

From: Rushbrook, Marion <Marion.Rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 December 2022 14:40
To: Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Cc: Clarke, Nick <Nick.Clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Interim Polling Place review - Poslingford and Stradishall

Good afternoon Ben

I have not forgotten about this – more slipped my mind!

Poslingford Parish Council hold their meetings at Stansfield Village Hall. Hope Sterling House works out, good you have managed to pin them down. Nick and I are familiar with the venue and seen it work for public meetings. Hope the visit goes well and you can get Poslingford electorate sorted as well.

All the best for the new year.

Best wishes

Marion

Councillor Marion Rushbrook
Councillor for Clare, Hundon & Kedington
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From: Smith, Ben <Ben.Smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 December 2022 10:12
To: Clarke, Nick <Nick.Clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk>; Richardson, Karen <Karen.Richardson@westsuffolk.gov.uk>; Rushbrook, Marion <Marion.Rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Interim Polling Place review - Poslingford and Stradishall

Dear councillors,

I hope you are well. Further to my email below, and with regards to Stradishall, I just wanted to update you as we have been made aware of a potential venue which could be used as a polling station for the Stradishall electorate. The venue is Stirling

House, which I'm sure you are familiar with, and I'm visiting on 3 January to assess its suitability for use as a polling station. [Stirling House Training & Conference Centre \(stirlinghouseconferencecentre.co.uk\)](http://stirlinghouseconferencecentre.co.uk)

As always, I appreciate any views that you may have and if you would like to discuss this or other solutions then please give me a call.

Many thanks,

Ben

Ben Smith
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From: Smith, Ben

Sent: 19 December 2022 15:55

To: Clarke, Nick <Nick.Clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk>; Richardson, Karen <Karen.Richardson@westsuffolk.gov.uk>; Rushbrook, Marion <Marion.Rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk>

Subject: Interim Polling Place review - Poslingford and Stradishall

Dear Cllrs Clarke, Richardson and Rushbrook,

I hope this email finds you well. As you know, we have recently undertaken an audit of all polling stations and at the Council meeting last Tuesday it was agreed that an interim review of polling places would be carried out for polling stations that do not provide electors with reasonable facilities for voting or are not accessible to electors who are disabled. Polling stations that are not available for the elections on 4 May

2023 are also included as part of this review. See item 10 of the agenda: [Agenda for Council on Tuesday 13 December 2022, 7.00 pm \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

There are two polling places in your ward which have been included as part of this review:

- Poslingford: the feedback from the audit and site visit was that the St Mary's Church is not accessible as the footpath to the church is not accessible due to the steep incline on mud and stone. It would be very difficult for a person in a wheelchair or with limited mobility to be able to get to the church door from the parking area at the church gate. In addition, there is poor external lighting and no running water or toilet facilities on site. We do not believe that an alternative facility is available in the village. It is therefore recommended that we combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Clare or Stansfield). This will future-proof our polling arrangements and provide better accessibility for all electors.
- Stradishall: the feedback from the audit and site visit was that the St Margaret's Church is not accessible as the footpath to the church is not accessible due to the steep incline on mud and stone. It would be very difficult for a person in a wheelchair or with limited mobility to be able to get to the church door from the parking area at the church gate. In addition, there is poor external lighting and no running water or toilet facilities on site. As a result it is recommended that we explore alternative facilities in the polling district or close to the polling district boundary. If an alternative is not available, it is recommended that we combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Denston). This will future-proof our polling arrangements and provide better accessibility for all electors.

We would welcome your feedback regarding the proposals and if there are any suggestions as to alternative locations where polling stations could be held in Poslingford and Stradishall, 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 have asked the parish for their views and asked that they assist with publicising the review so that residents may make representations and suggest alternative venues too. Details of the review can be found on our website, see here: [Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Your local knowledge and input with this process will be gratefully received and if you would like to discuss or suggest solutions then I'm available and happy to have a telephone call, teams discussion or meeting in person. I or a person from the team would also be willing to meet at an alternative facility if appropriate.

Kind regards

Ben

Ben Smith
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