

REVIEW TO CHANGE THE POLLING PLACE AND POLLING STATION FOR THE STRETTON AND THISTLETON POLLING DISTRICTS - INFORMATION SHEET

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 2018 and the next compulsory review will commence 5 years from that date on 1 October 2023. The Council may however carry out an interim review to change polling places before the end of the current part of the 5-year cycle if required.

Rutland County Council is carrying out an interim review of the Polling Place and Polling Station for the Polling Districts of Stretton and Thistleton before the compulsory review later in the year. The reason is that the current polling place is not ideal, and another alternative venue is thought to be better suited for use as a polling station.

Currently the polling place for these two polling districts is the Jackson Stops Public House in Stretton and electors vote in a side room of the venue and for those requiring accessible access there is a potentially awkward route through the venue to get to this location.

Proposal

It is proposed that the electors in the Polling Districts of Stretton and Thistleton should vote at a new polling place and polling station. The polling place would be the Stretton Community Hub, St Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Stretton, LE15 7QR and the Polling station be the main hall inside the Community Hub. This venue is approximately 100 metres from the current venue. The venue is considered a more suitable venue for conducting an election poll and 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 from the two polling districts concerned may make a representation in relation to the location and suitability of polling place. 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.

The two Polling Districts of Stretton and Thistleton would continue to vote at the same polling place/station.

The total current potential turnout figures for both polling districts are approximately 262 in person electors.

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