

**ELECTORAL REVIEW STEERING GROUP
29 JULY 2014
2.00 - 2.43 PM**



Present:

Councillors Birch, Mrs Temperton and Turrell

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Councillor Ward

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Birch be elected Chairman of the Electoral Review Steering Group.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Turrell be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Review Steering Group.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

The Head of Democratic and Registration Services presented a report on proposals for changes to Bracknell Forest's polling districts and locations, as part of a review undertaken as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The Steering Group reviewed the current arrangements and considered any particular areas where further investigations were required, and formulated recommendations for changes to be effected from the publication of the revised register on 1 December 2014.

The Returning Officer made proposals for polling districts in Binfield with Warfield Ward:

- no change to the Polling Districts and Polling Places for BA and WM;
- the creation of a new Polling District BC to cover those properties in the Wykery Copse development, Peacock Lane and Waterloo Road which were currently located in the BB Polling District;
- the designation of Jennett's Park Community Centre, Tawny Owl Square, Bracknell as the Polling Place for the new BC Polling District;
- electors in the revised BB Polling District would continue to vote at Farley Wood Community Centre.

The Steering Group supported these proposals.

The Returning Officer had made a proposal regarding polling district CN in Crowthorne Ward, for the Group to note that the TRL site was a long term development area. The Steering Group supported this proposal.

The Returning Officer made a proposal for the BL Polling District in Harmans Water Ward:

- to create a new Polling District BLP for The Parks and surrounding roads;
- to designate the community centre on The Parks as the Polling Place for the new Polling District.

The Steering Group supported these proposals.

There had been a request from two councillors for a polling station at the Royal Military Academy (RMA) in Sandhurst. The Group discussed this option but decided that it was not practical to have a polling station at the RMA and suggested instead that people on the site be encouraged to use postal votes. The Group was confident that the current arrangements did not disadvantage anyone based at the site from voting.

Schools were only used as polling places where there was no suitable alternative and there were currently three polling districts where schools were designated as polling places. It had been suggested that an alternative be found for Woodenhill (BJ) polling district but it was recognised that a suitable alternative was not available.

The Group discussed the request for there to be a portable polling station in the Squirrel public house car park and considered whether this could replace an existing polling station, rather than providing an additional one. There had been no representations regarding this and the Group suggested that people be encouraged to use postal votes in this area.

It was agreed that the Chairman would sign the minutes outside the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Returning Officer's proposals set out in Annex A are supported and recommended to the Executive and Council.

CHAIRMAN