

Democracy needs you

We may not be able to predict what will happen to us in the future. But we should not miss the opportunity to play our part in it.

I am sure it has not escaped your notice that there is a lot of election talk in the air. The national media is full of it, regular polls are predicting a win this way or a swing that way, and I am sure it will not be long before we see the iconic election image of the first politician kissing the baby.

In fact even now you may be sick of hearing the 'e' word and can't wait until it is all over.

But the cornerstone of our democracy is the right to vote for who we want running our country. There are people around the world envious of this right. There are those who have died or risked imprisonment fighting for that right.

I can't blame people for being disillusioned about the goings on in Westminster, especially MPs expenses – and many people say they will not vote in protest.

I am not making any party political broadcast – I am urging everyone to make sure they are registered to vote and then to exercise their democratic right and take part in the general election whenever it may be.

If you are unsure whether you are registered, or want to register, speak to the council's elections team on elections@staffordbc.gov.uk or 01785 619424. Or go to the elections pages of the website – you will find it in the 'council and democracy' section.