

Representation received from Chair of Governors – Re: St Catherine’s Primary School (CGB)

Wed 23 Sept 2015

Dear Mr Bailey

I am the interim chair at St Catherine Primary School - Polling Station, Vale Drive EN5 2ED

I would like to start a process in moving this polling station to the Baptist Church Hall 200 metres from the school.

Every time there is an election the education of 450 children and their families is disrupted for a day. The cost in giving the teachers an extra day off is £14000 per day plus the hundreds of parents who have to take a day off to care for their children.

The local Church Hall remains empty during polling.

The lost days education can never be got back

If the Baptist Hall is not suitable would you consider only using the nursery school as the polling station so as not to disrupt the entire school? The nursery school is a self-contained unit .

I look forward to your favourable reply.

Gordon Fisher

Representation received from Cllr Dean Cohen – Re: St Mary & Archangel Mikail Coptic Orthodox Church Hall (FLA)

Wed 23 Sept 2015

Dear Mr Bailey

As I am sure you are aware at the general election in May we had an issue with the polling station in Cranbourne Gardens, nw11 which is not usually a problem. Please can you confirm that the entrance/room that was used in the general election will not be used again and it will revert back to the previously used hall?

Kind regards
Dean Cohen

Representation received from Mike Freer MP – Re: St Mary & Archangel Mikail Coptic Orthodox Church Hall (FLA)

Thu 24 Sept 2015

Dear Mr Bailey

I support the representations of Cllr Dean Cohen. On the General Election Polling Day I had to ask my Election Agent to contact Mr Travers as I was extremely concerned at the change of room being used for polling. Not only was the entrance not disabled accessible but there was a large crucifix over the door and the main room had religious icons, crosses and a display cabinet of religious paraphernalia. As you will know for Orthodox Jews this is a significant issue. Historically the smaller room has been acceptable because of the absence of icons etc.

Sincerely
Mike Freer

Representation received from Cllr Melvin Cohen – Re: St Mary & Archangel Mikail Coptic Orthodox Church Hall (FLA)

Thu 24 Sept 2015

I would wish to make the same representations as Cllr. Dean Cohen

Representation received from Cllr Reuben Thompstone – Re: St Mary & Archangel Mikail Coptic Orthodox Church Hall (FLA)

Thu 24 Sept 2015

Ditto.

Representation received from Neil Marlow (LBB Head of School Improvement) – Re: All Saint's CE School (FKB)

Tue 20 Oct 2015

Dear John and Fiona,

Following a request made at a recent Governing Body Meeting at All Saint's NW2 I am requesting that the school be no longer used as a Polling Station. They are understandably concerned that every available minute needs to be used in raising standards at the school. The Governing Body said they have tried (in vain) to get another location previously. Is there anything we can do to get an alternative location used for election days? I do appreciate that a school is the ideal location for a Polling Station but when a school is so reliant on achievement data to get a good judgement at an Ofsted inspection (which is imminent), it would be much better for the school community if an alternative site was found.

I look forward to hearing from you

Thank you

Neil

Representation received from LBB Labour Group – Re: Various as detailed below

Wed 28 Oct 2015

The overriding principle in reviewing polling district boundaries and polling places should be to maximise democratic engagement particularly in those areas where transport and access may be an issue.

Colindale:

The population has increased greatly and continues to do so. Residents of Colindale Avenue and roads off have a long journey to their polling station. The lack of north-south links between Colindale Avenue and Colindeep Lane is a significant constraint. An extra polling district is needed to serve the Colindale Avenue area. The polling station could be at Silk House which has served in that capacity before.

Coppetts:

The changes implemented this year should be retained.

East Finchley:

Proposed changes:

Transfer into FIA from FIB Chandos Road and a small number of houses on the High Road up to 238. The boundary with FIC would be the Martin School playing fields.

Transfer into FIB from FIA The Grange Estate, Oak Lane, New Oak Road, part of Long Lane.

Transfer into FIB from FIC All of Park Road, New Ash Close, Norfolk Close, Chapel Court, Prospect Ring, Market Place, Beresford Road Kitchener Road, Part of High Road, Part of East End Road, Viceroy Close.

Transfer into FIC from FIB Creighton Avenue, Hertford Road and part of High Road.

