

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019

Consultation Feedback by Ward

| Date | Polling Station | Ward | Comments | Acting Returning Officer's comments |
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| 19/07/2019 | | All wards | <p>Following the proposals for the Polling Station Review I have taken the time to consult with the Council Leader, Danny Cook as well as some of his colleagues. I completely support all of his and the Conservative groups suggestions which have been made in feedback from residents in the Tamworth area. Within the Belgrave Ward and Wilnecote Ward especially, there has been suitable expansions of polling areas allowing them to reflect the local geographical boundaries, due to them being better aligned within the area. The make-up of new polling districts within the Amington and Castle Ward would make them more accessible for constituents to vote, as it has improved parking facilities which are within walking distance, unlike their current positioning. Portable Polling Stations on Chiltern Road and in the Glascote Ward will allow them to be recentralised onto the estate to allow the population of the polling district to vote locally, without them having to travel too far to do so.</p> | <p>All submissions have been given careful consideration. Please see responses below.</p> |

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| 03/06/2019 | Birds Bush Primary School | Belgrave | <p>The disruption to children and families by using school as a polling station is not acceptable and creates issues between parents and the school and impacts on the children's education at a crucial time. As a headteacher, I am constantly informed about outcomes for children in Tamworth and the need for these to improve. The Government agenda on "Holidays in term time" has increased the stance on fining parents for taking children out of school - yet we are then expected to close the school for polling. This causes issues for parents, particularly working parents and impacts on the educational entitlement of our pupils. May is a crucial time for our pupils as it is SATs and missing days is disruptive. Please consider alternative premises.</p> | <p>It should be noted that although the Belgrave Ward currently uses two schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide Returning Officers with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher in regard to safe guarding and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that the polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a</p> |

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| | | | | <p>requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. This review is undertaken at every poll and includes a polling station questionnaire that electors can complete if they wish to. No complaints have been received at the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues. Therefore, no changes are proposed to the current polling stations.</p> |
| 11/06/2019 | Lakeside Primary School | Belgrave | <p>As headteacher of Lakeside School, I lost two days of education for pupils this year. While I appreciate this year was rather unique, as a school that cannot remain open when polling, it can disrupt the education for pupils. If an alternative is available please consider.</p> | <p>Please see above.</p> |
| 01/07/2019 | Tamworth Baptist Church and Birds Bush Primary School | Belgrave | <p>The development off Marlborough Way (The former Dalton Site) is in BE2 polling district and served by a polling station on Field Farm Road. The station is not within a short walking distance of the estate. The Old Dalton site should be its own polling district and use the Birds Bust Road polling Station. The location is 300m closer by foot and represents a feasible walking distance for electors. The current arrangements are shown as appendix I and our proposal as appendix J.</p> | <p>It will be recommended that the development off Marlborough Way on the former Daltons Site moves from the BE2 polling district into the BE1 polling district. This will mean that the following streets will move from BE2 to BE1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garten Close • Gowen Close • Harport Close • Harrow Close • Laggan Close • Leven Road • Lindores Road • Lowes Drive • Lyon Drive • Maree Walk • Morton Close |

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| 18/07/2019 | Tamworth Baptist Church and Birds Bush Primary School | Belgrave | The development off Marlborough Way (The former Dalton Site) is in BE2 polling district and served by a polling station on Field Farm road. The station is not within a short walking distance of the estate. The Old Dalton site should be its own polling district and use the Birds Bust Road polling Station. The location is 300m closer by foot and represents a feasible walking distance for electors. The current arrangements are shown as appendix I and our proposal as appendix J. | Please see above. |