

www.charnwood.gov.uk information@charnwood.gov.uk

THE 2007 Local Elections proved to be a day of firsts for Charnwood Borough Council.

From polling stations in a skittle alley at a local pub to votes being counted on the night of the elections itself, the Authority's dedicated staff and tireless volunteers ensured everything went to plan.

But this was by no means an easy task.

Charnwood's Returning Officer Brian Hayes was faced with a new role of checking all the signatures and dates of birth of postal voters - a job not made easier by the fact that electors could still deliver postal votes to polling stations until close of poll at 10pm.

The Count was moved from Loughborough Town Hall to Loughborough Leisure Centre to accommodate more than 100 counters and the hundreds of candidates, agents, guests and media representatives.

A total of 52 seats were up for grabs in the Borough Council elections and voters had 15 hours to visit polling



A HIVE OF ACTIVITY: Counters add up the number of votes cast while candidates look on during the count at Loughborough Leisure Centre

A day of firsts at elections

stations - two more hours than in 2003.

The final result was announced at 4.45am in the morning but Mr Hayes was pleased with the efforts of everyone working at the elections.

He said: "Against all

the odds, Charnwood Borough Council managed a 100 per cent check of the personal identifiers of postal voters and counted all votes on the night - an achievement not matched by many other

Councils in the country.

"This was a great credit to all those who worked tirelessly to attain this result."

The Conservatives took control of Charnwood from the Labour/Liberal Democrat alliance, winning 32 of the 52 seats available.

Labour claimed a total of 13 seats, the Liberal Democrats won five, while there is one independent and one British National Party representative on the Council.

● **Meet your Councillor - see A-Z Guide.**

Decision making by the Council

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to attend Charnwood Borough Council meetings and give their views on decisions taking on their behalf.

A number of important decisions are taken by the Authority's Cabinet, a group of leading Councillors who have responsibility for an area of the Council's activity.

Each month a Forward Plan of important decisions due to be taken during the following four months is published.

This Plan is available for inspection on the Council and Democracy section of the Council's web site -

www.charnwood.gov.uk - and also at the Council's offices, in Southfield Road, Loughborough, during normal office hours.

The plan contains information on the decision to be taken, when the decision is likely to be taken and by who and how you can make your comments.

Copies of the agenda and reports open to the public can also be accessed through the Council's the web site.

They are also available for inspection at the Council Offices at least five clear days before the relevant meeting.

Further information about how the Council makes decisions can be found in the Council and Democracy section of the Council's website. Alternatively, call Committee Services on (01509) 634 786, write to Charnwood Borough Council, Southfield Road, Loughborough, LE11 2TX or email democracy@charnwood.gov.uk

Election facts and figures

- There were 130 candidates for 52 seats of the Borough Council (128 candidates for 52 seats in 2003)
- The number of people on the electoral register in Charnwood for these elections was 125,767 (122,176 in 2003)
- The number of people voting by post at the Borough Election was 9,510 (3,752 in 2003)
- The overall turnout for the Borough elections was 39.02% compared to 29.51% in 2003 - a 9½% increase
- To serve the voters of the Borough, a total of 70 polling stations were used - the largest being the Memorial Hall at Mountsorrel (5,259 electors) and the smallest at the Village Hall, Ratcliffe on the Wreake (145 electors)
- Unusual polling stations included a car showroom at Sandcliffe's Garage in Loughborough and a skittle alley at the Horse and Groom pub in Rearsby



IN FOR THE COUNT: The Ballot boxes arrive.