cards will be posted on or very soon after Monday 29 March 2021.

Please note that if you already have a postal or proxy voting arrangement in place, it can be changed or cancelled on application received no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021. It CANNOT be changed after that date.

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 (www.westoxon.gov.uk/register) or from the Elections Office at Woodgreen.

Applications have to be received by the Electoral Registration Officer, via the Elections Office, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon, OX28 1NB by **no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**. As an alternative to posting, signed applications may be sent as a scanned email attachment to elections@westoxon.gov.uk but please note that the scan needs to be of good quality, and a photograph of an application form is not likely to be sufficient.

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. However, if he/she cannot go to the polling station they may apply, as a proxy, to vote by post, provided the application is received no later than **5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

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.

At the time of writing, it is anticipated that the government will be extending the proxy provisions to allow an emergency appointment where a voter has to isolate for covid-19 reasons, and where a proxy can no longer go to a polling station to vote because of having to isolate.

Please note that if you already have a postal or proxy voting arrangement in place, it can be changed or cancelled on application received no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021. It CANNOT be changed after that date.

Posting of Postal Votes to Voters

It is anticipated that the majority of postal ballot papers for Thursday 6 May 2021 will be posted on around **Tuesday 20 April 2021**.

Postal packs for those who apply for their postal vote in the last few weeks leading to the deadline will be posted later, intended to be no later than **Friday 23 April 2021**.

Although all postal ballot packs will be sent first class, there is also no guarantee that they will be delivered the day after they have been posted. Therefore if you are going to be away and the postal papers are due to be sent to your home address you may need to consider changing that arrangement to be on the safe side.

Registering to Vote

For persons not included in the register of electors, applications for registration need to be received by no later than **Monday 19 April 2021** in order to be able to vote on 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