These changes would reduce journeys needed now along and across High Road to the Green Man polling station and also polling station electorates would be better balanced.

Hale:

The changes implemented this year should be retained.

Underhill:

People living in Bells Hill going north from Dellors Close and all the roads off Bells Hill up to and including West End Lane Lane and The Croft should be able to vote in St Stephens Church Hall. This transfer from CGA to CGC would reduce the journey to the polling station for those electors.

West Finchley:

The ward has only three polling districts so many electors have long journeys to the polling station. A fourth polling district should be created in line with almost all other wards (all except one have at least four).

Ward Boundary Review:

At some point the significant population increases in Colindale, Mill Hill and Golders Green wards arising from large scale housing developments will trigger a ward boundary review. For Colindale this might involve consideration of moving the boundary with West Hendon northwards and moving the Shirehall area into Hendon ward. This would help to rebalance the numbers and produce logical, relatively straight boundaries easily recognised on the ground.

Representation received from Frances Lasok (Conservative Agent – Chipping Barnet) – Re: Balmoral Drive/Regal Avenue (CDB)

Wed 4 Nov 2015

Dear John,

I hope you are well.

Regarding the review of polling districts, we have one final submission to make regarding Coppetts ward. There is no issue with the Scout and Guide Hall, the HCS and St Peter's, but we felt it important that a polling station should remain at the junction of Balmoral Avenue and Regal Drive.

If a polling station is located there, it means that commuters using the Tube can vote on their way to / from work easily. If they need to walk in the opposite direction to St John's before work or after a long day, this may discourage people from voting.

Best,

Frances

Frances Lasok, Agent

Chipping Barnet Conservatives & Theresa Villiers MP

Representation received from Oli Hazell (Conservative Agent – Hendon) –

Re: Various (HSA / HRD / HUC / HPC / HTC)

Wed 25 Nov 2015

Below are my suggestions and thoughts regarding certain polling stations across the Hendon Constituency:

HSA Polling Place - John mentioned that the current polling station for HSA polling district was no longer suitable and needed to be moved. There was talk of moving this polling place to the B.E.S.T hub on Lanacre Avenue, however, as I discussed with John, the B.E.S.T hub is not located in the HSA polling district and a potential alternative place for this station could be the Barnet & Southgate College Campus.

HRD Polling Place – from experience at the recent General Election, many voters in the HRD polling district, especially those in the new builds on Shearwater Drive etc. struggled to find the polling station at the Marsh Drive Community Centre. The fact that there are actually two community centres in the West Hendon estate leads to confusion for electors also. As such I suggested to John that the polling station be moved out of an estate that is being demolished to somewhere much more visible and easier to access than the current polling place. One suggestion for this move is the catholic church, St. Patrick's, on West Hendon Broadway. Being on the West Hendon Broadway means that many more electors will pass by the polling place on their travels to and from work and also those electors locally shopping in the Broadway would see the polling place as well, this should help to increase voter turnout as the polling place will be far more visible than the current one which is tucked away in an estate that many residents do not want to enter whilst building work is taking place.

HUC Polling Place – At present the polling place for this district is to be moved as the church hall will no longer be there soon. However, electors in the north of the polling district (living on roads such as Pipers Green Lane, Brockley Hill, Brockley Av etc.) have a long way to travel to vote, along many busy A roads and across busy roundabouts. To my knowledge a second polling station used to be placed in the north of the district to increase voter turnout in this district at elections. I would suggest that this option is reconsidered to ensure that all those in the HUC polling district have the opportunity to vote at a polling station near to them.

HPC polling district – the development of Millbrook Park Estate is bringing huge numbers of residents – many of whom are already registered to vote – to the HPC polling district. It would, in my opinion, be wise to keep the current portacabin at Bittacy Road for elections but have another polling place in this district in the Millbrook Park Estate (possibly the new school that's opening there?) This would allow all voters in the polling district to vote at a polling place close to them that is easily accessible. Furthermore, as the residents of Millbrook Park Estate will be, on the whole, new to the area it would increase voter turnout at election time to have a polling place in their estate rather than send them to a portacabin tucked away on the corner of a road such as the one in Bittacy Road.

HTC Polling Place - John Bailey discussed with me a move of this polling place which seems reasonable and I can see no reason to oppose such a move.