

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2019

STEVENAGE CONSTITUENCY

MANOR WARD

The map of Manor Ward is available on the following page. The Ward has two Polling Districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Electoral Division	Properties	Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
CFA	Chells	1763	3312	2081	1231
CFB	Chells	931	1714	1124	590

POLLING PLACES

Polling District	Polling Place	Envisaged Polling Station for the next scheduled election
CFA	CFA	Chells Park Pavilion, Gresley Way, SG2 0NZ
CFB	CFB	Timebridge Community Centre, Mobbsbury Way, SG2 0HT

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no developments within the Ward that are expected to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments were received from two of the Ward Councillors and the Stevenage Liberal Democrats in respect of the allocation of polling stations in the draft proposals for Polling District CFA.

The comments expressed opposition to the draft proposals to allocate Chells Park Pavilion as the polling station for Polling District CFA. This is due to it being at the southern end of the Ward, the transport links not being adequate and for some it will be further to travel. Further comments were that the previous polling station of Chells Manor Community Centre, which is outside of the Polling District and Ward, is more centrally located to the Ward with higher footfall due to closer local amenities.

Having considered the representations submitted, the use of Chells Park Pavilion in the draft proposals adheres to the guidance that the polling station is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, amongst other requirements).

There are no amendments from the draft proposals to those in these final proposals.

Comments were also received from two of the Ward Councillors and the Stevenage Liberal Democrats in respect of the allocation of polling stations in the draft proposals for Polling District CFB.

Comments were received from the Stevenage Liberal Democrats and one Ward Councillor that, although they did not have an absolute objection to using Timebridge Community Centre as a polling station which they felt would work well as it was closer for electors and had suitable parking close by, they suggested using the previously allocated polling station of St Hugh & St John Shared Church (which is outside of the Ward) as the polling station for voters in both CFB and CHA Polling Districts. This would mean allocating the Polling Place as both Polling Districts CFB and CHA. Administering two different Borough Ward elections at a polling venue would present significant administrative problems for the Returning Officer. It would create logistical problems for the staff, create confusion for the electorate, and also have significant legal implications around attendance at the polling station.

Comments were also received from a second Ward Councillor who expressed opposition to using Timebridge Community Centre as a polling station for CFB, citing issues of the building being busy, having large groups of students around it which could possibly intimidate voters, that it was further away from the shops and that there is no direct parking outside of the building. The venue has been assessed for suitability by election officers and, as well as adhering to the guidance that the polling station is within the Polling District and the Ward, it also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, amongst other requirements). A separate room will be used at the venue for voters and allocated parking and disabled parking (including off road parking) is available on site.

There are no amendments from the draft proposals to those in these final proposals.