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Mr Kevin Martin  
Clerk to the Council

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **CASUAL VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR – MAREHAM WARD**

Following a recent councillor resignation, Sleaford Town Council has agreed to fill the vacancy in the Mareham Ward.

As there are ordinary elections planned for May 2019, the legislation does not allow residents to request a bye-election, so the Town Council will be using the co-option process to appoint a new councillor.

Expressions of interest to fill the vacancy are invited. Interested parties are asked to complete a simple form which is available via the Council website [www.sleaford.gov.uk](http://www.sleaford.gov.uk) or by emailing [enquiries@sleaford.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@sleaford.gov.uk). Completed forms need to be returned to the Town Hall by midday on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

All applicants will then be invited to attend the Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 here in the Town Hall at 7.00pm and asked to speak with councillors. Up to 10 minutes is allotted for each applicant. After all the applicants have spoken, Town Councillors will then make a selection to fill the vacancy.

This process, including the selection by councillors, will be carried out in 'open session'.

Applicants should be aware therefore that other members of the public could be present on the night as the co-option process will be carried out during a normal Council meeting.

Eligibility criteria, as laid down by the Representation of the People Regulations, will apply to all applicants. These will be sent with the application form or can be seen on [www.sleaford.gov.uk](http://www.sleaford.gov.uk)

Prospective applicants should also be aware;

- That the successful candidate will not receive the parish basic allowance as co-opted councillors are not eligible under the relevant legislation
- The appointed person will currently only stand as a councillor until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 (the date for the next planned council elections)
- That the Mareham Ward is being combined with the Quarrington Ward in the May 2019 elections (this will not affect the overall number of councillors to be elected however)

If anyone has any queries please contact the Town Clerk, Kevin Martin on 01529 303546 or email [kevin.martin@sleaford.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.martin@sleaford.gov.uk)