



BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday 29th January 2015 at 5.50pm in Meeting Room G3, Addenbrooke House, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors Cllr R Sloan (Chair), K Blundell, E Carter, I Fletcher, A McClements and R Overton

IN ATTENDANCE: J Eatough (Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services), P Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager) and P Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader)

BRC-10 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

BRC-11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P Watling

BRC-12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

BRC-13 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services which was tabled together with a pack of background information which contained an analysis of polling districts, proposed polling stations and ward maps.

At the last meeting, the Committee agreed the proposals for polling districts and polling places in the Borough for consultation. The consultation period ended on 26th January 2015, and a small number of comments were received. Having taken account of the consultation responses, and having undertaken further work on the proposals, some changes to the original proposals were being recommended. The document appended to the report showed a summary of the recommendations of the Returning Officer for each of the 30 wards, with any changes to the original proposals highlighted.

The main changes were as follows:

Apley Castle Ward

The Returning Officer had looked at using Apley School as a polling station, but this would likely lead to the closure of the school on the day of the election. It was

recommended therefore that Apley Castle electors continue to vote at Leegomery Community Centre, even though it was now just outside the ward. Councillor Blundell stated that there had been some confusion in the past with Leegomery Community Centre being used as a dual polling station for both Apley Castle and Hadley & Leegomery. The Democratic Services Manager advised that there might be a need to look at this again in the future, but for now it was probably the best option in terms of continuity.

Dawley and Aqueduct Ward

For electors in TDZ polling district, it was recommended that they now vote at Southall School rather than using the portacabin at Beechwood Road. A new polling district TDP had been formed, with those electors formerly in TDA polling district now being able to vote at Dawley Christian Centre, which was nearer to their homes than Web Youth Centre. Remaining TDA electors would continue to vote at Web Youth Centre.

Haygate

A request for an additional polling station at Hesba Close had been received as part of the consultation process, and Members were asked to consider the option to divide the polling district. Cllr McClements advised that there had been complaints from elderly people who had to walk a considerable distance to get to the single polling station at Wellington Civic Centre. The Democratic Services Manager stated that the building at Hesba Close was owned by the Council, but there hadn't been an opportunity yet to assess the suitability or feasibility of the premises for use as a polling station.

Horsehay & Lightmoor

The suggestion from Lawley & Overdale Parish Council to use their Offices as a polling station for THL polling district had been investigated. The room available was on the first floor of the building at Lawley Square, West Centre Way but had lift access for people with disabilities. This location seemed to provide a better alternative than Lawley Community Centre which had been used previously, and was therefore recommended for use as the polling station for electors in Polling District THL.

Ironbridge Gorge

For electors in the new TIH polling district, it had been intended to use Abraham Darby Academy as the polling station. However, the room available was very small and unsuitable for a combined election. It was therefore recommended instead that TIH electors vote at Woodlands Primary School together with voters from the neighbouring TMD Madeley polling district.

Ketley & Overdale

An option for electors in TLE polling district to vote at the TA Centre in Cavan Drive, Dawley was being investigated, but there had not been a positive response from the Centre. Therefore it was likely that Dawley Baptist Church would be retained as the polling station for TLE voters even though it was now located in an adjoining ward.

Madeley and Sutton Hill

It was recommended that electors in TMD polling district who had previously voted at Abraham Darby Academy would now use Woodlands Primary School along with TIH electors from Ironbridge Gorge ward. This would enable all voters from this area to vote at the same polling station.

Muxton

A number of electors in the Humber Lane area (polling district WMH) had transferred to Muxton ward from Donnington ward. They had previously voted at Turreff Hall polling station, which was outside the Muxton ward. However, on balance, it was considered that this arrangement could continue, given that the other option would be to have a third station at Muxton Community Centre, which might be difficult to support. A suggestion was made as to whether the NAAFI building at MoD Donnington might be suitable. The Democratic Services Manager agreed to check this option before making a final decision.

Oakengates and Ketley Bank

For electors in WOL polling district the most likely option was for a polling station at Telford Motor Auctions at Trench Lock, with a portacabin sited in the polling district as a fall back option. Voters in the Cockshutt area (TOW polling district) who had previously been in St Georges ward would now vote at the Oakengates United Church within their new ward.

St Georges

Minor changes to polling district arrangements for new Parish wards of Wrockwardine Wood East (Wrockwardine Wood & Trench PC) and Snedshill (St Georges & Priorslee PC)

The Nedge

Electors in the TTH polling district from the Holmer Lake area had been allocated to vote at the Sambrook Centre, Grange Avenue.

Members stressed the importance of making voters aware if they were in a new polling district and/or voting at a different polling station in the May elections. The Democratic Services Manager advised that any changes in arrangements would be highlighted on the polling cards, and information would be placed on the Council website. In relation to the new warding arrangements in Newport it was suggested that publicity and information could be provided at the Town Council offices. The Assistant Director advised that existing elected Members would be notified of any changes in their ward.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that, with the exception of the Haygate and Muxton wards, the Returning Officer's Recommendations for the adoption of Polling Districts and Polling Places, in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Administration Act 2006, be approved;**

- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services, in consultation with the Chair, to finalise the arrangements for Haygate and Muxton wards following further investigation of the polling station options.**

The meeting ended at 6.26 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: