

KINGSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Report to: Council 24 February 2021-Item 12

Report on promoting candidates at the May 2021 elections

Summary: A report on the set-up of Kingsthorpe Parish Council and the implementation of the reorganisation order

Recommendations

a) to note the report

b) to launch the Kingsthorpe Parish Council website

c) to set up a Facebook page and Twitter account

d) to use resources from NcALC/NALC and other agencies/partners

e) to distribute posters/leaflets as widely as possible whilst adhering to Covid restrictions

1.0 Background Information

The first elections to Kingsthorpe Parish Council are being held on Thursday May 6th 2021, which is in just 47 days' time. It is therefore essential that the elections and candidacy are promoted. This report sets out a number of ways in which the council can do this.

2.0 Ways of promoting candidacy

2.1 Website

Members will have seen the website for the parish earlier in the meeting and subject to any amendments agreed, the website should be launched as soon as possible, and no later than 26 February 2021.

2.2 Social Media

Given the short time scale to promote the elections use of social media seems the best way to share the message as widely as possible. The Clerk therefore seeks agreement to set-up Twitter and Facebook accounts for the Parish. These accounts will initially focus on promoting candidacy but can be expanded to all areas of the councils work as time progresses.

A policy on the use of social media can be considered at a future meeting.

2.3 Northamptonshire County Association of Local Council/(NcALC) National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Both the NcALC and NALC have a number of resources that can be used to provide content for the website and social media posts. NcALC are also working with other partners to develop further resources.

2.4 Posters / Leaflets

Members will be aware that at the current time guidance is in place which prohibits political door to door campaigning and leafleting. NcALC are seeking clarity as to whether or not this applies to the distribution of materials promoting candidacy.

However, it will still be possible for posters to be distributed to local shops and public noticeboards and the clerk will seek to distribute posters as widely as possible throughout all wards in the Parish.

Implications:

Council objectives:	Promoting democracy	x
Equalities & Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	x
Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder have been considered	X
Biodiversity	There are no bio-diversity implications	x
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	
Legal	Power: Local Government Act 1972	X
	Other considerations: None	
Risk Management	Material risks exist and these are currently being assessed.	X
	- Inherent risk score: - Residual risk score:	
Person originating this report: Kate Houlihan: Town Clerk		
Date: 16 February 2021		