

**CHANGE TO POLLING PLACE WITHIN A POLLING DISTRICT REVISITED****1. MORETON WEST & SAUGHALL MASSIE WARD****Polling District YA:-**

Minute 14 of the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 22 November 2017 resolved that the decision to move the polling place from Christchurch C of E Primary School [Upton Road] to Christ Church Parish Centre [Upton Road] be adjourned to a future meeting in order that investigations take place between Electoral Services and Christchurch Primary School to enable the school to remain open during polling.

A suggestion was made by Councillor Chris Blakeley that barriers could be erected to provide a separation between voters and pupils.

A visit to the school was made by Electoral Services officers to determine the feasibility of erecting fences.

The current situation is that the school closes on polling day. This allows for the building normally used as classrooms to be used for voting. Access to the building from the public highway is via two wrought iron fences with lockable gates and the entrance is located within the school playing area. During polling, the playing area is used for parking.

**To enable the school to remain open on polling day:**

As the entrance to the polling station is within the playing area, barriers would need to be erected ensuring a separation of voters and pupils. This would require someone on duty at all times to ensure there was no breach as the playing area would be in use. Also, as the gates would have to remain unlocked, the headteacher is concerned about safeguarding risks due to non-voting members of the public having access to the school grounds.

Parking would only be available on the highway. This is a busy road and spaces around the school are limited during the day especially during peak times at the start and end of the school day.

Pupils would have to be relocated from the classrooms in the building to another area of the school. The headteacher has indicated there isn't anywhere else they can be relocated to.

**Conclusion:**

If the school is to remain as the designated polling place then the status quo would continue to be the most suitable arrangement on polling day. However, if the school was to remain open on polling day the polling place would no longer be the most suitable venue for voters.

**Recommendation:**

That the polling place be relocated to Christ Church Parish Centre [Upton Road] for all future elections/referenda.

If the above recommendation is not agreed, then the status quo continue and Christchurch C of E Primary School [Upton Road] would be unable to open on polling day.