

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2019

STEVENAGE CONSTITUENCY

WOODFIELD WARD

The map of Woodfield Ward is available on the following page. The Ward has three 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
CCA	St Nicholas	1135	1991	1167	824
CCB	St Nicholas	999	1887	1274	613
CCC	St Nicholas	206	389	248	141

POLLING PLACES

Polling District	Polling Place	Envisaged Polling Station for the next scheduled election
CCA	CCA	Joint Emergency Service Academy, Hitchin Road, SG1 4AE
CCB	CCB	Weston Road Cemetery, Weston Road, SG1 3RP
CCC	CCC	St Nicholas Recreation Centre, Pilgrims Way SG1 4PT

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

A substantial increase is envisaged in the number of properties in Woodfield Ward over the next five years (known as Land North of Stevenage). Those properties will be located within polling district CCA.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments were received from the Stevenage Liberal Democrats who welcomed the addition of the new Polling District CCC.

Whilst outside of the scope of this review, comments were received from the Leader of Stevenage Borough Council, the Stevenage Liberal Democrats and three individuals in respect of the use of Weston Road Cemetery as a polling station for Polling District CCB. The comments primarily centred around the appropriateness of using the Cemetery building as a polling station, but comments were also received regarding the infrastructure surrounding the venue.

The polling station previously used for the Polling District was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion which has now closed. Canterbury Way Park Pavilion itself was not an ideal venue, as electors had to cross a substantive field space in order to arrive at the polling station should they want to walk there. The location of Weston Road Cemetery is easier for residents to access. Many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent European Parliamentary election the Returning Officer did not receive any negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station. Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an election.

Whilst taking into consideration the views received, in so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District as per the draft proposals. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.

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