

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2018

REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the change of two polling places in the Trent Ward and Castle Ward.
- 1.2 The current polling place in the Trent Ward is at Kelham Hall, Kelham, the proposed change being Manners Sutton Primary School.
- 1.3 The current polling place in the Castle Ward is Christ Church Infants School, Newark, the proposed change being Holy Trinity Community Centre, Boundary Road, Newark.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Trent Ward

- 2.1.2 Following the move of Newark & Sherwood District Council from Kelham Hall to Castle House, we are reviewing the current arrangements for a polling place at The Dome Entrance, Kelham Hall. In recent elections we have had issues with the booking of this venue and given that it is no longer in the ownership of the District Council, we are proposing that voters in the Parish of Averham, Kelham & Staythorpe – Kelham Ward use Manners Sutton Primary School, Newark Road, Averham, for all future elections.

2.3 Castle Ward

- 2.3.1 Following issues raised by School Governors regarding the closure of Christ Church Infant School, Victoria Street, Newark on polling days and some suggestions for alternative venues which were received from a District Councillor, we are reviewing the current arrangements for polling district: CB in the Castle Ward.
- 2.3.2 The suggestions received for alternative venues, were as follows: -
- Holy Trinity Community Centre, Boundary Road;
 - Newark Evangelical Church, Victoria Street;
 - Spring House Public House, Farndon Road;
 - Millgate Community Centre, Pelham Street, Newark
- 2.3.3 We made site visits to Holy Trinity Community Centre, Spring House Public House and Millgate Community Centre, but did not receive a reply to contact made with Newark Evangelical Church.
- 2.3.4 Holy Trinity Community Centre, Boundary Road, Newark has a large car park, two rooms that are both suitable for a polling venue and sufficient amenities. The centre is also geographically central for the whole of the polling district.
- 2.3.5 Spring House Public House, whilst the location and car park was acceptable, disability access and privacy element of using the room available to us was not sufficient.

- 2.3.6 Millgate Community Centre, Pelham Street, Newark, whilst it is acceptable, the location does not cater for the whole of the polling district. There are no car parking provision apart from two spaces to the rear of the Centre, which required car parking permits and would need to be used by the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk. Parking on Pelham Street is restricted to permit holders only. There is limited road side parking on Mill Gate.
- 2.3.7 We are proposing that voters in polling district: CB in the Castle Ward use the Holy Trinity Community Centre, Boundary Road, Newark for all future elections.

3.0 Representations

3.1 Trent Ward

- 3.1.1 Representations were sought on the proposed new polling place with local Members and the Clerk to Averham, Kelham & Staythorpe Parish Council. County Councillor Mrs Susan E. Saddington was also consulted who raised concern as follows: “for residents to go to Manners Sutton Primary School insomuch as not everyone in Kelham is able to drive and to walk to Averham is very dangerous along the A617. If you were to move to this site, then I would ask that you inform all the residents in Kelham in good time of an election, encouraging residents to register for a postal vote if they envisage difficulties in accessing the school in Averham”. The local Member of Parliament was also contacted but no representations were received.

3.2 Castle Ward

- 3.2.1 Representations were sought on the proposed new polling place with local Members and the Clerk to Newark Town Council. County Councillor Keith Girling was also consulted and commented as follows: “I do not think either polling place are suitable and suggest Pelham Street Community Centre, as it is not far from the original polling place, we own it, the people who run it would be happy of the revenue and it’s in the centre of Castle Ward”. The local Member of Parliament was also contacted but no representations were received.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) Manners Sutton Primary School, Newark Road, Averham be used as a polling place to replace the Dome Entrance, Kelham Hall, Kelham; and**
- (b) Holy Trinity Community Centre, Boundary Road, Newark be used as a polling place to replace Christ Church Infant School, Victoria Street, Newark.**

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Nigel Hill on Ext 5243

J. Robinson
Returning Officer