



Rutland
County Council

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES
AND POLLING STATIONS FOR RUTLAND –
INFORMATION SHEET 2023**



Background information and the Returning Officer's Proposals

Mark Andrews, Returning Officer

Consultation Period will be: 1st October 2023 – 16th October 2023

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS FOR RUTLAND - 2023 **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 review period commenced 5 years from that date on 1 October 2023. The Council is allowed to conduct interim reviews where required to make changes within the 5-year cycle.

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.

The current list of Polling Places and Polling Stations and the current potential turnout figures are enclosed and are available on the website [Polling stations | Rutland County Council](#).

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,

most 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.

The Returning Officer's Proposals

Introduction

The pattern of polling districts and polling places in the District of Rutland has evolved to meet the convenience of electors across the district. By and large, it ensures that electors have reasonable facilities for voting. Furthermore, in line with the Council's policies, every attempt has been made to ensure that polling stations are accessible to electors with disabilities. Therefore, as the majority of polling districts and polling places remain fit for purpose, the proposals for change have been kept to a minimum.

Guidelines

The Returning Officer has taken the following considerations into account when drawing up the proposals. Comments made during the consultation should keep these in mind. The first four are requirements laid down in the Representation of the Peoples Act; the remainder are guidelines only.

- The council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- The council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors with disabilities;
- Every parish shall be in a separate polling district;
- Ideally the polling place should be in the polling district;
- No polling station should be shared by two wards because of the risks associated with holding different elections in the same polling station;
- Ideally there should be no more than 2,250 electors per polling station, although the number of postal voters in the district (presently approx 4,500 in total across Rutland) is a further consideration;
- Polling district boundaries should be co-terminous with existing

- parish ward or district ward boundaries;
- Where existing polling districts serve no necessary function because the electors for each polling district already vote at the same polling station, the polling districts should be merged;
- An average polling station costs up to £1,000 to hire, equip and staff for polling day;
- The proposals have been mindful of further development in the district as identified in the Local Development Framework.

Polling district of Barrowden

Electors in the polling district of Barrowden will not be able to use the polling place and vote at the station currently used as it is will not be available due to a rebuild from the end of due to take place later this year and during 2024. Alternatives have been considered, and it is proposed to make the polling place the village of Barrowden, as this will allow us to move a polling station within the polling place more easily at a later stage when required.

It is therefore recommended that as a temporary solution, while the Village Hall is being rebuilt, electors in the polling district of Barrowden use St Peter's Church in Barrowden as an alternative polling station venue for the period of the rebuild. Once the rebuild is complete the intent will be to move the polling station back to Barrowden Village Hall.

Changes resulting from the 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review.

There are no changes to polling districts, polling places or polling stations in Rutland as a result of the 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review.

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**