Local Elections 7th May 2015

Richard Ellis – Returning Officer
Sheena Mortimer – Electoral Services Manager
Elections in May 2015

Elections taking place on

7th May 2015
Elections in May 2015

Parliamentary Elections

Rutland and Melton Constituency
Harborough Constituency
South Leicestershire Constituency

45 Parish Councils
292 Parish Council Seats
Elections in May 2015

District Elections

Harborough District Wards

25 Wards

37 District Council Seats
Elections in May 2015

Qualification to stand as a parish councillor

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election in England or a community council election in Wales you must:

• be at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination

• be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union
Elections in May 2015

And meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

• You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.

• You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

• Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.

• You have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
Elections in May 2015

Disqualifications

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified from standing. There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a parish council. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination and on the day of the election:

- You are employed by the parish council or hold a paid office under the parish council (including joint boards or committees)
- You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day
- You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations)
The full range of disqualifications is complex and if you are in any doubt about whether you are disqualified, you must do everything you can to check that you are not disqualified before submitting your nomination papers.

The Returning Officer will not be able to confirm whether or not you are disqualified.
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember –

- **Monday 16\(^{th}\) March** - Nomination Packs available from your Parish Clerk, from the Elections Team or by download from the Council’s website (www.harborough.gov.uk)
Elections in May 2015

• The nomination form and consent to nomination must be submitted by hand by the appropriate person and cannot be submitted by post, fax, e-mail or other electronic means

• Informal check arrangements are available by appointment – contact the Elections office
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember –

• **Monday 30th March** – Notice of election is published, the Returning Officer and his staff can accept hand delivered completed packs

• **Thursday 9th April 4 pm** – This is the deadline for receipt of completed nomination packs, no packs can be accepted after the 4pm deadline
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember -

Nomination papers receipt venues are –

- **30th March** – Kibworth Grammar School Hall
- **31st March** – Lutterworth Town Council Offices
- **7th April** – Tilton on the Hill Village Hall

- Staff from the Elections Team will be available to receive hand delivered nomination papers between **4pm and 7pm**
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember –

• **Monday 20th April** – this is the last day to be registered to vote. Changes to registration mean you are not guaranteed to be registered immediately so don’t leave it till the last day
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember –

• **Thursday 7th May** – Day of Poll the polling stations will be open from 7am till 10 pm

• Verification of votes, this will take place at one of the 3 parliamentary count areas after the close of poll
Elections in May 2015

Key dates to remember –

• **Friday 8th May** – Counting of votes for the contested parish elections will take place from 12.30 pm at Harborough Leisure Centre

• **Thursday 4th June** – return of elections expenses for parish candidates
Elections in May 2015

Contested/Uncontested Elections

• If more valid nomination papers than available seats are received an election will take place on 7th May

• If the election is not contested those candidates validly nominated are ‘elected’
Elections in May 2015

• If there is no contested election but the Council is quorate it can co-opt to fill remaining vacancies

• If the parish council is not quorate then it cannot co-opt. The District Council will order a further election to fill the vacant seats
Elections in May 2015

Further Information
Harborough District Council’s website includes information on the elections process. All election notices will also be published on the website.

www.harborough.gov.uk

The Electoral Commission publish detailed guidance on the elections process for candidates and agents which can be downloaded from their website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

The Local Government Association has published advice on becoming a councillor

www.beacouncillor.org.uk

The Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils provide advice and guidance on all parish matters, including elections

www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk
Candidates and agents at local elections in England and Wales

This page contains all the guidance and resources that you need if you are a candidate or agent at local elections in England and Wales.

- Click here for guidance on parish or community elections

An overview document gives instructions on how to use this guidance and who does what at these elections. Read the Overview for candidates and agents (PDF) >

Latest updates

Updated guidance published
31-07-2014
What matters to you in your local area?

Is it the state of the local park, the need for more activities for young people, improving services for older people, making the roads safer or ensuring that local businesses can thrive?

Whatever needs changing in your neighbourhood, you could be just the person to change it by becoming a local councillor. No other role gives you a chance to make such a huge difference to quality of life for people in your local area.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>16th March 2015</td>
<td>Nomination packs available</td>
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| 30th March 2015    | • Notice of Election published  
                      | • Completed nomination papers can be accepted by Returning Officer |
| 4pm 9th April 2015 | • Deadline for delivery of nomination papers  
                      | • Deadline for withdrawals of nomination  
                      | • Deadline for notification of appointment of election agent       |
| 4pm 10th April 2015| Publication of statement of persons nominated                       |
| 28th April 2015    | Publication of notice of poll                                       |
| 29th April 2015    | Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents |
| 7th May 2015       | • Polling day (7am to 10pm)  
                      | • Verification of votes                                            |
| 8th May 2015       | Counting of votes                                                   |
| 4th June 2015      | Deadline for delivery of return as to election expenses              |
Thank you for your time

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
MAKE SURE YOU’RE IN