



The Bell Principles

We will:

- abide wholeheartedly by the spirit and letter of the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by Lord Nolan in 1995:
 - selflessness,
 - integrity,
 - objectivity,
 - accountability,
 - openness,
 - honesty and
 - leadership
- be guided by considered evidence, our real world experience and expertise, our constituencies and our consciences
- be free from the control of any political party, pressure group or whip
- be non-discriminatory, ethical and committed to pluralism.
- make decisions transparently and openly at every stage and level of the political process, enabling people to see how decisions are made and the evidence on which they are based
- listen, consulting our communities constantly and innovatively
- treat political opponents with courtesy and respect, challenging them when we believe they are wrong, and agreeing with them when we believe they are right
- resist abuses of power and patronage and promote democracy at every level
- claim expenses, salaries and compensation openly so the public can judge the value for money of our activities.

Inspiration from Independents for Frome

Independents for Frome established the following values, ones that we respect (but belong to Frome):

"It is expected that while all members of the group will be independent individuals all will subscribe to the following values:

Independence.

Traditional party politics are corrosive and serve no purpose at a local level. IFF councilors would be non-party and free to make decisions on behalf of the community without policy imposed from outside, nor with the requirement to vote as a block.

Integrity.

We intend to introduce as much transparency and openness into the system as possible; limiting private meetings, providing easy access to minutes and decision making, and improving public involvement and consultation.

A "Can Do" approach.

The council can, and should, be the positive hub that helps to ensure the joint success of the private, public and voluntary sectors of Frome, sometimes thinking the “unthinkable” to produce “the supposedly undoable”

A New Sustainable way of working.

We want to rethink the role of the council to youth, arts, the elderly, education, employment and the voluntary sector whilst lobbying assertively for more resources for the town.

Fairness.

A belief in fairness and compassion founded on a respect for local democracy producing a society run for all.

Cleaner and Greener.

Developing creative alliances to make Frome a cleaner and greener place to live."