

For publication

Interim Polling District and Polling Places Review Hollingwood and Inkersall GA2/GA3 (EC010)

Meeting: Employment and General Committee

Date: 21 January 2019

Report by: Electoral Services Manager

For publication

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval of two new polling stations and to the re-drawing of polling districts GA2/GA3 in the Hollingwood and Inkersall Ward.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To approve the designation of The Hop Flower, Beeley Close, Inkersall S43 3EB and The Hollies, Sutton Crescent, Inkersall S43 3SP as new polling places for polling districts GA2/GA3 to replace Inkersall Methodist Church, Summerskill Green, Inkersall S43 3SP.

3.0 Report details

3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the Borough Wards into polling districts

and to designate at least one polling place for each polling district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. The boundaries of wards are not covered by any such review at the Boundary Commission for England determines them.

- 3.2 The last full review in the Borough was carried out in 2014. Since the review Inkersall Methodist Church is no longer available due to structural defects.
- 3.3 The interim review on the Hollingwood and Inkersall ward has been undertaken now so that the changes to the polling place comes into effect by 1 February, 2019 which will be in time to send out the correct information on the poll cards for the 2 May, 2019 Borough/Parish elections.
- 3.4 Action Plan:-

Publication of Interim review Notice, Returning Officer's Recommendation and Commencement of Review	17 September, 2018
Representations to be received by	24 October, 2018
Considered by Employment and General Committee	21 January, 2019
Implement the change to polling districts to take place for any elections that are held after 1 February, 2019	1 February, 2019

4.0 **Consultation**

- 4.1 The following were consultees:

Ward Councillors, Staveley Town Council, County Councillor, Member of Parliament, local political parties, local residents in the attached area, local access groups via The Hollies, Inkersall.

- 4.2 The following comments have been received:

(a) Inkersall Resident No.1 – “I wish to bring to your attention the lack of access for anyone with disabilities at The Hop Flower Pub. There are steps, no ramp thus preventing wheelchair access and compromising people’s rights under equality and diversity laws. As an alternative might I suggest the café area or one of the large meeting rooms at the Staveley Centre. Ideally it would be great if access to The Hop Flower Pub could be improved as a result of your decision.”

(b) Inkersall Resident No. 2 – “I am disabled but The Hop Flower will be fine. I have a scooter do this is no problem, so thank you”.

4.3 Returning Officer’s response – A disabled ramp will be installed at the entrance to the polling station at The Hop Flower which is suitable for motorised disabled scooters.

4.4 No other comments have been received. The consultation closed on 28 November, 2018.

5.0 **Background and Issues**

5.1 A plan showing the area of the current polling districts GA2/GA3 is attached for ease of reference at Appendix 1. Attached at Appendix 2 is the proposed polling districts of GA2/GA3.

5.2 The Hollies is considered to be too small to accommodate two polling stations, therefore a line has been drawn on one side of Dade Avenue to separate GA2 and GA3.

6.0 The electors in GA3 polling district will benefit from The Hop Flower which is nearer to their property whilst the residents in the GA2 polling district will use The Hollies which is next to the former polling station, Inkersall Methodist Church.

7.0 The Elections Manager has researched the area and was unable to identify any other premises apart from Inkersall Primary School which would result in a school closure on the day of polling.

8.0 **Assessment**

8.1 It is the (Acting) Returning Officer's view that, having considered the comments received, The Hollies and The Hop Flower would be suitable venues and that the polling districts of GA2 and GA3 be re-drawn accordingly.

9.0 **Implications**

9.1 Policy

The proposals are in accordance with Council policy.

9.2 Communications

The Notice of Interim Review has been displayed on the Council's website, the offices of Staveley Town Council, the proposed polling stations and circulated to disability groups via The Hollies at Inkersall.

9.3 Legal

The Council has a duty to divide the borough wards into polling districts and to designate at least one Polling Place for each district.

9.4 Financial

There is likely to be a small increase in polling station fees as there will be two separate polling stations. This will only be a cost to the Council every four years as the polling station fees

will be reclaimable from the Electoral Claims Unit on all national elections.

9.5 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications.

9.6 Equalities and Diversity

The proposals have taken into account the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

9.7 Information Assurance and Data Protection

There are no information assurance and data protection implications.

10.0 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

10.1 Rule 20 of the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 permits the Returning Officer to use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes a room in a school. Inkersall Primary School is located in the polling district, however this would force a school closure on polling day.

11.0 **Recommendation**

11.1 To approve the designation of The Hop Flower, Beeley Close, Inkersall S43 3EB and The Hollies, Sutton Crescent, Inkersall S43 3SP as new polling places for polling districts GA2/GA3 to replace Inkersall Methodist Church, Summerskill Green, Inkersall S43 3SP.

Decision information

Key decision number	N/A
----------------------------	-----

Wards affected	Hollingwood and Inkersall
-----------------------	----------------------------------

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Julie Briggs - Electoral Services Manager	345806 / Julie.Briggs@chesterfield.gov.uk

Appendices to the report

Appendix A	Map of current polling districts for GA2/GA3
Appendix B	Map of proposed polling districts for GA2/GA3