

## **Older People's Council Election 2011 – you may want to read this if you didn't receive a voting paper**

During much of May and June, members of the Older People's Council (the OPC) have been publicising the OPC Election and seeking to attract eligible candidates to stand for election in the nine zones across Brighton & Hove. A total of over 4,000 leaflets have been distributed to all city libraries, to Brighton and Hove Town Halls, to all sheltered accommodation schemes, and to as many community and voluntary sector venues as we could reach. In addition articles were printed in City News, and in the Argus newspaper.

The emphasis of all the publicity had been three-fold:

- to encourage older people in the city to **register to vote** for their Older People's Council;
- to encourage older people to **vote** in the election for the OPC;
- and to **encourage candidates to put themselves forward for election** to the OPC.

In spite of a lot of hard work to promote the OPC election and to encourage participation, in only **two** of the nine electoral zones did sufficient candidates come forward, so in **only two zones** (North Portslade, South Portslade and Wish; and East Brighton and Queen's Park) has it been possible to hold elections and for the voters to be sent ballot papers and other information for their postal vote.

In each of the remaining seven zones across the city, a nomination was received for only one candidate to stand for election and as a result, according to the official rules under which the election is held, those seven individual candidates have been elected unopposed. The seven zones where this applies are: Rottingdean Coastal and Woodingdean; Hollingdean & Stanmer and Moulsecoomb & Bevendean; Hanover & Elm Grove, Preston Park, and St Peter's & North Laine; Patcham and Withdean; Brunswick & Adelaide, Goldsmid and Regency; Hangleton & Knoll, and Hove Park; and Central Hove and Westbourne). So if you live in any of these seven zones and were registered to vote in OPC elections, you will not have received a postal vote.

We are sorry that many voters have not been able to vote in the zones where the seven candidates were elected unopposed. The consolation is that we believe that we have nevertheless secured seven very able and enthusiastic members of the OPC to work with the two members who were elected in those zones where an election was held.

1 July 2011