

## The cost of democracy or it's a fair cop

All things come at a price. Some at a higher price than others whilst there are those which are priceless.

I have no objection to paying my taxes national and local, I have earned and paid many more times than the nation average. I don't expect 2 or votes in proportion to my taxes. I have benefited from the opportunities this society offered me I'm happy to pay for others.

There are some circumstances where it is in my opinion just plain wrong to tax me. A council with a history of co-option is one of those circumstances. There is no such thing as fair co-option.

One must ask why parish councils co-opt? Perhaps they don't want the cost of an election, perhaps no one is willing to stand, maybe they just want to keep it cosy amongst the village elders?

Whatever the reason the situation could easily be solved, no election no precept that would after all really save ratepayers money whilst providing a real incentive to promote democracy.

So if you're a resident use the rule of 10 to force an election at the next vacancy. If existing members complain and publicise the costs well that's democracy, after all they should have provided reserves to cover the costs of an election.

If you're a councillor have you ensured that the costs of a contested election are included in your budget, if not why?

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Posted: 4 days, 21 hours ago by [colinosborn](#) #1399

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