

**C25-169 ELECTION POLL CARDS FOR 2027**

With the parish elections happening in May 2027, the council have the option to decide if they wish to send out poll cards to households. The council are not legally required to do so. The Clerk recommends that the council do send poll cards out for the following reasons;

To increase voter turnout – Poll cards remind residents that an election is happening and when it is and where to vote. Parish elections typically have a low turnout, so a simple reminder can significantly boost participation.

To provide clear voting information – Poll cards include, polling station location, opening times and voter details.

Good governance and transparency – demonstrating the council is committed to fair election, public awareness and transparency in local democracy.

Encourages community engagement – the parish council deals with very local issues. Sending poll cards signals that the election matters and encourages residents to take part in local decision making.

Supports accessibility and inclusion – Not everyone checks council website or notices. Poll cards ensure that older residents, people without internet access and new residents are all informed.

The **estimated** cost to print and send poll cards is as follows;

Poll cards £403.07

Postage cost £1,875.90

**Total £2,278.97**

**Matters for consideration**

Do the council want to send out poll cards to residents?