

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations – Frimley Green Ward

Portfolio: Non-executive function

Ward(s) Affected: Frimley Green

Purpose

To review the Polling Place for Frimley Green Ward.

Background

1. The Council, at its meeting on 26 February 2014, considered the results of a consultation following a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. It was then reported that, during the consultation, a request had been received that the Frimley Church of England School, Frimley Green Road ceased to be used as a polling place for the Frimley Green IA polling district because of the disruption caused to the school's pupils by using the school as a polling place, and that parking provision at the school was not adequate.
2. As a result, a number of alternative premises had been explored and the Electoral Registration Officer had recommended, and the Council had agreed, that the Frimley Green Football Club be designated as the polling place for this polling district for future elections.
3. The Frimley Green Football Club was used as a polling station for the conduct of the European Election in May this year. However, following that election, a representation was received from a ward councillor in relation to the unsuitability of the Frimley Green Football Club premises for future elections, particularly with the high turnout anticipated at the Combined Parliamentary and Local Elections in May 2015. In addition the comments of the Polling Station Inspector and the Polling Station Staff confirmed the observations made by the ward councillor.
4. As a result an interim review of the polling place for Frimley Green ward has been conducted. All the available premises in Frimley Green have been considered, but it has not been possible to identify adequate premises in a suitable location with satisfactory access and parking arrangements which could accommodate the 3 polling stations needed for next year's Combined Election.
5. However, the Youth Centre in Wharfenden Way, Frimley Green has been identified as suitable for use as a polling place and the Youth Services has agreed to allow it to be used for future elections. As these premises are in the far south of the ward, it was considered appropriate to identify premises in the northern part of the ward, which would primarily serve the electors on Paddock Hill estate. The Frimley Community Centre in Balmoral Drive,

Frimley is a suitable facility with good parking and disabled access and the Manager has agreed to its use as a polling station.

6. Consequently the Electoral Registration Officer proposes that the ward be divided into 2 polling districts, Frimley Green (North) and Frimley Green (South) and to designate the Frimley Community Centre, Balmoral Drive, Frimley as the polling place for Frimley Green (North) and the Youth Centre, Wharfenden Way, Frimley Green as the polling place for Frimley Green (South).
7. A list of the roads proposed to be allocated to each polling district are as set out at Annex A.
8. A further consultation has been carried out and no adverse representations have been received in relation to this proposal.

Resource Implications

9. There will be a small increase in costs, approximately £200, for the hire of 2 premises in relation to any election instead of one. The number of staff employed will remain the same for each election but will be divided between the 2 polling places. The cost of each poll is borne by the electing authority or shared where polls are combined.

Recommendation

10. The Council is asked to RESOLVE that
 - (i) Frimley Green Ward be divided into 2 polling districts, Frimley Green (South)(IA) and Frimley Green (North)(IB);
 - (ii) the Youth Centre, Wharfenden Way, Frimley Green be designated as the polling place for Frimley Green (South)(IA) and the Frimley Community Centre, Balmoral Drive, Frimley be designated as the polling place for Frimley Green (North)(IB).

Annexes Annex A – Roads to be allocated to each polling district.

Background papers None

Author: Karen Whelan 01276 707315
Electoral Registration Officer
e-mail: karen.whelan@surreyheath.gov.uk