

Stephen Tautz

From: Stephen Murray <stephen.w.murray@hotmail.com>
Sent: 30 June 2019 07:34
To: Stephen Tautz
Cc: Rosemary Brookes; david wixley
Subject: Polling Station Review

Dear Mr Tautz

In response to the agenda item on the Stronger Council select committee I would mention the following points ,

1. Whitebridge School appears not to understand that St Michael's is already used for a large polling district (over 2,000 electors).
2. Particularly for a general election turnout St Michael's has a shared pedestrian and car entrance and exit, not a great mix.

The entry is on a very busy road , Roding Road , not far from a major set of traffic signals on a busy crossroads and the way in / exit is only a single cars width - so on a heavy voting day considerable disruption to the road network can already be caused so increasing the numbers of voters using St Michael's is not a good idea.

3. There is also an important principle here ,if a polling district , such as AZ has a clearly recognised public community building within its boundary then it is not unreasonable to require its use as a polling station , voting in my opinion should be made as accessible and easy as possible.

4. The school for most elections can plan well ahead and if a full closure is deemed necessary by them then the first Thursday in May can become one of their five training closure days causing no extra inconvenience for parents (I accept once every few years a general election or a referendum might cause extra inconvenience).

Stephen Murray

Town and District Councillor for Loughton Roding Ward

1 Avondale Court
Avondale Drive
Loughton
IG10 3BT

☎ 020 8 508 7548

Stephen Tautz

From: Rose Brookes <vietrose02@aol.com>
Sent: 07 July 2019 11:44
To: Stephen Tautz
Cc: stephenmurray@hotmail.com; Democratic Services; david.wixley198@btinternet.com; peterj.bolton@btopenworld.com
Subject: Polling Station review (re Roding ward)

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Dear Steve ,

May I apologise for not writing earlier with my comments on Whitebridge School's request not to be used as a polling station for future elections .

Although not connected with Roding ward nearly as long as Councillor Murray as a District and Town Councillor for this area I should very much like to endorse his opinion that the school should be used as a polling station . Over a thousand electors are registered in this section and from experience St . Michael's is very busy , particularly in the evening on election days . Parking is very limited indeed .

Being a short walk from a polling station does encourage people to vote . For those whose mobility is limited it is easy to park on Grensted Road when the school is closed .As a teacher for over twenty years I have worked in primary schools which had to be closed for elections . We just planned our training days round those dates . Except in the case of a sudden General Election the dates are known well in advance so parents can make alternative arrangements for child care in good time .

Finally , there is no other community building available to us at this end of the ward to use instead of the school .

Kind Regards ,

Rose

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