

And the winner is...democracy

I know it is over, and you can be forgiven if you are fed up to the back teeth with politicians, but I make no apologies for using my 'May' blog to talk about the General Election.

I am delighted of course that Conservative candidates won in both the Stone and Stafford constituencies.

But, putting my political colours to one side for a moment, it is two other aspects of the General Election that I want to concentrate on.

Firstly - at a time when we were being told that people were turned off by the election and wouldn't bother voting, both Stafford and Stone had a turnout of over 70%.

Stafford at 71.22% was nearly 3.5% up on the previous parliamentary ballot. And it was a similar story at Stone with a turnout of 70.55% - a more than 3% increase from the 2005 figure. This tells me that Stafford Borough people care. Whether you were voting for the three main political parties or otherwise, our community answered the call to play a part in our most important democratic process.

And then when I watched the scenes around the country where people were queuing for over an hour at polling stations, only to be denied the opportunity of voting, I thought how fortunate we are to have such a professional elections team, brilliantly supported by hundreds of volunteers, who made everything run very smoothly.

In February, under the title '*Democracy needs you,*' I wrote in my blog:
"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."

So well done to all those who exercised their right to vote and congratulations to the Borough Council elections team for making it all look so easy.

On election day in our borough - the winner was democracy.