

From: Nicola Smith <bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com>
Sent: 20 December 2022 12:20
To: Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Interim Polling Place review - Bradfield St Clare

Dear Ben,

Contact details for the Church are Rev Canon **information redacted** and her email address is **information redacted** Her telephone numbers are **information redacted** or **information redacted**.

If the Church is not suitable then I agree that it would be a suitable alternative to combine polling stations at Bradfield St George Village Hall as it is the nearest West Suffolk village to Bradfield St Clare.

Kind regards

Nicola Sturgeon

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 12:06 PM Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk> wrote:

Thank you Nicola. Do you have a contact at the church please? If the church is not suitable then do you agree that a suitable alternative is to combine with the polling station in Bradfield St George?

Thanks,

Ben

Ben Smith
Business Partner Governance
Legal and Governance Services
Direct dial: 01284 757101
Email: Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk
West Suffolk Council
#TeamWestSuffolk

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From: Nicola Smith <bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com>
Sent: 20 December 2022 11:48
To: Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Interim Polling Place review - Bradfield St Clare

[THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your email. The only other venue in Bradfield St Clare is the Church.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Sturgeon

Parish Clerk

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 3:54 PM Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Ms Smith,

You may be aware that the Elections Act 2022 introduces changes which impact the voting process at polling stations and as a result West Suffolk Council has undertaken an audit of all polling station facilities to make sure they comply.

The feedback gathered has identified some polling stations which are not available at the next elections on 4 May 2023 and some polling stations which are not compliant as they do not provide electors with reasonable facilities for voting or are not accessible to electors who are disabled.

As a result, an interim polling places review and consultation is being undertaken and is focussed on changes to the polling scheme where venues are not available or are not suitable. The aims of this tailored review is to:

- seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
- ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who have a disability.

Details of the review can be found on our website, see here: [Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places-2022)

With regard to the Bradfield St Clare polling place, in Bradfield St Clare parish, the feedback from the audit and site visit was that the Bradfield St Clare village hall is not accessible as the entrance door is narrow and a person in a wheelchair may not be able to access the building. As a result it is recommended that we explore alternative facilities in the village. If an alternative is not available, then it is recommended that we combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Bradfield St George). This will future-proof our polling arrangements and provide better accessibility for all electors.

We would welcome your feedback regarding this proposal and if there are any suggestions as to alternative locations where a polling station could be held in Bradfield St Clare, then we would be pleased to receive details so that we could investigate this further.

When making comments or suggesting alternative venues, please consider that whatever arrangements we make, they should be accessible to disabled electors and provide reasonable facilities both for electors and polling staff.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is Friday 27 January 2023 and the revised polling arrangements will be published on 10 February 2023. We will notify you of the outcome.

Comments and representations can be submitted in the following ways:

Email: elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Post: Electoral Services, West Suffolk Council, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3YU

We would be grateful if you could publicise the review in your parish so that residents may make representations and suggest alternative venues too. Please direct them to our website where details of the review can be found, see here: [Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places-2022)

We will also share details of the review on our social media pages, sharing to local community pages where available, and with local ward councillors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email to ben.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk or telephone 01284 757101.

Kind regards

Ben

Ben Smith
Business Partner Governance

Legal and Governance Services
Direct dial: 01284 757101
Email: Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk
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