

Belgrave Ward: Recommendations

As the development off Marlborough Way on the former Daltons Site has grown considerably since the last review it is recommended to move this housing estate into the BE1 polling district. This would mean that the following streets would move from the BE2 polling district into the BE1 polling district:

- Garten Close
- Gowen Close
- Harport Close
- Harrow Close
- Laggan Close
- Leven Road
- Lindores Road
- Lowes Drive
- Lyon Drive
- Maree Walk
- Morton Close

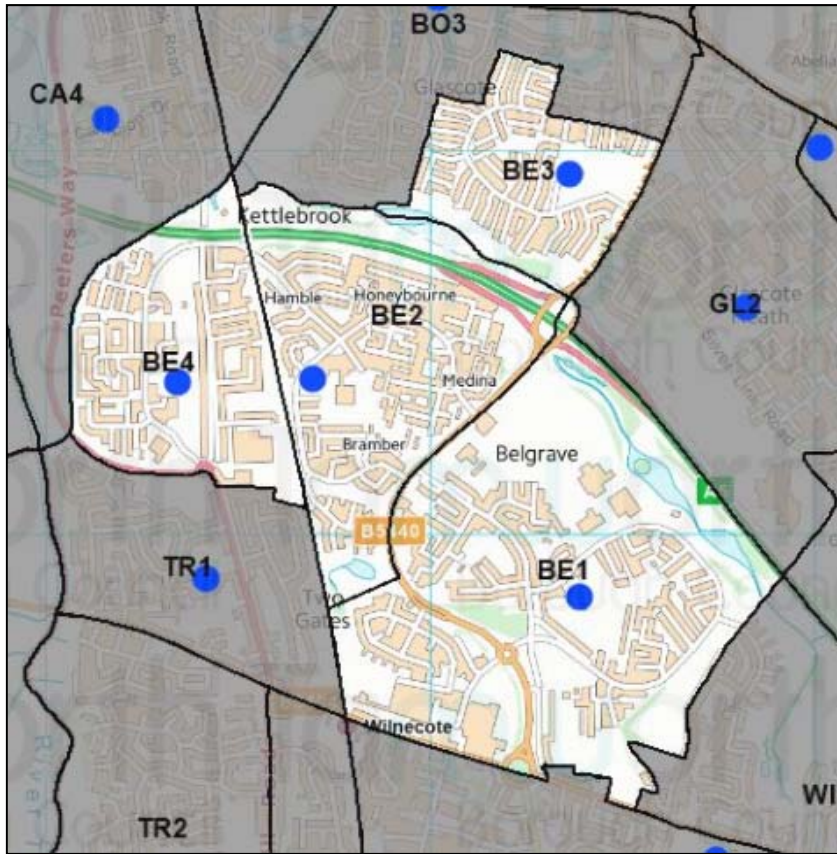
The remaining submissions relate to using school premises as polling stations. It should be noted that although the Belgrave Ward currently uses two schools as polling stations the head teachers are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst head teachers must provide Returning Officers 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 in regard to safe guarding 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.

Belgrave Ward: Recommendations continued

Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly due to the fact that as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that the polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability 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. This review is undertaken at every poll and includes a polling station questionnaire that electors can complete if they wish to. No complaints have been received at the recent elections in regard to accessibility issues. Therefore, no changes are proposed to the current polling stations.

Finally it is recommended that polling place represents 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.

Belgrave Ward (Proposed)



New Polling District	Proposed Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate	Estimated Polling Station Electorate	No of polling stations
BE1	Birds Bush Primary School	Birds Bush Road, Belgrave, B77 2NE	2,688	2,204	2
BE2	Tamworth Baptist Church	Derwent, Off Field Farm Road, B77 2LD	2,254	1,848	2
BE3	Lakeside Primary School	Leyland Road, Glascote, B77 2SA	1,334	1,094	1
BE4	Park Farm Community Centre	Greatmead, Kettlebrook, B77 1DL	1,940	1,590	1

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.