



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes
Association of Local Councils

Article 5

Life as a Councillor

Cllr Nick Penny was just twenty-seven when he joined Coleford Town Council in the Forest of Dean because he felt that he had the energy to make a difference in his community and bring fresh ideas to the council.

In 2018, Cllr Penny was honoured to lead a £1.2m recreational scheme for Coleford that delivered much-needed facilities for local young people. These facilities include a skate park and a multi-use game area set in a tranquil environment and accessible to all. The facilities include a wildlife pond, an amphitheatre, exercise, and balance trails, as well as large open green spaces for all to enjoy. The council is now looking at developing a walking and cycling hub to support tourism and residents.

One of Cllr Penny's achievements is Coleford Town Council's strategic five-year plan, which is now in its second run. By having the structure of a plan, Coleford can budget to deliver much more over the term of office and set the next council up with foundations to build upon. This structure has resulted in the council providing the Bells Field Recreational Scheme, a Tourist Information Centre, town twinning, a regular events programme, community grants, strong links with local businesses and schools.