

Respondent	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Councillor Nicolson	Barsail Primary School (NN21) Inchinnan Primary School (NN20)	<p>The small number of houses located at Naimh Court, Inchinnan should have their polling station changed from Barsail Primary School to Inchinnan Primary School.</p> <p>The current situation is an anomaly due to house building. Their closest polling station is Inchinnan which is the community they are associated with, it is the only access to drive past to and from their homes.</p>

Evaluation

Naimh Court is located off the Old Greenock Road, sitting between Erskine and Inchinnan. The development consists of seven properties and includes 15 voters. The development is closer to Inchinnan Primary School and the Old Greenock Road is a logical direct link to that polling place.

Recommendation

That the seven properties located at Naimh Court, Inchinnan be included in polling district NN20 – Inchinnan Primary School.

Respondent	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
(a) Councillor James MacLaren (b) Carol Mackay (c) Mrs Moira Macdonald (d) Sandra Liddell, on behalf of Bridge of Weir Community Council	Bridge of Weir Primary School (NN16)	<p>Councillor MacLaren has intimated that he believes it is best to avoid closing schools for elections. In relation to Bridge of Weir Primary School, Councillor MacLaren had previously suggested that the British Legion Hall be used. As that has now closed he has proposed that having all voting at the Cargill Hall (NN15) would be better than closing the school. He has suggested that the services of My Bus could be provided for the area for those unable to walk or drive the distance.</p> <p>The other respondents suggest that there is no need for the primary school to be used in Bridge of Weir as a polling station when there is adequate alternative provision in terms of church and community halls.</p>

Evaluation

Bridge of Weir Primary School normally has one polling station and has never had more than two for any electoral event. The school is closed on election days.

Cargill Hall currently accommodates three polling stations.

In terms of available space, the Cargill Hall could easily accommodate at least one additional polling station and further polling stations by utilising the Lesser Hall. In terms of location, moving all voters to the Cargill Hall will mean that voters in the North of the village who currently vote at the Primary School will have further to travel.

Recommendation

That Bridge of Weir Primary School be no longer used as a polling place and that, instead, a fourth polling station (NN16) be located at the Cargill Hall.

Respondent	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Councillor Audrey Doig	St Fillan's Primary School (NN13), (NN14) and (NS05)	That either Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls or the Carrick Centre be used rather than St Fillan's Primary School.

Evaluation

St Fillan's Primary School is one of the largest polling places in Renfrewshire area, accommodating six polling stations and requiring the use of the gym and four classrooms. The school is closed to accommodate electoral events.

Both the Carrick Centre and Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls have been inspected and assessed. Both venues could potentially accommodate the required number of polling stations and both had suitable disabled access, parking facilities and adequate space for signage.

While the Carrick Centre would be able to accommodate six polling stations, this would involve utilising at least three rooms in the centre and could create issues for some voters in respect of understanding the layout and where to vote. The Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls could easily accommodate the six stations between the two main spaces in the building.

Recommendation

That the six polling stations located at St Fillan's Primary School be relocated to the Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
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<p>(a) Councillor Jacqueline Cameron (b) Mrs Deborah Whyte (c) Ms Sarah Cooper (d) Lynsey Conroy (e) Krista Russell (f) Michelle Black (g) Gary Malcolm (h) Alexis Holmes (i) Susan McKie (j) Kirsten Stobo (k) Lesley Woodhouse (l) Louise Rossi (m) Allison Connelly (n) Tara Gibson (o) Linda F (p) Kenny McGuire (q) Lianne Grieves (r) Claire Brown (s) Charris Malcolm (t) Alan Mitchell (u) Sheila Davies (v) Andrea Ennis (w) Catherine Denholm (x) Lesley Dawson (y) Susan McKie (z) Alexis Holmes (aa) Antonio Aitken (bb) Lesley McGuire (cc) Michelle Black (dd) Gary Malcolm (ee) Scott Mitchell</p>	<p>Wallace Primary School (SS01)</p>	<p>Respondents (a) – (dd) suggested that the polling place be changed from Wallace Primary School to Elderslie Village Hall.</p> <p>Respondent (ee) requested that Wallace Primary School continue to be used as a polling place.</p>
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Evaluation

Wallace Primary School accommodates five polling stations, four in the gym hall and one in a classroom. The school is closed for elections.

Elderslie Village Hall is managed by Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. The Hall has been inspected and assessed. It is suitable in terms of accommodation size, disabled access and car parking.

A similar proposal to change the polling place from Wallace Primary School to Elderslie Village Hall was considered by Council as part of the last review in 2014. At that time the view of the Council was that Wallace Primary School had been

used for a number of years as a polling place and was more centrally located within the Polling District and accordingly no change was made.

