

Councillor Tim Bennett

**Why did you become a Councillor?**

I'm pretty jaded and apathetic about national party politics but still have a passion for community and positive change in society and saw the Town Council as an opportunity to actually be involved in the decisions that affect the fabric of our town rather than sitting back and grousing about them down the pub and on social media.

**How much of your time is spent on Councillor duties each month?**

It varies, but I'd be surprised if it took up more than 2-3 days of my time. That said, I only sit on one committee and one working group, so the potential for more time commitment is there.

**What do you think makes a good Councillor?**

Honesty, patience, and perseverance. I'd assume it goes without saying that a councillor should really care about their town and community!

**What changes/benefits for the town have you been able to influence since becoming a Councillor?**

I'm still pretty green having only joined the council at Easter, and the pace of local government is glacial, but since joining I have begun to redevelop the relationship between TTC and Daisy & Rainbow Nurseries, successfully tabled a motion for the council to write to our MP and the District and County Councils regarding the crisis in early years education recruitment and the negative impact on Totnes' economy and the educational and emotional development of our youngest citizens. I sit on the Planning Committee which most of the time is not headline grabbing stuff, but it has a very tangible presence and importance in many of our resident's lives and I consider it one of the most important responsibilities of the Town Council.

**What do you enjoy most about being a Councillor?**

I think it's also really important that there are young(er) voices represented on the council and I'm proud to be one of them.

Councillor Bennett was elected on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.