

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS FOR OAKHAM NORTH WEST WARD - 2018

INFORMATION SHEET

Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 details the timings for the compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and the last compulsory review period commenced on 1 October 2013 and the next review will commence 5 years from that date on 1 October 2018. The Council may however carry out an interim review to change some of their polling districts before the end of the current part of the 5-year cycle.

Rutland County Council is carrying out an interim review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations in the Oakham North west Ward before the compulsory review later in the year. The reasons for this are:

- a. the number of electors in the ward now exceed that recommended for a polling station.
- b. a review in advance of the Barleythorpe Parish Election on 3 May 2018 would better serve the electors from that Parish if a more suitable polling place could be found.

Currently the ward is divided into two polling districts, Barleythorpe (ONWA) and Oakham North West (ONWB).

Proposal

It is proposed that the electors in the Oakham North West Ward now be divided between two polling places/stations. Electors from the Parish of Barleythorpe will vote at a new polling place/station – at the Oakham United Football Club situated next to the King Centre just off the Main Road in Barleythorpe, Oakham (LE15 7EE). The remaining electors from the Oakham North West Ward would continue to vote at the current polling place/station for the ward which is the Scout Hut on Grampian Way. The removal of the Barleythorpe electorate from the Scout Hut polling station would allow better provision for the remaining electors at that polling station which was becoming stretched to provide for both polling districts. It is felt that this revision will better serve both communities.

What does the review involve?

The review must be carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

On commencing the review a notice will be published with details of the review, including when and where comments or representations can be made.

Any elector in the constituency may make a representation in relation to the size and boundaries of polling districts and the location and suitability of polling places. The council also welcomes comments or representations from any Councillors in the area, past or potential candidates, local political parties and indeed any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

On completion of the review the council will publish all correspondence sent and received, details of the results of the review including any issues raised and indeed any changes which have been approved, giving the reasons for its decisions.

What is a Polling District?

A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary election. In England, each parish is to be a separate polling district and, in Wales, each community should be a separate polling district, unless there are special circumstances. This means that a parish or community must not be in a polling district which has a part of either a different parish or community within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority area within it, unless special circumstances apply. Those special circumstances could arise if, for example, the parish/community has only a small number of electors and it is not practicable for the parish/community to be its own polling district.

Rutland's Oakham North West Ward is currently divided into 2 Polling Districts (Oakham North West and Barleythorpe), both of which currently vote at the same polling place/station.

The current list of Polling Places and Polling Stations and the current potential turnout figures are enclosed and are available on the website www.rutland.gov.uk.

What is a Polling Place?

A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district, however, there is no legal definition of what a polling place is. It could be as large as the polling district or as small as a particular building. Currently in Rutland, all polling places are actual buildings

What is a Polling Station?

A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election. There can be more than one polling station in a polling place.

When deciding which buildings to use as polling stations, the Council tries to make sure that they are located as conveniently as possible for the majority of electors and that they are accessible to everyone, particularly anyone with a disability.

Thought must be given, for example, to the distance people have to travel to vote and any barriers to them getting there, such as major roads or rivers.

Should you wish to make representations about the review please submit them in writing to:

**Electoral Registration Officer (Polling Places Review)
Rutland County Council
Catmose
Oakham
LE15 6HP**

**Or via email to:
elections@rutland.gov.uk**