

DETAILS OF CHANGE TO A POLLING PLACE

1. CLAUGHTON WARD

i. Polling District CB:-

The current polling place is The Library, via Ridgeway High School, [Noctorum Way].

Ridgeway High School has undergone a complete renovation and is now situated in a new building behind the existing one which is in the process of being demolished.

An alternative polling place venue must be considered as the Library is currently situated within the area where demolition of the old building is being undertaken. The whole area has been fenced off and resembles a building site with no access to the Library and no connection to any kind of utilities.

After inspection of the area by Electoral Services, consideration was given to the possibility of siting a porta-cabin at the entrance into the school. Site visits were carried out by a representative from the porta-cabin hire company and a member of the Council's Environmental Services, Highway Assets team. The conclusion is that unfortunately, siting a porta-cabin is not practicable and would not provide a suitable venue for voters.

Because there are no other suitable alternative venues within polling district CB that can be identified, consideration was also given to St Andrews Church Centre, [Moorfield Avenue], which is situated in polling district CA. Although it is within a different polling district it is literally on the boundary of polling districts CA and CB and is located directly opposite the entrance to Ridgeway High School.

Local authorities must comply with legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling places one of which is that the polling place must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district).

An inspection of St Andrews Church Centre has been carried out by Electoral Services and is considered to be suitable for use as a polling place. There is parking available, full disabled access, a foyer area to accommodate tellers and good facilities for both staff and voters. The church centre office has confirmed availability and there will be a hire cost of £250.

Electoral Services has been made aware that there is a possibility the building where the current venue is situated will be retained by Wirral Council for use as a community library once the old school site has been demolished. If this is the case, then the designation of a polling place for polling district CB would be revisited in the future and the community library, subject to suitability, be proposed as the polling place.

Ward members have been consulted and support this proposal.

Recommendation:

That the polling place for polling district CB be relocated to St Andrews Church Centre, [Moorfield Avenue] for all elections/referenda in 2018 and the designation of a polling place for polling district CB be revisited in 2019.