

Item 123  
Publication of Councillor Contact Details

## Background

Cllr Davey has requested that Cllrs consider putting their contact details on to the Town Councils website.

## Legal Standing

At present, the minimum information for councillors to be displayed is their name only with any correspondence being addressed to the Town Council offices. In our Freedom of Information Data Schedule: Class 1 Who we are and what we do, the following is published on line:

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
Class 1 – Who we are and what we do		
Who's Who on the Town Council	<a href="http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Councillors_11330.aspx">http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Councillors_11330.aspx</a>	FOC
Contact details for the Town Council officers and Members	<a href="http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Contact_Us_11327.aspx">http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Contact_Us_11327.aspx</a>	FOC
Location of main council office and accessibility details	Rugeley Town Council Rose Theatre Taylors Lane Rugeley Staffordshire WS15 2AA  Email: <a href="mailto:office@rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk">office@rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01889 574074  Office Hours are 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday	please access from Church Street (WS15 2AB) for vehicle and level access
Staffing Structure	<a href="http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/The_Town_Council_11325.aspx">http://www.rugeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/The_Town_Council_11325.aspx</a>	FOC

A change in regulations in 2019 allows for candidates to withhold **all** their personal information throughout the election process for the first time as part of measures to counter intimidation and violence and so a candidate address could be replaced with 'Resident of (ward name)' or similar. In a letter to Leaders of Local Authorities from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in March 2019, attention is drawn to the following:

The Government wishes to avoid capable individuals being deterred from standing for office because they believe the process risks their safety or makes them vulnerable to abusive activity and accepted this recommendation in its response to the Committee's report.

Accordingly, Parliament has now amended the rules that apply to local government, parish council, and local and combined authority mayor elections, removing the requirement that each candidate's home address must be published during the election process and be included on the ballot paper. The requirement for each candidate's qualifying address to be published during that process has also been removed and Returning Officers and other electoral administrators should take care to avoid disclosing such addresses during an election count.

The changes made mean that now all candidates in local government elections in England will be able to request that their home address is not made public. Candidates will have a choice – they can continue to include a home address if they wish to highlight their local connection to their ward. In addition, candidates will in future provide their 'qualifying address' address separately. The Statutory Instruments making these amendments and their explanatory memorandums setting out detail and policy background can be found here:

The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2018  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/1308/contents/made>

The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2018