



Polling District Review Group

17:00 to 17:50

25 July 2019

Present: Councillors Kendrick (vice chair in the chair), Carlo, Driver (substitute for Councillor Giles) Fulton-McAlister (M), Stutely, Schmierer and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Giles (chair)

1. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019.

2. (Acting) Returning Officer for Norwich South final proposals – 2019 polling districts, places and stations review

The democratic and elections manager presented the final proposals of the (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO). The committee discussed the proposals for each ward, taking into account responses received from political parties, the Norwich South MP, individual councillors and members of the public.

Members discussed the proposals for the Catton Grove ward. Councillor Kendrick said that expanding the CG2 polling district would allow those streets with pedestrian access to Woodcock Road to easily vote at The Box, the suggested polling station for the CG2 district.

(Councillors Carlo and Schmierer joined the meeting at this point)

With regards to the Eaton ward, the democratic and elections manager highlighted a minor boundary amendment to the EA1 polling district and said that numbers 28 and 30 Bluebell Road should be included in the EA1 polling district.

The democratic and elections manager said that he had visited Arkwright's social club on Hobart Square which would be a suitable venue for a polling station for the LA3, LA3A and LA3B polling districts. The building had good access but would need some additional lighting, which could be arranged.

Members discussed the arrangements for the Mancroft ward. Due to potential development and current electorate size, it was proposed to split the MA2 polling district into two polling districts, MA2 and MA5. The Alive Church had been identified as a suitable polling station for the proposed MA5 polling district and the Norwich Central Baptist Church for the MA2 polling district.

The democratic and elections manager had been searching for an alternative polling station for the MA4 polling district. He suggested using the Davis Room at Wensum Lodge which was located in a separate building to the Crown Room which was used as a polling station for both the MA4 and TH1 polling districts. A member commented that this may be confusing for electors as they would be going to the same venue but separate rooms.

The democratic and elections manager highlighted comments he had received questioning the use of Chantry Hall as a polling station for the MA3 polling district but deemed it to be a suitable venue.

A temporary polling station was being considered for the MX3 polling district as the Norman Centre was a long walk for some voters. It was suggested that this could be situated in the car park at Sloughbottom Park. It was also noted that the initial proposal for the MX3 polling district should reference the Traveller Site and not the Showman's Guild.

Members discussed the Nelson ward and the suggested use of the pavilion at Heigham Park as a polling station for the NE4 polling district. The democratic and elections manager said that he had not been able to visit the venue at Heigham Park prior to the meeting but would undertake a visit as part of his considerations around finding a suitable venue.

The democratic and elections manager had visited two venues when considering a polling station for the SE4 polling district, The Mousehold Hub and the St Mary Magdalene Church. It was suggested that that St Mary Magdalene Church was used as the venue had off street parking and two access points for electors.

Councillor Stutely had suggested that a temporary polling station for the proposed TC5 polling district could be situated on an area of land at the bottom of Trafalgar Street where it met Southwell Road. The democratic and elections manager would investigate this as a solution.

Members discussed the University Ward having six polling districts. The democratic and elections manager explained that county divisions had to be taken into account when considering polling district boundaries. Councillor Wright suggested that when the Local Government Boundary Commission for England reviewed the county division boundaries, Norwich City Council could make a case for the boundaries to be coterminous with the local election boundaries.

RESOLVED to ask the ARO to take the following proposals to public consultation:

(1) In the Bowthorpe ward to:

- a) move the boundary between BO2 and BO3 so that the Fourways Centre is placed within the BO3 polling district
- b) Move properties 638 to 656 Dereham Road from BO2 to BO3 due to their proximity to the Fourways Centre

(2) In the Catton Grove ward to:

- a) Use The Box on Woodcock Road as the polling station for the CG2 polling district
- b) Expand the CG4 polling district to include the electors living east of Weston Road (currently part of the CG2 polling district)
- c) Move the boundary between CG4 and CG5 polling districts to the middle of St Clements Hill to ensure the number of electors within each remains within recommended levels
- d) Make the boundary between the CG2 and CG3 polling districts along Aylsham Road by the public footpath running to Palmer Road, keeping Copenhagen Road within the CG3 polling district.

