

Representations received

Baildon ward

I wish to offer the following in respect of the above consultation, regarding a couple of issues around the boundary of districts 1F and 1G in Baildon Ward.

Southcliffe Drive is a cul de sac. Numbers 73 to 79 were built at the closed end of it a couple or so years back. They are currently in 1F Polling District. All the other houses in Southcliffe are in 1G including those immediately opposite the above. All houses in Southcliffe Drive share the same post code apart from Pine Court and Beech Court.

A similar situation occurs with Fairview Court, which includes Anderson and Roe House. These are currently in Polling District 1F. However, they are situated behind Southdown Road and Greenwood Road, both in 1G. In addition, road access for residents means they have to travel past Greenwood and along Southdown to exit the area.

In both the above cases both sets of residents, being cut off from the rest of 1F, have to travel through the neighbouring district of 1G and by pass the Polling Station at St Aidan's on Baildon Road to reach their own at Baildon Community Link on Cliffe Avenue.

I believe that this is an anomaly that should be put right at the earliest opportunity.

Thanking you for your consideration of this issue.

Bowling and Barkerend

In furtherance to the request for information for a review of Polling Station provision in the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area I would wish to comment on the Polling Place at the School Hall, Bowling Academy, Hendford Drive, BD3 0QT.

I am an ambulatory disabled person whom walks with a cane and also wears a hearing aid in each ear.

The access to and from this Polling Place requires one to go down 2 or three steps from the pathway outside the school and then to rise another 3 or 4 steps to enter the school hall itself. Ramps both from the pathway down into the school yard and from the school yard into the school hall. I find that the ramps are extremely unsafe as they are not tethered at any point and I have found them to move whilst I have walked on them. The ramps themselves do not have much of a lip to aid wheel-chair users from going off the lateral sides. Neither of the ramps have any form of hand rail which, of course, increases the danger for anyone using them. The ramp into the school hall seems to me to be at an angle which would be difficult for a wheel-chair user to utilise as I find it steep to walk-up. As space is at a premium both entering the school yard through the gates and the school hall through the doors one is almost forced to use the ramps with all the difficulties that this brings. Lack of space between the 2 ramps and a ninety

degree turn between the two also makes entering or leaving this Polling Station difficult for all and especially if you have a disability.

Once inside the school hall the height of the ceiling makes hearing what is being said to you very difficult as the acoustics are for a school hall and not for a Polling Place.

Great Horton

I would like you to look at one of our polling stations that we changed a couple of years ago and is not suitable. The one in question is at Fields Sports and Community club. The problem is that it is too far away from those from box 11E. It is also quite a trek from the main road and also from the car park. For those that have a disability they have further to walk around the building to use another entrance, and this means that those in the polling station need to keep the door open. On a night it is poorly lit and not a nice place to be walking down from the car park.

From the start we have had a number of complaints and also when we have visited on the day the feedback from the polling clerks are that it is not ideal. After the first election which we used it the Cllrs raised concerns and also our MP Judith Cummins, so I have copied them both in.

I would like you to look as an alternative using Horton Bank Methodist Church. This is already in use for the Royds ward and so would cut down on costs. I have heard that this is a suitable place. When you look at those that do vote from 11E more are nearer to Horton Bank than Fields.

Ilkley Ward

1.

I should like to make the following points in relation to this consultation:

- As a resident of Ben Rhydding ward in Ilkley, I find the current distribution of polling stations skewed to the more affluent parts of town which is counter to the spirit of the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission
- In Ben Rhydding, there are two polling stations situated close to each other and away from the more populated parts of the community
- At least one Ben Rhydding polling station should be located to provide better access to the significant number of electors who live between Valley Drive and Leeds Road
- This anomaly will become more apparent when the boundary changes take place with the polling station for a new ward being at the extreme border of the ward
- There are numerous office and commercial buildings on both Valley Drive and Leeds Road that could accommodate the changes needed for a temporary polling station
- Elsewhere in Ilkley, the polling stations are similarly sited in affluent areas - the King's Hall and Rugby Club - again, there are plenty of better located facilities including churches, cinema, theatre and other commercial premises whose use would provide access to a greater number of people. I hope you find these comments helpful.

2.

In general, I think the polling stations in Ilkley are well situated and do not need changing.

Moving the 14B polling station to the rugby club worked well and I have heard no complaints. Parking is much easier than it was at Ilkley Playhouse.

My only suggestion is that the polling station for 14A should be situated in the polling district. It is currently the only one which isn't. I think the Baptist church on Kings Road may have been used in the past, which would make more sense. It is situated within 14A and is a more central location for residents.

3.

I am writing to contribute to your review of polling stations and to highlight my concerns regarding the arrangements in Ben Rhydding.

In April 2024, the UK Parliament published a report analysing why some people did not vote:-
<https://post.parliament.uk/election-turnout-why-do-some-people-not-vote/>

1. Health – Physical and psychological health can negatively impact on voting behaviour.
2. Logistical barriers – some people may be deterred from voting by access barriers. Disabled voters have lower levels of participation in elections than nondisabled voters. The weather can further deter people from voting.

In Ben Rhydding, the polling station locations benefit those living south of the railway line but are some distance from the more populated community to the north of Ben Rhydding. Pedestrian access to Ben Rhydding scout hut is along a narrow uphill pavement. There are no pedestrian crossings, and the road is busy with blind corners. The scout hut itself has limited parking for no more than four cars. A deterrent for those with limited mobility and childcare responsibilities.

I am concerned that the restrictive nature of polling stations in Ben Rhydding may be contrary to fair access guidance issued by the electoral commission.

There are several locations in Ben Rhydding which are more accessible for the electorate.

Hollygarth Social Club on Leeds Road. The premises has good parking facilities.

The International Wool Secretariat building where Valley Road meets Valley Drive is central to the large estates in north Ben Rhydding and has good parking facilities.

The Factory Shop where Wheatley Lane meets Leeds Road has spare capacity and parking facilities.

Sacred Heart Primary School on Valley Drive.

There are also several commercial premises on Leeds Road which would be worth exploring.

I appreciate that it may seem expedient to rule out some of these premises due to their core activities, but I would suggest that they can all be explored with an open mind so that we can have a more equitable distribution of polling stations in Ben Rhydding.

Keighley West

The temp polling station on Oakworth road Keighley is dangerous. It is on a busy arterial route.. on a bend in the road.

Older people have to be helped across the road by the polling station staff, I have seen them stop traffic to do this endangering themselves.

The polling station at the scout hut at fell lane and nessfield school in The same ward need to be incorporated as a holistic piece of work.