

# BENEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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## LOCAL ELECTIONS 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

### Polling Stations – Please bring your own pen

- Please bring your own pen to mark the ballot paper for your own safety. Pencils will be provided to those that do not bring a pen.
- Your Polling Station may have changed, please enter your postcode in the Polling Station finder below to find your allocated Polling Station.

### Key Dates

<b>26 March (approx)</b>	<b>Poll cards sent</b> (to all electors registered to vote by 10 <sup>th</sup> March)
<b>19 April</b>	<b>Last date to register to vote</b> – 11:59pm deadline.
<b>19 April</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> issue of Postal Votes released</b> (overseas and services released 15 April)
<b>20 April</b>	<b>Last date to apply for a postal vote or proxy postal</b> – 5pm deadline.
<b>26 April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> issue of Postal Votes released</b>
<b>27 April</b>	<b>Last date to apply for a Proxy Vote</b> – 5pm deadline (not emergency proxy)
<b>29 April</b>	<b>First day to reissue any lost postal ballot papers.</b>
<b>6 May</b>	<b>Polling Day</b> – polls open 7am to 10pm.
	<b>Emergency proxy vote applications for medical or work-related emergencies will only be accepted in person until 5pm.</b>
	<b>Postal voters can apply for a replacement for spoilt or lost postal vote up until 5pm.</b> Replacement postal ballot packs will only be issued in person to the elector themselves.

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## Postal Votes

### How do I apply for a Postal Vote?

If you're thinking about voting by post, apply now. This will make sure your application is processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you more quickly. It's easy to apply by completing an "application to vote by post" form by emailing [elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk) or call 01832 742 119.

### What is the deadline to apply for a postal vote?

The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April. Applicants must already be registered to vote.

### How do I return my Postal Vote?

Please complete and return your postal vote by post as soon as possible using the envelopes provided. Only postal votes which arrive back by 10pm on polling day will be counted.

If you forget to send your postal vote back in time Completed postal vote packs can be dropped into the offices at Cedar Drive Thrapston or any polling station in the same voting area on polling day, but ideally to your local polling station. ***Please note that there may be a queue due to social distancing.***

### Lost your postal vote or it didn't arrive?

Replacement packs can be issued from Thursday 29 April until 5pm on polling day. From 5pm on the day before polling, replacement postal ballot packs will only be issued in person from the council offices at Cedar Drive, Thrapston. You will need to bring proof of identification: one photographic ID such as a passport or driving licence, or two pieces of ID which confirm your name and address such as a bank statement, utility bill or official letter.

### ***Registering to Vote***

#### **I recently changed name/address/nationality, do I need to Register to Vote?**

If you have changed name, nationality or address recently and not re-registered yourself to vote, you must do so by 11:59pm on Monday 19 April - the easiest way to register is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

#### **What is the deadline to Register to Vote?**

Deadline for voter registration – 11:59pm on Monday 19 April.

You won't be able to vote on Thursday 6 May if you register to vote after this date.

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## How do I Register to Vote?

It takes less than three minutes to [register online](#) at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). It helps to have your National Insurance number to hand, found on your payslip, P60, or letters about tax, pensions and benefits.

You can also register to vote over the phone on 01832 742 119 or by completing a paper form. Don't leave your registration until the last minute, just in case you have any problems.

## Proxy Votes

### What is a proxy vote?

A proxy vote is where an elector appoints someone that they trust to vote on their behalf. Both the elector and proxy voter must already be registered to vote.

### What is the deadline to apply for a Proxy Vote?

The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Tuesday 27 April. Applicants must already be registered to vote.

### How do I apply for a Proxy Vote?

Your nominated proxy must be eligible to vote in the election and will need to be able to vote in person at your polling station, or they can apply to cast their proxy vote by post. They will receive a letter or poll card at their address giving them the necessary details dependent on when they applied.

### What if I have an unexpected emergency situation?

After 5pm on Tuesday 27 April until 5pm on polling day, emergency proxy votes may be available but only under specific extenuating circumstances, you will find details on this webpage in due course.

## Voting

### Who can Vote?

For elections in England, you must be:

- Registered to vote – visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)
- 18 or over on 6 May 2021
- A UK, Irish, EU or qualifying Commonwealth citizen\*

\*A qualifying Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK or does not require such leave. The list of qualifying countries, British Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

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## How can I vote?

If you do not have a Postal or Proxy Vote, you can only cast your vote in person at the polling station you are registered at. The details will be printed on your poll card or you can search for your Polling Station using our finder on this webpage (above). Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

## Do I need to bring my Poll Card?

You don't need your poll card with you to be able to vote. Please take it with you when you leave the Polling Station.

## Where is my Polling Station?

Make sure to check your poll card for any changes to your usual polling station or You can call 01832 742 119 or email [elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk).

## What can I expect at the Polling Station?

You may be given up to 4 ballot papers at your polling station, including:

- North Northamptonshire Council (Yellow Ballot Paper)
- Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election (White Ballot Paper)
- Parish Councils (where contested) (Green Ballot Paper)

## What Covid-19 measures will be at polling stations?

A risk assessment has been carried out for each Polling Station, as each venue is different, we will have the following measures implemented wherever practicable:

- Separate entrances and exits where possible.
- Altered layouts to allow for social distancing when waiting to vote and when completing a ballot paper.
- Polling station staff wearing PPE and behind Perspex screens
- Voters asked to wear face coverings where possible and use hand sanitiser when they enter the polling station
- Voters encouraged to bring their own pen or pencil
- Polling booths regularly sanitised.

These measures may mean electors wait longer than usual to be able to cast their vote. Busy times in polling stations often include 7am to 9.30am, lunchtime, 3.30pm to 4.30pm and 6pm to 8pm. Try to avoid these peak times to wait for a shorter period of time. Anyone queuing to vote at their allocated polling station by 10pm will still be able to vote. The polling station team will close the queue at 10pm, but everyone who arrived while the queue was open by 10pm will still be able to cast their vote.

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## **How can Student Voters vote in elections?**

Higher education students are eligible to register to vote at both their home and university/college address. If a student's home and university addresses are in two different local authority areas, they can vote in local elections in both areas. They will need to consider whether to register to vote in both areas and whether to make postal or proxy vote applications, as necessary.

## **How do I know more about the candidates?**

Candidates and Political Parties may campaign by door knocking and distributing leaflets. For further information about the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Elections please visit: [www.choosemypcc.org.uk](http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk)

## **What is North Northamptonshire Council?**

Residents in Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough will be able to vote for Councillors to serve in their new North Northamptonshire unitary council which will supersede their existing borough council. The new North Northamptonshire Council will legally become responsible for the delivery of local services on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

A total of 78 Councillors will be elected for North Northamptonshire – three seats for each of the 26 electoral wards based on similar geographical areas to existing county council division areas. The new Councillors will serve for five years, until the next set of elections.

## **Who cannot vote?**

The following groups are legally excluded from voting in local elections in England:

- a convicted person (though remand prisoners, as yet un-convicted prisoners and civil prisoners can vote if they are on the electoral register).
- have been found guilty within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with an election.

## **Results**

Results will be announced for all elections on [www.futurenorthantsnorth.org](http://www.futurenorthantsnorth.org).