

CANVASSING CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society's elections to the Board of Director, Membership Committee and Members' Council.

1. In the conduct of the elections and the interpretation of this Code of Practice, the Society Secretary shall be the Returning Officer, whose decision shall be final.
2. In accordance with the required nomination supportive documents, each candidate will be asked to submit a written election address with their nomination form.
3. The Returning Officer will arrange for candidates' election addresses, along with a current photograph, to be contained within a publication and / or online, which will contain details of all candidates who have met the eligibility criteria seeking election.
4. Candidates' details will be made available to Members in the period of six weeks immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.
5. The election will be conducted in accordance with the Society's Rules.
6. Candidates may canvass their personal contacts for support either in person, by post, telephone, email or using social media with the following important exceptions:
 - (a) No canvassing by or on behalf of any candidate is permitted on Society premises, or using Society tools or facilities or contact lists, or on-line groups moderated by the Society. This includes electronic bulletin boards, Society email lists or Society social media (e.g. Facebook or Twitter).
 - (b) No committee or group supported by the Society may publicly endorse a candidate or facilitate use of their tools or facilities or contact lists, or on-line groups moderated by them. This includes their electronic bulletin boards, email lists or social media (e.g. Facebook or Twitter).
 - (c) No candidate may solicit external organisations to endorse them or facilitate use of their tools or facilities or contact lists, or on-line groups moderated by them. This includes their electronic bulletin boards, email lists or social media (e.g. Facebook or Twitter).
 - (d) No candidate may canvas votes by any other means if not explicitly covered in this Code of Practice. This prohibition applies not just to the candidate, but to the Society's elected bodies, Members' groups and any other person / body on the candidate's behalf. A copy of this Code of Practice will be made available to all candidates.
 - (e) No candidate may disparage a fellow candidate in their election materials or canvassing activity.
7. Any breach of this Code of Practice by a candidate will render the candidate liable to disqualification from the election by the Returning Officer, or, if the breach is found after the election, shall be deemed to be a breach of the Code of Conduct for Directors or Other elected positions (as applicable) and will be dealt with accordingly.