

News Release for the June 4th 2009 Kent County and European Parliamentary Elections

The 2009 European and Kent County elections are at large!

The next scheduled elections are to the Kent County Council and to the European Parliament and will take place on Thursday, June 4th 2009.

Only those people whose names are included on the register of electors are entitled to vote so it is definitely in your interests to get on to the register and to stay on it.

The deadline for registering to vote is 19th May. Please don't leave it till near to the deadline in the run-up to polling day; do it now. The voter registration form is available for download at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections

Postal and proxy voting

If you would like to apply for a postal vote you have until 5pm on 19th May to submit an application.

If you would like to apply for a proxy vote (that is appointing someone to vote on your behalf) you have until 5pm on 27th May to submit an application.

To obtain an application form please contact us on either elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk, 01732 227188 or 01732 227243. Please note these forms are not available from our website.

If you have an existing postal or proxy arrangement with us and would like to amend any of the details, you have until 5pm on 19th May to contact us; however please contact us as soon as possible on the above email address or phone number.

Election information

Shortly before polling day a poll card will be delivered through your door detailing exactly when and what polling station you need to visit to vote. Postal and proxy voters will also receive a poll card which acts as a helpful reminder that polling day is on it's way very soon!

For information on all elections in the Sevenoaks District, live election results and for the voter registration form, please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/elections where you can also browse the frequently asked questions section.

Kemsing, Bough Beech & East Hill

There have been recent revisions to polling stations for electors of Kemsing and East Hill.

Many thanks to The Dynes residential nursing home, who have agreed to jump on board as our new polling station for the electors of the Kemsing West polling district and will be providing plenty of car parking for voters.

Electors from the Kemsing East polling district will still need to visit The St. Edith Hall.

Sadly the village hall at Bough Beech is no longer available to us for use as a polling station. The Wheatsheaf at Bough Beech have kindly stepped in to remedy this situation and electors of the Bough Beech polling district will now be voting there.

All the electors of the East Hill polling district will now need to visit Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane (as East Hill Barn is no longer available for use as a polling station).

Your poll card will detail exactly where you need visit to vote.

16 and 17 year olds

Are you 16 or 17? Did you know that you can register to vote? The legal voting age in the UK is 18 however you may register early in preparation for becoming 18. If a snap general election was called on your 18th birthday and you weren't registered, then you would not be able to vote as the registration deadline is always 11 working days before election day. Make sure you are registered!

The electoral services team at Sevenoaks District Council recently organised for every 16-18 year old in every secondary school in the Sevenoaks district to receive a free pen and a free yo-yo both embossed with a special 'register to vote now' message.

Did you know that the legal age for standing as a candidate has been lowered from 21 to 18? Why not become a real politician!

Why should I vote at these elections?

This is an important way you can make your voice heard on issues that concern you. Every day decisions are made on your behalf by your county councillors and your members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on a wide variety of local and national issues. Don't lose your right to vote - register your name on the register of electors.

Votewise

A brand new website has been launched that encourages candidates to register on the site with their photo, party name and details of issues they believe in. This could be a good source of election information for electors. [Votewise](http://www.votewise.co.uk) can be visited at www.votewise.co.uk and the electoral services team at Sevenoaks District Council will be encouraging candidates to register their details.