

Ask elections team for advice

A series of drop in sessions have been organised in South Northamptonshire and Cherwell to assist voters with any questions regarding this year's elections which are taking place on Thursday, 7 May 2015.

The shared elections team at South Northamptonshire and Cherwell District Councils will host the events to coincide with National Voter Registration Day on 5 February.

The drop in sessions will provide residents with an opportunity to confirm or provide their details on the new electoral register, explain the different ways to vote in May and promote the opportunity to work at the forthcoming elections.

Sue Smith, electoral registration officer for Cherwell and South Northamptonshire, said: "Last year the Government changed the way in which people register to vote by introducing Individual Electoral registration which makes each voter responsible for registering their own vote. In conjunction with that, National Voter Registration Day is a Government initiative to remind people to include their details on the new electoral register in time for this year's elections.

"Our drop-in sessions are an informal opportunity for residents to approach the elections team direct to ask any questions regarding the forthcoming elections and receive advice or assistance where necessary. What's more, people can find out how to earn money during the elections by working as a poll clerk, presiding officer or count assistants in either Cherwell or South Northamptonshire."

Individual Electoral Registration (IER) involves each eligible voter confirming their own details on the electoral register, as opposed to the previous system which required one person confirming all residents within that household. The aim of IER is to cut down on electoral fraud by using information held by the Department for Work and Pensions to confirm residents.'

The drop in sessions will enable people to check if their details are included on the new register, receive details of how to register online or be registered by a member of the elections team if they do not have internet access. Residents can also receive details of how to vote at a polling station or how to apply for a postal or proxy vote. Application packs will also be available for people to take away if they are interested in working on the election.

At the Cherwell events, residents will also be able to receive information across various subjects from recycling to housing from the council's outreach team.

The drop in sessions will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 3 February 10.30am – 12.30pm at Market Place Brackley (South Northamptonshire)
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- Tuesday 3 February 1pm – 3.30pm at Waitrose car park in Towcester (South Northamptonshire)
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- Wednesday 4 February 11am – 1pm in Sheep Street, Bicester (Cherwell)
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- Thursday 5 February 11am – 1.30pm outside Marks and Spencer, Banbury (Cherwell)

For more information about the drop-in events in Cherwell call 01295 227005 or for details about the South Northamptonshire sessions call 01327 322128.