

From: Houlder, Ian <Ian.Houlder@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2023 7:47 AM
To: elections <elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Polling Place Review - Denham

Hi,

There is really no need for these overly restrictive measures. The PCs are in tune with their residents and those who physically cannot make it to a polling station have several alternative measures they may take.

It appears there are bureaucrats creating problems where none exist in reality, disenfranchising the majority of residents as a result.

You only have to visit the figures of those voting in person from Westley village in the last WSDC elections, compared with all elections in the past, at the wholly inappropriate location designated on the Westley Estate in Bury St Edmunds where no public transport was available to and from the village and no pavements either. The turnout here was dire and could have seriously affected the actual Ward result of the vote in a close run contest.

It is now proposed to ask the residents of Denham to jump into their cars, get on their bikes or walk quite a distance to the next village to cast their votes. These hamlets have enough difficulty getting from A to B without making it harder for them to vote in person at their historic polling booth, this said there are alternatives for those unwilling or unable to make it to their local polling station.

Effort would be better spent on encouraging residents to use Postal Voting and alternatives rather than disenfranchising the majority on the altar of the Equalities lobby.

Best wishes, Ian

Councillor Ian Houlder
Councillor for Barrow
West Suffolk Council
Mobile: 07597 961069
Email: Ian.Houlder@westsuffolk.gov.uk