**Parish Council Dataset Codebook – ESRC project ‘Citizen Contribution to Local Public Services: Field Experiments in Institutions Incorporating Social Information’ Grant no** [**ES/J012424/1**](https://www.researchfish.com/research?filter=ESRC-ES/J012424/1&gorderby=organisation&zone=portfolio&ob=created)

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clerkcode unique id no for clerk (note that some clerks cover more than one parish so their number could appear more than once)

parish name of parish council

warded is the parish divided into wards? (1 = yes, 0 = no)

competitive\_election did the parish hold a competitive election on May 7th 2015? (1 = yes, 0 = no) (ie there were more candidates than seats). For parishes containing several wards with separate election, we class the parish as contested if 50% or more of the ward elections were contested.

number\_seats no of seats in the parish

no\_candidates no of candidates that stood for election in the parish

ratio calculated ratio of candidates to seats (no. candidates/ no. seats)

parishcode2 unique id number of each parish

letterassigned2 parish council was sent briefing letter (1 = yes, 0 = no)

attendedbriefing a representative from the parish attended the briefing session (1 = yes, 0 = no)

clerkattended the clerk attended the briefing session (1 = yes, 0 = no)

councillorattended one or more councillors attended the briefing session (1 = yes, 0 = no)

County county that the parish is located in

malecandidates No. of male candidates

femalecandidates No. of female candidates

unknown No. of candidates with unknown gender identity

**Search of minutes:**

number\_election No. of times ’election’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_contestedelection No. of times ’contested election’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_wideningrecruitment No. of times ‘widening recruitment’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_candidate No. of times ‘candidate’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_givingtime No. of times ‘Giving Time’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_peterjohn No. of times ‘Peter John’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_gerrystoker No. of times ’Gerry Stoker’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_ucl No. of times ‘UCL’ is mentioned in minutes

number\_universitycollegelondon No. of times ‘university college london’ is mentioned in   
minutes

number\_universityofsouthampton No. of times ‘university of southampton’ is mentioned in   
minutes

number\_southamptonuniversity No. of times ‘southampton university’ is mentioned in   
minutes

number\_uncontestedelection No. of times ’uncontested election’ is mentioned in minutes

**Survey responses:**

surveyID Unique survey ID no for those that responded to the survey

completedsurvey Did the parish complete a survey? (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsagenda\_survey Did parish add the item of elections as an the agenda of the parish or town council meeting (1 = yes, 0 = no)

elections\_discussed Discussed elections at town or parish council meeting/s (1 = yes, 0 = no) (survey response) (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsevent Held or took part in an event to advertise elections (eg stall at a community event, roadshow etc) (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsnewsletter Put a notice in the parish, town council or community newsletter about the election (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsleaflet Distributed a leaflet about the candidates standing for election (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsposter Put up a poster to advertise the election/ candidates (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionswebsite Included an item about the election on the parish, town council or community website (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsother other means used of advertising election (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsotherdetails string variable – details of other means used to advertise election

electionsnotapplicable\_survey not applicable (no contested election held) (1 = yes, 0 = no)

electionsactivity No of activities carried out to publicise election (summed from previous responses regarding elections activity)

candidatedifficulty How easy or difficult do you feel it is to encourage candidates to stand for election as parish or town councillors? (1-100) cursor used where 1 = very easy, 100 = very difficult

**In your opinion, what are the major reasons why it can sometimes be difficult to encourage candidates to stand in parish and town council elections? Some possible reasons are listed below. *Please choose the 3 that you feel are most important*.**

time being a councillor is time consuming (1 = yes, 0 = no)

nosalary Lack of salary for undertaking role (1 = yes, 0 = no)

legalresponsibilities Fear of legal responsibilities than might be entailed (1 = yes, 0 =no)

fearofpubliceye Fear of being in the public eye (1 = yes, 0 = no)

redtape Perception that there will be lots of red tape involved (1 = yes, 0 =   
no)

incumbentresistance Resistance from incumbents (1 = yes, 0 = no)

localpeople Reluctance to be involved in decisions affecting people known to   
them in locality (1 = yes, 0 = no)

lackexperience Lack of previous experience in such roles (1 = yes, 0 = no)

toolittlepower Perception that parish and town councils have limited power to   
make a difference (1 = yes, 0 = no)

lackknowledge Lack of knowledge about the councillor role (1 = yes, 0 = no)

nothinincommon Feeling that parish or town councils are dominated by people they   
have little in common with (1 = yes, 0 = no)

**Listed below are some possible ways of recruiting candidates to stand as town or parish councillors. *Please tick any that your parish undertook ahead of your last elections (tick as many as applicable) or add further items in the blank boxes*:**

wideningrecrtuimentagenda\_survey Placed the issue of widening recruitment as an item on the   
agenda for discussion at a Parish or Town Council meeting  
(1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatesevent Held an event to advertise parish or town councillor role/ recruit   
candidates (1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatesnewsletter Put a notice in the parish, town council or community newsletter   
about parish or town councillor vacancies (1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidateswebsite Used social media (eg facebook, twitter) to recruit candidates   
(1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatessocialmedia Used other media (eg local radio station/ local newspaper) to recruit   
candidates (1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatesothermedia Used other media (eg local radio station/ local newspaper) to recruit   
candidates (1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatesother other means of recruiting candidates (1 = yes, 0 = no)

candidatesotherdetails String variable describing other means of recruiting candidates

candidatesrecruitmentactivity No of activities carried out to recruit candidates (summed from previous responses)

councillorsapproached Did any of the councillors in power (to the best of your knowledge)   
make a direct approach to someone to encourage them to stand as a councillor? (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998= don’t know)

youpersonallyapproached Did you personally make a direct approach to someone to encourage them to stand? (1 = yes, 0 = no)

**If you personally approached someone, whom did you ask? (tick as many as applicable)**

neighbour (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=not applicable)

friend (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=not applicable)

family (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=not applicable)

acquaintance (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=not applicable)

notknownpersonally someone not known to me personally (1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=not applicable)

recruitmentstrategy Did your parish/ town council have a written strategy aimed at recruiting candidates to stand for election? 1 = yes, 0 = no, 2 = other (used other method of recruiting candidates), 998 = not applicable – nor parish council vacancies/ no contested election held)

recruitmentstrategytext String variable describing ‘other’ response from above – description of other activities used to recruit candidates

expressedinterestsurvey Did anyone express interest in standing as a candidate?   
(1 = yes, 0 = no, 998=can’t remember/ don’t know)

numberexpressedinterestsurvey If yes, how many people expressed an interest?

newcandidatesurvey Did any new candidates stand?  
(1 = yes, 0 = no, 2=can’t remember/ don’t know)

numbernewcandidatessurvey If yes, to your knowledge, how many new people stood for office?