Thomas Marsh

From: Elections

Sent: 03 October 2023 12:43

Subject: Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations - Consultation now open

To whom it may concern

I am emailing from the Electoral Services team at North Herts Council as we have been provided your contact details as being related to a disability group, residents associations or other interested party in our area.

North Herts Council is required by law to undertake a review of all polling districts, polling places and polling stations every 5 years. We have just commenced our next such review, as we look to make our arrangements fit for purpose for the new boundaries coming into effect in 2024 for both District and Parliamentary elections.

We have now published the Notice of Review, formally opening the consultation period, as well as our current proposals for the new polling arrangements. These documents can be found on our website at: Polling District Review | North Herts Council (north-herts.gov.uk).

We would therefore like to invite all interested parties to provide feedback on any of these polling stations, places, or polling districts in North Herts so that this can inform our work.

We want to get your opinion on issues such as:

- whether you think any of the Polling Station locations should change
- what you think about any changes we are proposing
- where polling stations could be relocated to

We would be particularly interested and grateful to hear if you have any feedback on polling stations related to the following areas:

- Where the existing polling station's location is not very accessible geographically in relation to the polling district (and therefore the voters) voting there. For instance, is there a main road / train track / hill / large distance / other physical feature which makes getting to the polling station an issue for voters (or any other access / transport issues).
- Where the outside of the polling place has issues with accessibility, such as obstructions in the approach or entrance to the building, no dropped kerb / level access to allow for wheelchair access or no external lighting.
- Where there are issues with the inside areas of the polling place or polling station, such as internal steps, corridors causing access problems, lack of sufficient space for accommodating polling stations and polling booths ensuring the secrecy of the ballot, or lack of adequate internal lighting.

If you have any comments in relation to the above areas, positive or negative, please respond to our consultation including all of the details, as well as any suggestions for potential alternative polling stations in the vicinity for us to investigate.

Comments and Representations on the proposals may be submitted as follows:

- By completing the online feedback form on our website Polling District Review | North Herts Council (north-herts.gov.uk)
- By Email to <u>elections@north-herts.gov.uk</u> please mark the subject of the email as 'Polling District Review'
- By Post to Electoral Services, North Herts Council, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF

Anybody making representations should be aware that, upon completion of the review, all correspondence and representations received must, by law, also be published.

All feedback will be extremely gratefully received, considered and factored into our proposals alongside our own records from previous elections.

Kind regards

Tom Marsh Electoral Services Manager



Tom Marsh BA Hons, AEA (Cert). Electoral Services Manager

01462 474305









www.north-herts.gov.uk