

Amington Ward: Recommendations

Following on from submissions received during the consultation period it is recommended that a small alteration to the boundaries between polling districts AM1 and AM2 be completed. This small change would not require an alteration to the current polling station but would better align the polling districts when taking into account the natural geography of the area and current ward boundaries.

This means that the following streets would move from polling district AM2 to polling district AM1:

- Arden Close
- Argyle Street - Numbers 114 to 120 (evens)
- Beechwood Crescent
- Bridge Street
- Fairview Close
- Florendine Street
- Highfield Avenue
- Monks Way
- Sheepcote Lane – Numbers 105 – 117 (odds) and Numbers 156 to 168 (evens)
- Tamworth Road – Numbers 1 – 159 (odds) and 20 – 128 (evens). This is the section of Tamworth Road running from Argyle Street up to the canal bridge opposite Florendine Street)
- The Riddings
- Wesley Way
- Woodhurst Close

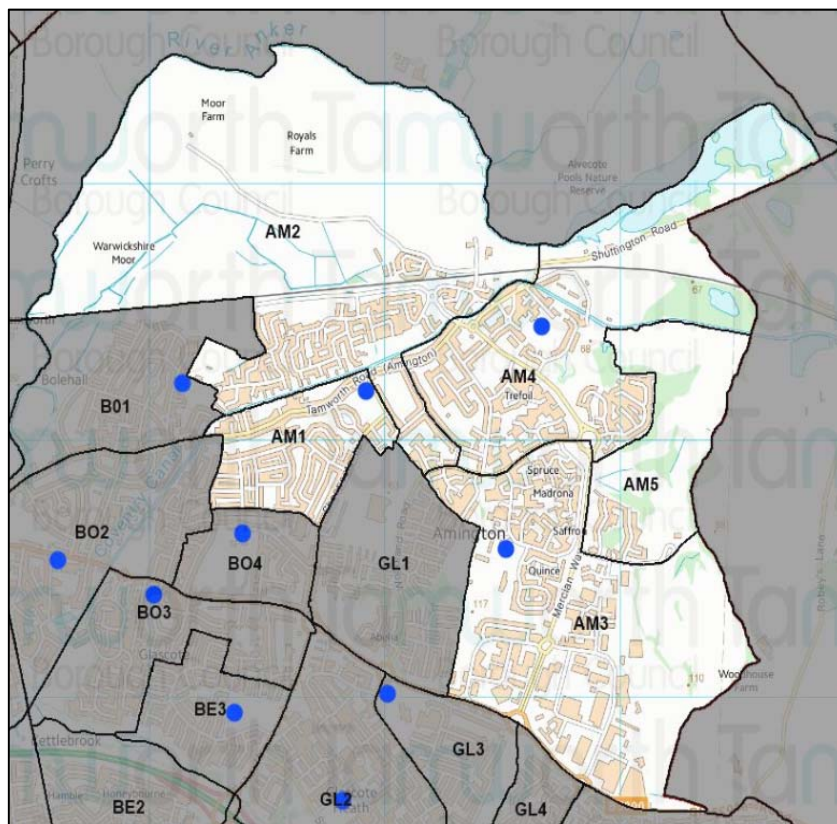
Amington Ward: Recommendations continued

The remaining submissions relate to using school premises as a polling station. It should be noted that although the Amington Ward currently uses three schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the head teacher and in fact a number of schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.

Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disabilities is essential. According to statistics provided by Staffordshire Observatory there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations regularly. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues in the Amington Ward. Therefore, no changes are proposed to any of the polling stations currently used.

Finally it is recommended that the polling place represent the same area as the polling district plus the adjoining polling district(s) to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located should the need arise.

Amington Ward (Proposed)



New Polling District	Proposed Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate	Estimated Polling Station Electorate	No of polling stations
AM1	Florendine Primary School	Florendine Street, Amington, Tamworth, B77 3DD	1971	1,616	1
AM2	Florendine Primary School	Florendine Street, Amington, Tamworth, B77 3DD	2007	1,646	1
AM3	Amington Heath Primary School	Quince, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4EN	1846	1,514	1
AM4/A M5	Landau Forte Academy - Greenacres	Levett Road, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4AB	2272	1,863	2
AM5	Landau Forte Greenacres	Levett Road, Amington, Tamworth, B77 4AB	2,860	2,345	Combined with one of the polling stations in AM4

Estimated Electorate = Number of Properties x 2.6

Estimated Polling Station Electorate = Based on the average of 82% of electors choosing to attend a polling station.

Note regarding AM5 - The estimated electorate figures are based on completion of building works = estimated number of properties x 2.6. The estimated Polling station electorate is based on 18% of electorate opting to vote by post. The electorate in this area will be monitored and when required a polling place within the polling district or adjacent polling districts will be found. Currently, the electorate in the area is 344 with 274 electors opting to cast their vote in a polling station.