Recommendation

That Polling Districts NP07 and SS01 be relocated from Wallace Primary School to Elderslie Community Centre.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Vikki Aitkenhead Chairperson - Barsail Parent Council	Barsail Primary School (NN21)	<p>The respondent advises that Barsail Primary School has been used as a polling station for many years and concerns regarding the school closures have been discussed regularly at Parent Council meetings and also at the wider Renfrewshire Parent Council liaison meetings.</p> <p>The Parent Council asked the wider parent body to suggest potential alternative venues in Erksine, resulting the in the following list:</p> <p>Erskine Baptist Church The Farmhouse Community Centre Erskine Library Erskine Sport Centre Park Mains High School Sports Hall St Bernadette’s Church Salvation Army Hall Bargarran Community Centre Masonic Hall, Inchinnan Erskine Bowling Club Inchinnan Bowling Club</p>

Evaluation

Barsail Primary School accommodates three polling stations. The school closes for elections.

A number of the locations suggested by the Parent Council have been considered and are not suitable for use as a polling place for NN21 as they are located outwith the Polling District. They are not within easy walking or travelling distance for voters reliant on public transport. These are: Erskine Library, Erskine Sport Centre, Park Mains High School Sports Hall, Salvation Army Hall, Bargarran Community Centre, Masonic Hall, Inchinnan, Erskine Bowling Club and the Old Farmhouse Community Centre and Inchinnan Bowling Club.

While St Bernadette's Church Hall is also located outwith NN21, it has been inspected and assessed as it lies close to the edge of the Polling District and could be considered to be within reasonable travelling distance. However, is not large enough to accommodate the three stations located at Barsail Primary School. Further, the Church Hall is located next to St Anne's Primary School which is the polling place for NN22. Two polling places in such close proximity could cause voter confusion.

Erskine Baptist Church has been inspected and assessed. The Baptist Church has adequate space to accommodate three polling stations, has suitable disabled access and has a number of parking spaces. While the Church is not central to the NN21 Polling District, it is within walking distance of Barsail Primary School, the current polling place.

Recommendation

That Polling District NN21 be relocated from Barsail Primary School to Erskine Baptist Church.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Returning Officer	Bargarran Primary School (NN23)	That the Bargarran and St. John Bosco collocated campus be used as the Polling Place for NN23 and that the schools remain open on election days.

Evaluation

Bargarran Primary School has been used as a polling place for a number of years. The Primary School accommodated five polling stations and was closed on election days. More recently, the school has been rebuilt and now forms part of a collocated campus that it shares with St John Bosco Primary School.

Prior to the 2019 European Election the new Bargarran Primary School was inspected and assessed to confirm if the premises remained suitable for use as a polling place and in particular whether it provided the required disabled access and was large enough to accommodate the required five polling stations. Having done so it was confirmed that the school remained a suitable location.

Consideration was then given as to whether both schools would require to close in order that the building could be used as a polling place. Children's Services position is that, where a school is used as a polling place, consideration should be given as to whether a school can be used in such a way as to allow the school in question to remain open and cause the least possible disruption to the pupils and their parents. Accordingly, other schools in Renfrewshire are used as polling places while remaining open to pupils. These arrangements have operated successfully for a number of years.

Having assessed the school, it was noted that strict segregation could be maintained between the voting area located in the school dining hall and the rest

of the school. This allowed the possibility of keeping the school open to pupils on polling day.

The matter was discussed with Children's Services. Having consulted the Acting Director of Children's Services and the Head of Schools, they wished to follow the model adopted at other schools and keep both Bargarran and St John Bosco open to pupils.

Accordingly, both schools were kept open to pupils on 23 May.

An inspection and assessment has been made of Bargarran Community Centre to assess its possible use as an alternative polling place. While the Community Centre is located in close proximity to the current polling place at Bargarran Primary School, the main hall would not accommodate the required five polling stations. At least one of the five polling stations would require to be located elsewhere in the building. A further issue is that the central access to the main hall is shared with the GP surgery and given that Polling Agents and tellers are allowed in the polling place, they would be in that area. As there is no way to segregate the communal entrance through the use of screens patients attending the surgery would have to pass these campaigners. Accordingly, it is not recommended that the Community Centre be used as a polling place.

Recommendation

That Bargarran Primary School continues to be used as a polling place and in such a way that the both primary schools remain open to pupils during polling.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Gillian Dowds, Vice Chair of the Williamsburgh Parent Council	Williamsburgh Primary School (NP01, SP02 SP03, SP26 and SP27)	Ms Dowds asked why other schools in the area could not be used - or why other premises could not be sourced which were less disruptive to the local community. For example, the Sherwood Greenlaw Church, or the Lagoon Sports centre.

Evaluation

Williamsburgh Primary School accommodates eight polling stations, more than any other polling place in Renfrewshire and with a combined population of voters and attainers of 6,675 as of May 2019.

