



**Corks Lane
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**MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH REMINDS RESIDENTS "DON'T LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!"

Electoral registration forms will start dropping on doormats across Babergh district this week. As they do so, electors are being asked to complete and return them as soon as possible, both to ensure they don't lose their right to vote and in order to help the Council keep down its administrative costs.

"With European elections due in June 2004, only those people on the electoral register can vote – and the only way to make sure you are on the register is to fill in and return the form to us straightaway" explained Ray Amesbury, Babergh District Council's Electoral Services manager. "If the preprinted name and address details are correct, all you have to do is sign it and pop it in the post – you don't even need a stamp."

All residential properties in the area will be getting a form which is preprinted with the details of the people registered for that address in the current year. Any changes for the year to come should be marked clearly on the form. If there are no changes the form must still be signed and returned. Anyone who does not receive a form should contact the Council as soon as possible on 01473 825713.

- People can apply to vote to vote by post or by proxy at future elections. With a postal vote, you fill in the ballot paper yourself and post it to the Council. With a proxy vote, you name someone to vote for you at your polling station. To get either of these you need to apply beforehand. Telephone 01473 825713 for further details and an application form.
- Householders returning the electoral registration forms should include the names of 16 and 17 year olds as they will be able to vote at elections when they reach 18 only if their names are on the register. There is a column on the registration form for the dates of birth of 16 and 17 year olds. The Electoral Services section will make sure that the date when they reach 18 is noted on the register of electors.

"Although Babergh will be employing people to chase up residents who have not filled in their forms, it will save the Council money if we can keep this door-to-door follow-up to a minimum" added Mr Amesbury. ENDS

For further information: Paul Simon, Communications & PR Officer (01473) 826634