

## Redcar & Cleveland Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018

Ward	Polling Place	Comments and Representations received during the consultation	Response comments
Eston	Birkdale Drive Communal Hall	<p>Councillor Christopher Massey wrote:</p> <p>It is completely unacceptable to leave the residents of Bankfields without a polling station and the Council should make every effort to correct this.</p> <p>The previous location of Peek-a-Boo nursery was far less than ideal (as it was not in the Bankfields area), but the new proposed location of Birkdale Drive is far worse as it is not within walking distance for many people on Bankfields estate.</p> <p>Birkdale Drive is within a hidden location and the building is not well known outside of the Station Road estate. Residents in Bankfields will have no idea where this polling station is. Whilst it might be 'familiar to residents' on the Station Road estate it is entirely unfamiliar with residents of Bankfields.</p> <p>The rationale for the move is that 'only 7% of the electorate turned out to vote at the nursery' in 2017. The reason this is the case is due to the fact that the nursery was an entirely unacceptable location for Bankfields residents. Birkdale Drive is even worse.</p> <p>Birkdale Drive is one mile away from the furthest corner of Bankfields estate - Sedgemoor Road - and is at a minimum half a mile away from even the closest properties on the Bankfields estate. This is unacceptable for an urban area when other buildings exist.</p> <p>Bankfields is an area of low car ownership with a number of elderly residents who could not easily access Birkdale Drive Community Centre (and could not access Peek-A-Boo nursery). There are also poor bus routes through the estate, and even on</p>	<p>Further negotiations with Beyond Housing, including a site visit to Oakley Walk Community Centre has taken place.</p> <p>Oakley Walk Community Centre (St John's Ambulance day centre) has now been secured as a polling place. Arrangements have been made to re-locate day residents on election days.</p> <p>Residents who previously voted at Peek-A-Boo nursery, will now vote at Oakley Walk in future elections and Peek-A-Boo nursery will no longer be required.</p> <p>The Army Cadet Hut has previously been approached and has declined the request to be used as a polling place.</p> <p>Similarly, Heatherfields Community Hall has previously been approached and has declined the request to be used as a polling place.</p> <p>Sainsbury's is not suitable for use as a polling place.</p>

		<p>the ones that run, there are no bus stops near Birkdale Drive – the closest being Eston Square.</p> <p><b>The Polling Station in Bankfields should return to Oakley Walk Community Centre as it was for many years.</b> This is a known location to residents and is in the centre of Bankfields estate. Bankfields residents want to vote in Bankfields not in another town/area.</p> <p>The Council should strive to ensure that Oakley Walk is established as the Bankfields polling station above all else. In the event this cannot be achieved then the Council should investigate the possibility of placing the Polling Station for the Bankfields area in: The Army Cadet Hut on Woodcock Close, Sainsburys Bankfields or Heatherfields Community Hall.</p>	
Eston	Birkdale Drive Communal Hall	<p>A Resident of Eston Ward commented:</p> <p>I've just been informed of the council's proposal to move the Bankfields polling station from Peek-a-Boo nursery to Birkdale Drive.</p> <p>As a resident of Bankfields for almost thirty years, I'm compelled to object to this proposed move on the grounds that it will categorically reduce turnout for the area.</p> <p>I live in the Gorsefields Court area close to Normanby Primary school. Many of my neighbours are elderly and after the polling station moved from Oakley Walk to Bankfields school, many of them were put off walking that far to vote. In fact almost none made the trip to vote for the Tees Valley mayor.</p> <p>Moving the polling station to Birkdale Drive would only exacerbate the problem. The distance from the top of Bankfields to Birkdale Drive is a hugely inconvenient distance to expect residents, especially the elderly, to walk.</p> <p>A location close to Sainsbury's would be ideal for the area, or failing that, a return to Oakley Walk polling station.</p>	<p>Further negotiations with Beyond Housing, including a site visit to Oakley Walk Community Centre has taken place.</p> <p>Oakley Walk Community Centre (St John's Ambulance day centre) has now been secured as a polling place. Arrangements have been made to re-locate day residents on election days.</p> <p>Residents who previously voted at Peek-A-Boo nursery, will now vote at Oakley Walk in future elections and Peek-A-Boo nursery will no longer be required.</p> <p>Public notice of the Review of Polling District and Polling Places 2018 Consultation Report was s</p>

		<p>I'm also angered that the council has made no attempts to communicate this proposal to the resident. We've had no letters or door-knocks either informing or engaging us with the proposal. This is unacceptable.</p>	<p>This formal consultation was published on our website as well as being sent to all of the venues and people listed in Appendix 1. This included all of the libraries, main council offices and Parish Councils.</p>
Hutton	Galley Hill Primary School	<p>Councillor Bill Clarke who lives in the local area near to Cobble Carr made comments regarding the Boundary Commission's decision to move electors into the Hutton Ward:</p> <p>The nearest polling station in the Hutton Ward is Galley Hill school which is quite some distance if you have to walk and cross major roads.</p> <p>Yet just over the road literally in the King George Fifth playing field at the Guisborough Town Football club there is a polling station for the Guisborough ward.</p> <p>I know this building well and the room used is large. Could the council not combine this facility for two wards to vote in or is this a legal impossibility?</p> <p>I ask for the benefit of the elderly, less mobile and young mothers who may have to push prams to their local polling station.</p> <p>Can this proposal be given serious thought please?</p> <p>Bearing in mind such a distance could deter residents from voting.</p>	<p>A polling station is required to sit within the district/ward (except in special circumstances). Guisborough Town Football Club does not sit in the Hutton ward.</p> <p>In relation to the distance people may have to travel from Cobble Carr; there is the option for registered electors to apply for a postal vote at anytime throughout the year and up to the deadline date stated on the poll card for a specific election.</p>
South Bank	Inspire 2 Learn (formerly CLC)	<p>Existing Ward members expressed concern about the use of this building because it means crossing Normanby Road, using a building which electors are unfamiliar with, and the entrance has a door entry system.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Jeffrey commented:</p>	<p>Under a Polling Place and Polling District review, polling stations are required to sit within the ward (except in special circumstances). As a consequence of the Local Government Boundary Review,</p>

		<p>CLC (or I2L as some have it) – if it is to be used will the door entry system be disabled to allow free access? Quite important</p> <p>I should also emphasise it is now officially called Inspire 2 Learn to avoid any confusion.</p>	<p>St Georges Church and The Scout Hut have moved to the Teesville ward.</p> <p>Inspire 2 Learn has been revisited, and it has been agreed that the door entry system will be switched off for the duration of polling day access 06:30am – 10:30pm.</p>
West Dyke	Ryehills School	<p>A Resident of West Dyke Ward asked:</p> <p>Would the school be open to pupils as normal on polling day? If so, the public should be kept separate from students - depending where in the building the polling station will be, that could mean ensuring students avoid using the main building entrance or having a specific entrance for the station only.</p>	<p>It has been confirmed that the school will stay open for elections on 2 May 2019.</p> <p>It has been agreed with the school that the main entrance in principal will be used and measures will be put in place to use either partitions or roping to steer the electorate to the polling station, a room to the right after entering the main doors, thus keeping the electorate and students segregated.</p>