The largest single non-educational establishment in the polling area is the Lagoon Leisure Centre. While the Lagoon Leisure Centre would meet the requirements for use as a Polling Place, it is used extensively on polling days for elections. The main sports arena accommodates the counting of ballot papers, unused ballot papers are counted in the sports hall and postal votes are dealt with in one of the fitness suites. Accordingly, it could not be used as a polling place.

Other than the Lagoon there is no other no

While there are a number of smaller halls in the area covered by the Williamsburgh Primary School, other than the Lagoon or one of the other schools in the area, there is no other location which could accommodate the eight polling stations currently located there. For example, while Sherwood Greenlaw Church could be used as a polling place, this venue would only accommodate two polling stations. Other premises would require to be identified and evaluated. This would however mean that the eight polling stations at Williamsburgh would be divided between various locations in the area. This is likely to lead to voter confusion.

Ms Dowds asked why other schools in the area could not be used. St. John Ogilvie Primary School was used as a polling place in the past in addition to Williamsburgh. Whilst there is no reason why St. John Ogilvie Primary School could not be used as an alternative in terms of infrastructure requirements, the ongoing use of Williamsburgh Primary School provides continuity and reduces the risk of voter confusion.

Recommendation

That Williamsburgh Primary School continue to be used as polling place.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Iain McMillan, on behalf of Johnstone Community Council	Johnstone High Parish Church (SS10)	That Johnstone Town Hall be used instead as it was very much at the heart of the town and gave election day a bit more importance.

Evaluation

Johnstone High Parish Church accommodates two polling stations. The Church Hall was agreed as a polling place when the former Johnstone Town Hall was demolished and the current Town Hall building was constructed.

Having been inspected and evaluated, three different areas were identified within the new Town Hall which could accommodate the two polling stations:- the marriage suite; the main hall; and the combined meeting rooms 1 and 2. All these locations are on the ground floor of the new Town Hall building. While car parking tends to be very much in demand in the Town Hall area, additional spaces could be marked off for blue badge holders at the front of the Town Hall.

Recommendation

That the two polling stations currently accommodated within Johnstone High Parish Church be relocated to Johnstone Town Hall.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
Iain McMillan, on behalf of Johnstone Community Council	Fordbank Primary School (SS05)	The respondent advised that some concern had been raised with regard to Fordbank Primary School being closed for elections but recognised this was the only building that could be used in Corseford. The use of a portacabin was suggested as an alternative.

Evaluation

Fordbank Primary School accommodates one polling station.

A temporary building such as a portacabin is not generally recommended for use as a polling place. It creates substantial risks as to electoral process; it may not be possible to source a temporary structure at short notice for snap elections, and it would require the use of portable generators to provide adequate heat and light for voters and staff.

In terms of alternative venues, the Johnstone Community Sports Hub building is within reasonable walking distance of Fordbank School but is outwith the Corseford area. Whilst the polling station could be accommodated easily within the sports hub, such a relocation would result in increased travelling distance for the majority of the voters who use it.

Having been inspected, the layout of the school is such that it was not considered possible to allow the school to remain open during voting.

Recommendation

That Fordbank Primary School continue to be used as a polling place for Polling District SS05.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
	7th Paisley Scout Hall (SP12)	The 7th Paisley Scouts group has advised the hall will no longer be available to be used as a polling place.

Evaluation

The 7th Paisley Scouts group has advised that the hall will no longer be available to be used as a polling place. The hall accommodates one polling station. While the hall has been used as a polling place for some time, comments had been received previously that its location at the top of an incline was not suitable for voters with mobility issues.

Martyrs Church Hall, King Street, Paisley, accommodates one polling station (SP06). The Hall is large enough to accommodate at least two additional polling

stations and is within easy walking distance of the 7th Paisley Scout Hall (SP12). The Hall satisfies all the other requirements associated with a polling place.

St Mary's Primary School (SP08) is also within easy walking distance of the 7th Paisley Scout Hall. The School closes for voting and accommodates two polling stations.

Recommendation

That Polling District SP12 be relocated to Martyrs Church Hall.

Respondent(s)	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
	Church of the New Jerusalem (SP07)	The Church of New Jerusalem has been sold and is no longer available to be used as a polling place.

Evaluation

In March 2019 the Local Returning Officer received notification from The Paisley Society of the Church of the New Jerusalem intimating that the church building had been sold and would no longer be available for election purposes,

Martyrs Church Hall, King Street, Paisley, accommodates one polling station (SP06). The Hall is large enough to accommodate at least two additional stations and is within easy walking distance of the Church of the New Jerusalem (SP07). The Hall satisfies all the other requirements associated with a polling place.

St Mary's Primary School (SP08) is also within easy walking distance of the Church of the New Jerusalem Hall. The school closes for voting and accommodates two polling stations.

Recommendation

That Polling District SP 12 be relocated to Martyrs Church Hall.