

CHANGES TO POLLING PLACE/STATION LOCATIONS FOR BRISTNALL AND WEDNESBURY SOUTH WARDS

1. BRISTNALL WARD

i. Polling District BRB/BRC (1870)

The current polling place is Londonderry Baptist Church and the polling station is a designated room within the church. The Electoral Services Manager has received communication from the booking agent to advise that they are refusing use of the church for this year's election.

The alternative building to be considered for use as the polling place is Moat Farm Infant School. The walking distance from the existing polling place to Moat Farm infant School is 8 min (0.4 mi) via Bristnall Hall Rd. The school is considered to be a suitable building with good access. The school also has a separate nursery unit which would also be suitable to use.

The cost for using Moat Farm Infant School would be free of charge to the Returning Officer other than for heating and lighting costs.

This proposal is supported by all Ward members.

Recommendation:

- a) A verbal update will be presented to the Committee following discussions with the head teacher.
- b) That subject to no further recommendations being presented to the Committee the designated polling place for polling districts BRB/BRC is Moat Farm Infant School for the Local Election on the 2 May 2019.
- c) That all Parliamentary Constituency polling places and polling districts will be reviewed as part of the statutory review that will commence in May 2019.

2. WEDNESBURY SOUTH.

i. Polling District WSA/WSB (1664)

The current polling place is Leadbrook Methodist Church. For the Local Election 2018 due to a flood it was necessary to place a portable unit on the car park of the Church. The Electoral Services Manager has received a communication to advise that the building works to repair the flood damage in the building and the car park will not be complete in time for the Local Elections on the 2 May 2019.

Officers have investigated the area and there are no other suitable venues available. The proposal is to place a portable unit on the grassed area opposite the Church to for use as the polling station. The area can adequately fit an 8ft x 20ft unit. This is considered a suitable alternative by officers as this causes minimum disruption for the electorate. The Church have confirmed that this would only be for this election and are happy to continue use for future elections once the works have been completed.

The cost of the portable unit is £1400.

Ward members have been consulted and no adverse comments have been received.

Recommendation:

- a) That a portable unit is to be used and the polling place/station be moved to the grassed area opposite, the existing polling place, Leabrook Church.
- b) That all Parliamentary Constituency polling places and polling districts will be reviewed as part of the statutory review that will commence in May 2019.

3 NEXT STEPS

- a) Adequate signage will be provided at both the new polling station and the old Polling Station to ensure voters are informed and fully aware of any changes, so it is clear where they need to go to cast their vote.
- b) The changes will also be noted on all Poll Cards that are issued to electors in the Bristnall and Wednesbury South Wards.