

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2019

Responses received to the public consultation

Cllr David Kendall

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the review of Polling Districts. My response to the proposals that affect me are as follows:

1) Brentwood South ward

I have no problems with the change outlined under the review.

2) Pilgrims Hatch

I would be opposed to there only being one Polling Station at Bishops Hall to accommodate residents who currently use Larchwood Gardens. I appreciate the issues you have outlined at Larchwood but would suggest putting a portacabin in the school playground would be better than relocating the polling station altogether. In my view we definitely need to keep Larchwood and should also consider using the "Old Tin Hut - Parish Room" on the Ongar Road as a third possible polling station.

Regards

David
Cllr David Kendall

Cllr Vicky Davies

I concur with all the comments made by Cllr Kendall.
My concern is having one polling station on the periphery of the ward will decrease the electorates turn out as those without transport and elderly will not be able to access the station and their right to vote.

Regards

Vicky
Cllr Vicky Davies

Mr Duff, Headteacher, Larchwood Primary School

The main issues we have with accommodating the elections are as follows:

- Complete closure of the school and the associated loss of children's learning.
- The financial cost to the school – the monies received do not cover the actual costs to the school. It has been well documented by the media how little money schools have, this extra cost to the school comes from the funding allocated to children's learning.
- Staff have to work outside of their contracted hours (they could refuse to do this). If this was the case, I would not have staff to manage the election.
- Currently, we can accommodate some elections in a separate part of the school – due to the school expanding, we will not be able to do this which would mean a complete closure of the school.
- Most elections are held on a Thursday and as such, parents of Larchwood, could potentially use the opportunity for a long weekend (and not bring their child into school on the Friday). This would affect our attendance record and this is something we are judged on by bodies such as Ofsted.
- Our INSET days are now arranged differently due to changing our academic calendar. Using an election day for an INSET is no longer possible and would not be able to deliver the statutory prescribed amount of days education during the year for our children.
- Lastly, we think we are put at an unfair disadvantage compared to other local schools in regard to this. We are asked to accommodate the elections every time and this burden is not shared out equally.

These are the main points but if you wanted more information, please let me know.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Ryan Duff.
Headteacher
Larchwood Primary School