



1. **I'm too young**
If you are eighteen (the age limit dropped from 21 to 18 way back in 2007) you are old enough
2. **What's the point of just joining a talking shop, they don't do anything**
Basing your judgement on watching *The Vicar of Dibley* is definitely not valid. Perhaps it might be better to actually go to a meeting and see for yourself what happens. You'd be welcome and may be surprised
3. **I'm too busy and couldn't commit to attending every single meeting**
Meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month and missing the occasional one is acceptable. Most meetings only take a couple of hours and they're planned at least a month ahead
4. **I'm concentrating on finding a job or furthering my career**
Being a local councillor is a definite plus point to add to a CV. It shows you can make decisions, work in a team, are community minded and pro-active. Prospective employers will be impressed
5. **I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well**
If you have lived or worked in the parish for a year or already have your name on the electoral roll, you are eligible. Your views as a 'newbie' would be welcomed as you will probably see things from a different perspective than others
6. **I'm worried that I won't get many votes, and look silly**
Even if you are not voted on this time, you may well be approached if a vacancy occurs in the future and have to opportunity to be co-opted to the council
7. **Our parish council is full of old fogeys**
Join up and change it then
8. **I'd look a fool because I won't know what's going on**
The Parish Clerk is the officer of the council and he or she will be able to explain the rules. There is help, advice and training available and you'll be eased in gently
9. **I'll have to sign that code of conduct thing**
It's hardly the Official Secrets Act! The Code of Conduct is nowhere near as onerous as it's made out to be and besides, it's there to protect you
10. **I'll have to let everyone know all about my business and personal affairs**
The Declaration of Interest form completed at the outset asks you to list business interests within the parish to guard against bias when parish issues are debated. As for personal affairs, get real, everyone knows about those already!
11. **I'm too lazy, and not interested in my community**
An excellent reason for not joining
12. **I prefer to let others do the work, and then criticise from the side-lines afterwards**
Also a valid reason for not joining, but do bear in mind, that expounding your views in the pub, rather than the council meeting, will not change a thing in your parish – and if you can't be bothered, does that mean it's fair game to criticise those who do make the effort?