

This is my formal response to the Polling Districts and Polling Places consultation.

I believe that the voting arrangements for residents in Springwood, King's Lynn are unreasonable and confusing, especially regarding them having to vote in a neighbouring ward which annoys residents there.

Under the proposed arrangements, Springwood voters have to travel off ward to vote in two separate locations. One of them is still going to be at Minster Court in Fairstead. This explains my interest as I am one of the sitting Councillors for that area. Minster Court is not a public building, it is the Communal Hall for the residents of the retirement flats there. At previous elections, complaints were made from residents in Minster Court that they couldn't vote in the polling station on their own doorstep as it was reserved for other voters. They were understandably irritated and confused by this. I believe several people were deterred from voting because of this unreasonable situation. This feedback has been passed on previously and I am disappointed to see it has not been acted upon.

I note that the remaining Springwood voters are required to go into Gaywood to vote at Beulah Street Bowls Club. This venue will also host voters for the Gaywood Clock ward, again not an ideal situation. All this confusion and disruption could be avoided by the simple solution of finding an alternative voting place for all of Springwood voters. There are several venues in and on the edge of the ward that are self-contained and far more suitable. My suggestions are:

- 1) Gaywood Church Rooms
- 2) Gaywood Community Centre
- 3) Holy Family Catholic Church

I understand that both St Martha's and Gaywood Primary schools will be in the Springwood ward area as of May 2019. Perhaps they could be considered if all else fails.

I cannot see any other example in the Polling District and Polling Places Review where voters go to a different ward to vote. The Springwood situation makes us as a Council look illogical and unhelpful to voters. I think this anomaly should be corrected.

Regards

Gary Howman
Fairstead Ward

Please can the residents that are part of the Fairstead Ward ie: Minster Court etc. That the Polling Station in Minster Court that the Residents be able to vote at this Polling Station.

It is not making it easy for these residents democratic right to be able to vote were they live. The outcome as previous Elections they get so cross and believe that we approve of the situation and so they will not go to the Community Centre to vote.

Then some Parts of Springwood come to Fairstead to find that they to should not be at the Community Centre.

Can this please be changed, so that they do not lose their right to vote. Yes they can have a postal vote, but still some of them want to wait until the day to cast their vote, at the Polling Station.

Kind regards
Cllr.Margaret Wilkinson