

# **NOTICE OF POSTPONED ELECTION**

**Braintree District Council**

**Election of Councillors  
for the**

**Witham (Hatfield Ward)  
of  
Witham Town Council**

1. Further to the recent Notice of Casual Vacancy published for the above Parish, valid requests by ten local government electors to fill the casual vacancy by election have been received by the Proper Officer.
2. In response to the Covid-19 emergency, the UK government has passed the Coronavirus Act 2020 which provides for Regulations to postpone polls up to 6 May 2021 for a specified period.
3. A date for a poll will not be fixed until said Regulations have been issued or the public health situation become stable and amended by Ministerial Order.
4. A revised Notice of Election detailing the election timetable will be published by the Returning Officer on Parish Notice boards and [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) once a date for the Poll to take place has been established.

Dated Monday 7 September 2020

Andy Wright  
Returning Officer

## Witham Town Council vacancy

Please be advised that, following receipt of 10 requests to fill the current vacancies on the Witham Town Council the Proper Officer has requested that the Returning Officer, now call an Election.

In the normal course of events this would be within 60 working days of the publication of the Notice of Casual Vacancy. However, provisions within the Coronavirus Act 2020 have suspended ALL electoral processes until 6 May 2021 unless amended by Ministerial Order.

For clarity therefore I have listed below the process which will be followed by the Returning Officer;

From 7 September 2020:

- 1) Publication of Notice of Postponement (attached)
- 2) Parish Council will be notified of the Vacancies subject to Election
- 3) Parish Council will be advised that co-option to the 3 vacancies will **NOT** be authorised.

In line with the provisions of the Coronavirus act 2020, once authorised by Ministerial Order the following steps will be undertaken:

- 4) The date of the Election will be determined;
- 5) Publication of the ([www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)) Notice of Election and formal electoral timetable;
- 6) Receive formal Nomination forms; and
- 7) Conduct the Election.

I hope this clearly sets out the process that will be followed going forward.

Dated Monday 7 September 2020

Andy Wright  
Returning Officer