How do I get Involved?

There are 18 Community Councils in Shetland. Many now have their own website and social media pages. Meetings are open to the public, so if you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor feel free to go along and see how it all works.

Community Council elections are held every 4 years. The next local elections will be held in November 2018, and are open to anyone who is eligible to stand (i.e. you must be 18 years or over and appear on the electoral roll for the relevant area). Election notices are posted in public places and in the local media prior to the nomination deadline.

Out with election or by-elections, there may also be opportunities to become a co-opted member of your local Community Council. If this is of interest to you, get in touch with your local clerk or chairperson.

Contact details for all Community Councils can be found online at:
http://www.shetland.gov.uk/coins/allCommunityCouncils.asp?page=0&rec=19

Contact information

For further information please visit the Council’s website:
http://www.shetland.gov.uk/grants/community_councils.asp

or contact:

Michael Duncan
Community Council Liaison Officer
01595 743828
michael.duncan@shetland.gov.uk

For any queries around elections please contact:

Anne Cogle
Depute Returning Officer
01595 744066
returning.officer@shetland.gov.uk

Are You Interested in Being a Community Councillor?

www.shetland.gov.uk/communitycouncils
What is a Community Council?

A Community Council is a voluntary organisation set up under statute, by the Local Authority. As the most local tier of elected representation, Community Councils play an important role in local democracy.

Community Councils are run by local people on behalf of the wider community, and are made up of people who care about their community and are interested in making it a better place to live for everyone.

As well as representing the needs, aspirations and views of the community to public bodies, Community Councils often facilitate activities which promote the well-being of their communities. They bring local people together to make things happen, protect and promote the identity of their community, advise, lobby, advocate and influence on issues of concern on behalf of local people and communities.

What Do Community Councils Do?

Each Community Council meets as often as is necessary to fulfil its duties, usually every 4 to 6 weeks. Agenda items can include consideration of planning applications, requests for feedback from public bodies on service delivery proposals or changes, and a range of community issues raised through correspondence.

The local Elected Members usually attend meetings and there are regular reports and inputs from Police Scotland and other local service providers such as NHS Shetland.

Being a Community Councillor

Community Councillors have a shared responsibility for the success of the Community Council, even if you are not an office bearer. All members play an important part, supporting each other, working together and thinking creatively about what you can do together to improve the lives of local people.

As a Community Councillor you have a duty to:

- commit to the role and uphold the standards and values of the Community Council.
- act in the interests of the local community, which you have been elected or nominated to represent.
- reflect, through the Community Council, the views of the community as a whole, on any issue, irrespective of personal opinion.
- ensure that you are, within reason, accessible to your local community and local residents.
- take decisions solely in terms of the interest of the community that you represent.
- contribute to discussions and decisions concerning the work of the Community Council.

If you are interested in being a Community Councillor

Contact the clerk to your local community council.