

POLLING PLACE OPTIONS FOR POLLING DISTRICTS YC AND QC

1. Moreton West & Saughall Massie Ward

Polling District YC:-

The current polling place is Foxfields School [Douglas Drive]. Electoral Services received communication from the Education Department that the school will be sold off in the future for redevelopment, however, this was not anticipated to happen until late 2014 if at all.

At the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22 January 2014 it was resolved that the status quo should continue for the Combined European Parliamentary and Local Government elections held in May 2014 but that it is reviewed for future elections.

The Education Department has confirmed that it is still anticipated that the school will be sold and the building will be vacated in February 2015, however, they will ensure that power is maintained and the school hall, toilets etc will be available for use at the Combined Parliamentary and Local Government elections to be held on 7th May 2015.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue for the Combined Parliamentary and Local Government elections being held on 7th May 2015 but that it is reviewed for future elections.

2. West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward

Polling District QC:-

The current polling place is St Bridget's Church of England Primary School [St Bridget's Lane]. A council member has stated that access to the polling station involves a long walk, partly down a steep slope, from the nearest parking space. The entrance also lacks any covered space for tellers.

A council member, in agreement with Wirral West Conservative Association, has requested using the recently completed St. Bridget's Centre as an alternative venue.

At the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22 January 2014 the (Acting) Returning Officer advised that St. Bridget's Centre is a suitable alternative venue with good disabled access. It is located next to St Bridget's Church of England Primary School and uses the same pathway. There is level access from the car park to the Centre.

The proposed alternative venue would offer reasonable facilities for voting and would be accessible to all electors but there would be a charge which had not been determined in time to enable the Committee to make a decision on the proposal.

However, the (Acting) Returning Officer recommended that the status quo should continue as there have never been any complaints regarding the access to the current venue and it remains a very suitable venue.

The Committee resolved that the status quo should continue for the Combined European Parliamentary and Local Government elections held on 22nd May 2014 but that this is reviewed for future elections.

The hire cost for using St Bridget's Centre, St Bridget's Lane as a polling place in 2015 has now been confirmed and is £272.

The cost for using St Bridget's Centre, St Bridget's Lane remains free of charge to the (Acting) Returning Officer other than for heating and lighting costs.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue.