

Details of Revisions to polling locations for Electors

Arrangements for electors in Stretton and Thistleton

A change of polling place and polling station was required for the electors in the polling districts of Stretton and Thistleton due to the previous venue no longer being available. The previous venue had been a private residence, however this is no longer available for use. Several alternatives were considered but the only feasible one, which would allow for a permanent polling station inside the village, was to use the Public House, the Jackson Stops situated on Rookery Lane central to the village of Stretton. The venue is already used by the Parish Council for meetings and having visited the venue they were keen to support the village and to provide their facilities for use as a polling station. They have allocated a separate room and given dedicated access to the polling station itself without having to go through the bar area. The access for disabled voters is through a different entrance which can be signposted, but it will provide level access.

With no other suitable venue the alternative options are limited, to the provision of a mobile facility (at a significant cost and would still require somewhere to park, which may end up being situated outside the suggested venue to allow access to toilet and kitchen facilities for polling station staff).

The other alternative would be to direct the electorate in the Stretton and Thistleton polling districts to another station, the two nearest being Clipsham or to Greetham. Moving to either of these venues would seem less attractive as it would be inconvenient to electors from Stretton and Thistleton to all have to go travel to a different venue in another village. Therefore these alternatives were not considered viable options.

It is therefore recommended that the polling place and polling station for the polling districts of Stretton and Thistleton be changed to the Jackson Stops Inn in Stretton.

Changes resulting from the LGBCE Review. (The effective date for all changes will be included in the Governance Order)

The recommendations of changes to polling districts, polling places and polling stations required following the LGBCE Review are as follows:

Barleythorpe Ward

The polling place for the newly created Barleythorpe Ward is the Oakham United Football Club building, Main Road, Barleythorpe, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 7EE. The ward is divided into two parishes, Barleythorpe, and following the LGBCE review, the Barleythorpe Road Parish of Oakham Town Council (OTC). Electors currently in Oakham North West Ward from Huntsmans Drive, Prince George Avenue, Ellingworth Close, Edwards Way, Mallard Court and College Close will move into this new Parish, and be included in the polling district of Barleythorpe Road Parish.

It is recommended that each of these parishes become a polling district. However, although the Barleythorpe Road Parish of OTC will be a polling district it will not, by exception, have its own polling place as a suitable venue cannot be identified within the parish. Instead, it is recommended that all electors from the two parishes vote at the polling place/station, Oakham United Football Club.

The alternatives considered were as follows:

Voters from Barleythorpe Road Parish be given a separate polling station within their area, however the only venue in the area considered to be suitable with the required facilities was the Brambles Day Centre situated within Rutland Care Village. Having visited the centre and discussed its use with both the staff and the Head of Service for Adult Services, it was considered that using this venue could have an undue impact on the users of this facility due to the need to close the centre on a polling day.

Voters from the Barleythorpe Road Parish vote at the Barleythorpe Ward polling station (Oakham United Football Club) for the County level elections and then at their current station for their parish level election which is the Scout Hut in ONW. It was felt that asking voters to vote at different stations for different level elections would be both confusing and inappropriate.

A final alternative would have been for voters in the Barleythorpe Road Parish to use the same station they had in the past for both levels of election, but this could severely complicate matters at the polling station and more importantly would mean that at County Ward level the electorate would not be voting in their ward.

Braunston and Martinthorpe Ward

This will be a new ward made up of the two pre-existing wards of Braunston and Belton and Martinthorpe. It is recommended that the individual polling districts remain the same for each parish, as will the polling place and polling stations. Electors in the newly combined wards will now be asked to vote for two councillors instead of one in the ward of Braunston and Martinthorpe.

Cottesmore Ward

The parish of Teigh will move from Cottesmore Ward to become part of the Whissendine Ward. It is recommended that voters from Teigh retain their current polling district of Teigh but now use the polling place, the Memorial Hall, Whissendine as they are now part of that ward. All other electors in the Cottesmore Ward will retain their current polling places, polling districts and vote at the existing polling stations.

Oakham North East Ward

It is recommended that the polling district for this ward remain as Oakham North East and the polling place remain All Saints Church Hall. Electors on the Ladywell Estate (currently in Oakham South East Ward) will move into this ward. The polling station for this district will be the All Saints Church Hall. No alternatives were considered for this ward as this represented a no change to existing, accepted arrangements.

Oakham North West Ward

It is recommended that the polling district for this ward will remain as Oakham North West and the polling place becomes the Scout/Guide Hut on Grampian Way. The preferred polling station will remain the Scout Hut, although the Guide Hut was visited to ensure that this could be used as a back-up during a period when the Scout Hut underwent renovations. As the Guide Hut was suitable it makes sense to maintain this as an alternative venue for the polling station if required.

Electors from Willoughby Gardens, Graffham Drive and Braunston Road from the junction with Derwent Drive to West Road/Braunston Road (even numbers) will move from the Oakham South West Ward into this ward.

However, electors from Huntsmans Drive, Prince George Avenue, Mallard Court and College Close will move into the Ward of Barleythorpe and the Barleythorpe Road Parish of Oakham Town Council.

No alternatives were considered for this ward as this represented a no change to existing, accepted arrangements.

Oakham South Ward

The previous wards of Oakham South West and Oakham South East will combine to become Oakham South. Small pockets of each of the previous wards will be moved out of this ward into the Oakham North West and Oakham North East wards as detailed above. It is recommended that Oakham South become the revised polling district for this area.

Previously electors from Oakham South West voted at Catmose Primary School and those from Oakham South East voted at Martinsley Room of the Council Offices. To better represent the Ward geography it is proposed to use one, more central, polling place which would be the Council Buildings on Catmos Street (this includes the County Museum, Library and Council Offices). Making the polling place the council buildings offers the option to use an alternative venue if required.

It is recommended that the Council building, Catmos Street become the polling place for Oakham South and Oakham Library be used as the polling station for the ward. Two stations be situated in the library to cope with the increased electorate.

Whissendine Ward

The parish of Teigh will move from its current ward (Cottesmore) to become a part of Whissendine Ward. Teigh's polling district will remain as Teigh but it is recommended that its polling place and polling station will now become The Memorial Hall, Whissendine.