

Contribution from Mary Marshall

I thought I would send this as it is thoughts on my experience last year when I nearly didn't vote because like many people I had so much on my mind at the time. Perhaps it will trigger some ideas.

During this year's European and local elections I was busy. Glossy leaflets from candidates were briefly read as they arrived then placed in recycling. The basic black and white polling card was easily identified as important and so I pinned it to my notice board (could have been my fridge freezer using fridge magnet). On Election Day I had no idea who to vote for. I wish I had kept the candidates leaflets pinned in the same place.

Although I looked on the internet the information **it wasn't a simple few clicks away.**

Perhaps a web address on the polling card to a page which links to each candidates web page/face book/twitter could help. This may be one way I could look at the policies and profiles of those independent candidates who I might wish to vote for. I am sure there are a lot of worthy candidates who would make wonderfully dedicated MP's but whose honesty and integrity will not allow them to associate with a political party with whose policies they cannot wholly agree with.

Register a mobile number for each voter and send them a text on polling day. It works for my dental surgery!

Another thought: Perhaps a short advertisement illustrating this 'idea' and to encourage people to jot down their concerns so if they do have their mind on other things and a candidate knocks on their door they are prepared. This does not have to be something sophisticated just a note on a bit torn from the back of an envelope or junk mail rescued from recycling, pinned with the polling card on the notice board or fixed to the fridge freezer using a magnet.

Mary k Marshall