

Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)

From: Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 10:58
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)
Cc: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Subject: RE: Change in polling place for polling district DB

I have considered the issues here and have some concern about the suitability of the two suggested alternatives in terms of the capacity of the nearby road network to safely cope with the parking associated with voters traveling a distance to visit the polling station or voting whilst enroute to or from work. Benthany is on an awkward bend and parking around the bend could result in issues for the bus servicing the estate, the same is the case at townfield where the early morning parking can be an issue on the main road and in side streets.
St saviours at least has the benefit of a longer stretch of straight road down holm lane and a lay by further up.

I can understand people wanting a polling place closer to home. But a move from one end of DB to the other would introduce similar inconvenience to a different part of the polling district for no apparent gain.

I have looked at turnout figures for DB and compared them with other polling places in Oxton and Birkenhead and I am unable to identify an issue with participation because of the location of the polling station turnout is often (as a percent) higher than other stations in Oxton and certainly compares well with the rest of Birkenhead. I conclude that St saviours is not in itself a barrier to voters turning out to visit the station to vote.

In terms of distance I think it probable that townfield would result in longer journeys for people living in Woodchurch Road .

DB is a large polling district and in an ideal world it may be considered that splitting it into two smaller districts would be desirable, having said that there would be a cost implication that would need to be justified based on St saviours proving to be unsuitable which is not something that is apparent from the evidence.

Finally changing a well known polling station for a different one has the potential to cause confusion for people who are used to it. I know that the change would be advertised and appear on the polling card however most people in DB if asked would identify St saviours as the place they have always voted.

Prior to this petition which I understand has been raised by a political party I have never received any complaints about St saviours use as a polling station from a constituent

These are my thoughts on the issue and I hope you are able to take them into account when you make your decision

Stuart Kelly

Liberal Democrat Councillor - Oxton Ward

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From: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services) <katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 January 2019 12:10
To: Doughty, Paul A. (Councillor) <pauldoughty@wirral.gov.uk>; Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)

<stuartkelly@wirral.gov.uk>; Brame, Allan J.(Councillor) <allanbrame@wirral.gov.uk>

Subject: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Importance: High

Dear Councillor

A petition has been submitted to the Council requesting an alternative polling place be identified for polling district DB.

The current polling place is Oxton St Saviours C of E Primary School which is situated at the top of Holm Lane. The petition has identified two possible alternative venues, 1) Townfield Lane Primary School, and 2) Bethany Chapel, Holmlands Drive.

I have visited both of these premises and will report on my findings shortly but in the meantime I would appreciate your views on this matter.

Time is of the essence I'm afraid so any comments would be appreciated by noon tomorrow (Wednesday 9 January).

Thank you

Kind regards

Kate Robinson
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Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)

From: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:44
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)
Cc: Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)
Subject: FW: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Dear Kate

I sent my previous response prematurely! Here are some more residents' comments:

I personally don't see any problems continuing with St Saviors school. Townfield School also has congestion issues.

I think Bethany chapel would be good & you wouldn't have to close the schools
All three have parking problems

Ridiculous!

The parking for Bethany Chapel and Townfield School would be horrendous. The school causes problems with parking at the best of times.

I do not see any benefits to change of Poll Station venue whatsoever.

I don't see any issues with staying with St Saviours School, we have been using the school for voting purposes and don't quite understand why there are people who want to move or change where they vote, do t try and fix something that isn't broken.

TOWNFIELD SCHOOL is a definite NO-NO....parking there is atrocious, and it's right on a bend! This is a ridiculous idea in my opinion. BETHANY CHAPEL is fine for me, as I live nearby, but once again, PARKING IS NOT SO GOOD. My question is, why does it need to move from St. Saviour's School anyway? People have been voting there for years, and I've not heard of any complaints?

My instinct would be to leave things as they are – any benefits for some would be balnced or outweighed by disadvantages for others. The current location does not seem to inhibit turnout.

Kind regards

Allan Brame

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Oxton
Mobile: 07905 487797

From: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:27
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services) <katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Dear Kate

Thank you for alerting me to this proposal.

DB is a particularly large polling district and wherever a polling station is located, some voters will be inconvenienced. I think the issue is whether either of the two proposed alternatives offer significant benefits compared to St Saviour's School.

I have email contacts for 120 residents in DB and contacted them yesterday afternoon to ask for their response to the suggestion. Just over a quarter have responded, representing all parts of the polling district. A few favoured Bethany; a few Townfield; some were either indifferent, but the majority could not see any benefit in moving the polling station, mainly expressing concern about parking issues. These are a few of the comments:

Parking is already a problem on Holmlands Drive with shops and doctors surgery taking up all existing parking places. Town field school is on a bend on a busy road. Voters would cause hazards by parking inappropriately. On balance I feel St Saviours is the best option but if we have to have one nearer the estate I would suggest the Bethany Chapel is marginally better than Townfield School

Kind regards

Allan Brame

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Oxtun
Mobile: 07905 487797

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Kate Robinson