



# Media Release

*Lynne Mee*

***Direct line 01423 556022***

**Communications and Media Manager** Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

24 hour fax “ 556010  
Mobile 07884 226409

Email [lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk)

[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

pr1055.electoral canvass 04.doc

DATE: 27 September 2004

**photo opportunity – see below**

## **VOTERS EMBRACE MODERN TECHNOLOGY**

**ALTHOUGH** the government struggled to provide an all-postal ballot for local elections this year, Harrogate Borough Council is succeeding with an all-postal canvass of its electors for next year’s electoral roll.

Because the council was facing the running of a referendum for the Regional Assembly at the same time as compiling its register of all 115,000 electors in the district, the decision was taken to issue all election canvass forms via the Royal Mail rather than the usual door to door canvass carried out in the past.

Although over 13,000 forms have been returned in the week since they were delivered to nearly 70,000 households, election officers are urging residents to make sure they are on the register by returning them in time for the 15 October qualifying date.

Peter Jordan, the council’s Borough Administrator said: “It really couldn’t be easier for residents to make sure they are on the register. As well as the easy to use form with the pre-paid envelope, we are also inviting those households where there is no change of circumstance to use the telephone or the internet. Of those households 9000 have responded already by phone and nearly 1400 via the internet. One of the bonuses of using the internet is that residents can ask for confirmation of their registration.

“There is every indication that there will be a general election next year when we know we will get a lot of calls from residents who suddenly discover that they aren’t on the register. There is nothing that we can do for them and it is difficult for us and upsetting for residents when they have to be told that they don’t have a vote. So we are urging everyone to make sure they are on the new register, which will come into force on 1 December.”

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 1.30 pm Tuesday, 28 September 2004 when the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate, Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, will be using a computer in the electoral office to use the internet to register on the electoral roll.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr Peter Jordan, Borough Administrator is available for comment on 01423 556015.**