



e-democracy: an overview

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a many-splendored thing

- e-participation: e-debate, e-consultation, e-forums, e-communities
- e-lobbying
- e-politics
- e-voting
- e-government and local e-government

e-participation

- Tell Parliament
www.tellparliament.net
- Online consultation by Select Committees, with support from the Hansard Society
e.g. hate crime in Northern Ireland; Diabetes; and connecting people with Parliament
- The mainstream political parties:
Labour's Big Conversation (no longer online)

e-participation

- Discussion boards – reviewed by Socitm’s ‘Better Connected 2006’: just 11% of council sites (50 councils) of which 70% general, 30% specialised
- Half of all councils offer website consultation
- Email issues forums

e-communities

- BBC Action Network – future uncertain
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/actionnetwork/>
- MySociety
www.mysociety.org
- PledgeBank
www.PledgeBank.com

e-lobbying

- Live8, Tescopoly.org
- e-Petitioner
<http://itc.napier.ac.uk/>
- WriteToThem.com (formerly FaxYourMP)
- E-petitions on Downing St website

e-politics

- Howard Dean – the nearly man
- Bush - email train
- Mobile phones – Korea, Spain
- Councillor website and blogs
- Webcameron

Playing the Game I

The 2001 election:

- ‘Two jabs’, ‘Triggerhappy MPs’, ‘MyLittleTony’, ‘Crouching Tony, Hidden Hague’

<http://www.crouchingtony.com/>

- ‘Dimblebingo’

<http://www.angelfire.com/mp/dimblebingo/>

‘Interestingly, if this pattern is repeated’

‘So, a disappointing night for the Conservatives’



Playing the Game II

In 2005: Not games but 'serious election sites with a twist' (Bill Thompson)

- <http://www.whoshouldyouvote.com/>
- Notapathetic.com

e-Voting

- ‘Issue in a box’ – and polarised issue
- Pilots show little increase in turnout

The e-voting pilots (2003)

	2003 pilot	% change
Norwich	35.8%	+1.4%
South Tneside	46.3%	-8.7%
Chorley	49.8%	-12.2%
Stratford-on-Avon	36.6%	-8.4%
Kerrier	28.3%	-3.7%
Rushmoor	31%	-3.9%
South Somerset	47.4%	+9.3%
Shrewsbury & Atcham	54.8%	+11.8%
Stroud	36.6%	0%
Ipswich	31.7%	0.3%
Vale Royal	29%	-2%
Swindon	29.9%	-1.1%
St Albans	43.3%	+5.3%
Sheffield	32.5%	+2.5

Cheaper solutions?

Coleman suggests spending on kettles and buns instead of lining pockets of technology giants



e-government and local e-government

- Transformational government: focus on the citizen is crossover with e-democracy



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