

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019

Consultation Feedback by Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
19/07/2019		All wards	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.	All submissions have been given careful consideration. Please see responses below.
29/05/2019	Community Meeting Room	Castle	No comments made.	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
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30/05/2019	The Green - Temporary Polling Station	Castle	My working experience is only of Castle Ward - excellent	No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls requesting any changes and therefore, no change is proposed.
05/06/2019	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	Sunset Close has been used for many years as a polling station. There is disability ramped access to the front of the building and parking facilities albeit limited.	<p>Sunset Close Community Centre is a well-known and well used by the local community. It has recently, under gone some refurbishment. The building has suitable disabled access including ramps and has its own parking facilities including dedicated disabled parking facilities.</p> <p>The polling station is on a main bus route connecting different parts of the polling district. No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls in May 2019 regarding travelling distance or accessibility issues. Therefore, no change is recommended.</p>
21/06/2019	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	Submission on behalf of my mother who is disabled. She does like to vote in person rather than by post. She lives in Oxbridge Way. She finds the polling station she visits good and staff are very helpful. She does not recommend any changes. Mother finds it suitable for her needs.	Please see above.
01/07/2019		Castle	CA1 - Oxbridge Estate/Lichfield Road. The Dunstall Development means that the Castle Ward's CA1 polling district requires change to reflect the new development. The existing polling district should be rearranged as follows into three new polling districts. The river should act as a boundary dividing CA1 between the north and south side. The Oxbridge Estate/neighbouring properties in the Castle	This submission requesting that the Oxbridge Estate and neighbouring properties becomes a polling district in their own right with electors sent to the Buckingham Road temporary polling station (ME5) in the neighbouring Mercian Ward. On paper this seems quite a logical proposition and has been considered carefully but in reality there would be a

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			<p>Ward should be its own polling district and provided with a closer polling station, this should be the station for ME5 (Buckingham Road). It has better parking and within walking distance, unlike the current polling station at Sunset Close. The Dunstall Lane Development should have its own polling district and the polling station located in the school. The remaining of the polling district (including the east of Tame Drive, and the residents properties should be a polling district still voting at sunset close remaining unchanged (Bitterscote Drive). The current arrangements are shown in appendix E and our proposal as appendix F.</p>	<p>number of issues. Firstly, it is not sensible to move electors from a disabled friendly building like Sunset Close Community Centre which has dedicated disabled access and has parking albeit limited to a temporary station which has none of these. These properties are situated on a convenient public transport route that stops and collects passengers on Lichfield Street at the end of Sunset Close. There are no transport links to the temporary station on Buckingham Road. A move here would also mean that electors would be need to cross a very busy road that is well used by heavy goods vehicles and others accessing the neighbouring industrial estate. There is no pedestrian crossing on this road to ensure that less able bodied electors could cross the road safely. A move here would also require another temporary polling station as the existing temporary station covering the ME5 polling district could not accommodate the additional electors from this area particularly at a high turnout election. The estimated cost for an additional temporary station is in the region of £1,300 or approximately £5 for every elector on this housing estate whether they vote at a polling station or not. Presently, only 289 out of 418 electors from this estate chose to vote at a polling station and turnout in 2019 at Sunset Close Community Centre for the entire CA1 polling district was an average of 17%. No issues were raised by electors regarding travelling or accessing the voting facilities at Sunset Close Community Centre</p>

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				<p>at the recent elections.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Complaints have been received regarding accessibility to the temporary station on Buckingham Road at the recent elections in May 2019. These complaints were in regard to the uneven surface surrounding the temporary station. Therefore, it is not practical to send more electors to a polling station where we are aware of accessibility issues and for this reason I am recommending a "no change" to the CA1 polling district.</p> <p>The estate currently being built on the former Dunstall Farm site will become the newly created CA5 polling district. The electorate in this polling district will be monitored and when required a polling station within the polling district or adjacent</p>

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				<p>polling districts will be found. For this reason it is recommended that polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) within the ward to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.</p> <p>The five other submissions were received regarding the remaining polling districts, places and stations in the Castle Ward all recommend "no change". Therefore, as there have also been no comments made by any electors asking for change at any of the recent elections or as part of this consultation it is recommended that the polling districts below do not have any changes made to them with the exception of the creation of the new CA5 polling district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA1 • CA2 • CA3 • CA4
18/07/2019		Castle	CA1 - Oxbridge Estate/Lichfield Road. The Dunstall Lane Development means that the Castle Ward's CA1 polling district requires change to reflect the new development. The existing polling district should be rearranged as follows into three new polling districts. The river should act as a boundary dividing CA1 between the north and south side. The Oxbridge Estate/neighbouring properties in the Castle Ward should be its own polling district and provided with a closer polling station, this should be the station for ME5 (Buckingham Road). It	Please see above.

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			<p>has better parking and within walking distance, unlike the current polling station at Sunset Close. The Dunstall Lane Development should have its own polling district and the polling station located in the proposed school. The remainder of the polling district should continue to vote at Sunset Close. The current arrangements are shown as appendix E and our proposal as appendix F. Fazeley Road and County Drive. This Polling District has had a new station location for several years and should remain unchanged. It is central to the polling district and works well.</p>	