(3) In the Crome ward to make no changes to the current arrangements

(4) In the Eaton ward to:

- a) Reduce the number of polling districts within the Eaton ward from five to four, removing the polling district currently named EA3
- b) Expand the EA1 polling district to include the area north and east of Bluebell Road
- c) Expand the EA2 polling district southwards to cover Marston Lane
- d) Rename the existing EA5 and EA5A to EA3 and EA3A and expand to cover both sides of Judges Walk
- e) Expand EA4 to cover the area south of Newmarket Road and the area around Bluebell Road and Poplar Avenue.

(5) In the Lakenham ward to:

- a) use Arkwrights Social Club on Hobart Square as a polling station for the LA3, LA3A and LA3B polling districts
- b) move the residents on Lindley Street, Meadowbank and Stratford Drive from the LA3 polling district to the LA4 polling district

(6) In the Mancroft ward to:

- a) Ask the ARO to continue to look for a suitable polling station for the MA4 polling district
- b) Ask the ARO to continue to look for an alternative polling station for the MA3 polling district

- c) Split the MA2 polling district into two separate polling districts with MA2 covering the area south of St Crispins Road and a new MA5 polling district covering the area north of St Crispins Road.

(7) In the Mile Cross ward to:

- a) Expand the MX1 polling district to include the area around Drayton Road up to Junction Road and the area south of Drayton Road up to Mile Cross Road.
- b) Reduce the MX2 polling district by moving the area south of Margaret Paston Avenue, the Swanton Road area and Galley Hill into the MX3 polling district
- c) Retain the area around the Swanton Road depot within the MX3 polling district.
- d) Move residents living on the western side of Mile Cross Road and north of Margaret Paston Avenue into the MX4 polling district.
- e) Use a temporary polling station for the MX3 polling district to be situated in the carpark at Sloughbottom Park.

(8) In the Nelson ward to:

- a) Ask the ARO to continue to look for a suitable venue to be used as a polling station for the NE4 polling district
- b) Move Recreation Road and the area south of The Avenues (from Recreation Road to Mill Hill Road) to the NE2 polling district
- c) Expand the NE3 polling district to include Lincoln Street, Portland Street, Dover Street, Warwick Street, Mill Hill Road, West Parade and the south eastern part of Park Lane.
- d) Move the residents of the north side of Earlham Road, between Edinburgh Road up to the boundary with UN5A and the South Lodge on Earlham Road from the NE1 to the NE2 polling district.

(9) In the Sewell ward to:

- a) Move the area around Waterloo Road, Temple Road and Albany Road from the SE1 to the SE2 polling district.
- b) Move Bell Road, the northern side of Branford Road and the western side of Silver Road from the SE2 polling district to the SE4 polling district.
- c) Move the boundary of the SE2 polling district to the west around Sewell Park Academy to the middle of St Clements Hill.
- d) Include the area around Shipstone Road south to Magpie Road in the SE3 polling district.

- e) Move residents between the southern part of Branford Road and the northern part of Beaconsfield Road to the SE4 polling district.
- f) Use St Mary Magdalene Church on Silver Road as the polling station for the SE4 polling station.

(10) In the Thorpe Hamlet ward to make no changes to the existing arrangements

(11) In the Town Close ward to:

- a) move the whole of Beaumont Place from the TC1 polling district to the TC2 polling district.
- b) Create a TC5 polling district east of the middle of the Lakenham Way footpath, including the whole of Brazen Gate, include Southwell Road, Langham Place and the eastern side of Grove Road to the north of Southwell Road.
- c) Ask the ARO to investigate the use of a temporary polling station on Southwell Road to be used for the TC5 polling district

(12) In the University ward to:

- a) Rename UN1 to UN1A, UN1A to UN1, UN6 to UN6A and UN6A to UN6 to ensure a consistent approach to polling district naming across the Norwich City Council area.
- b) Move the UEA residences on Wilberforce Road from UN6 to UN2.
- c) Expand the UN1 polling district to include residents living at The Gardens, 530-532 Earlham Road, Earlham School House and St Anne's Vicarage.

(13) In the Wensum ward to make no changes to the existing arrangements.

CHAIR