

Glascote Ward: Recommendations

A submission was received from Tamworth Conservatives requesting that the GL1 polling district was served by a temporary polling station located somewhere in polling district. No specific location was identified as part of the submission. Any land that would be large enough to site a temporary station is also not flat and would be very difficult if not impossible to access for a heavy goods vehicle as the entrances to potential site currently have concrete bollards preventing access for large vehicle. Currently, the GL1 polling district vote at the Sacred Heart RC Church on Silverlink Road. I believe that this building is ideal for voting purposes as it offers plenty of parking, and is on the number 7 bus route which runs regularly along Woodlands Road and Silverlink Road. It is not practical or sensible to move to a temporary station when an excellent building that meets the requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010 and that currently serves the community is available. The current location is well known and established to the community in the area. No electors have asked for such a move and if it were to go ahead it would be a step backwards for electors as no parking would be available and access for the disabled would at the very least be compromised. The current polling station at the Sacred Heart RC Church meets all the requirements set out by the Electoral Commission.

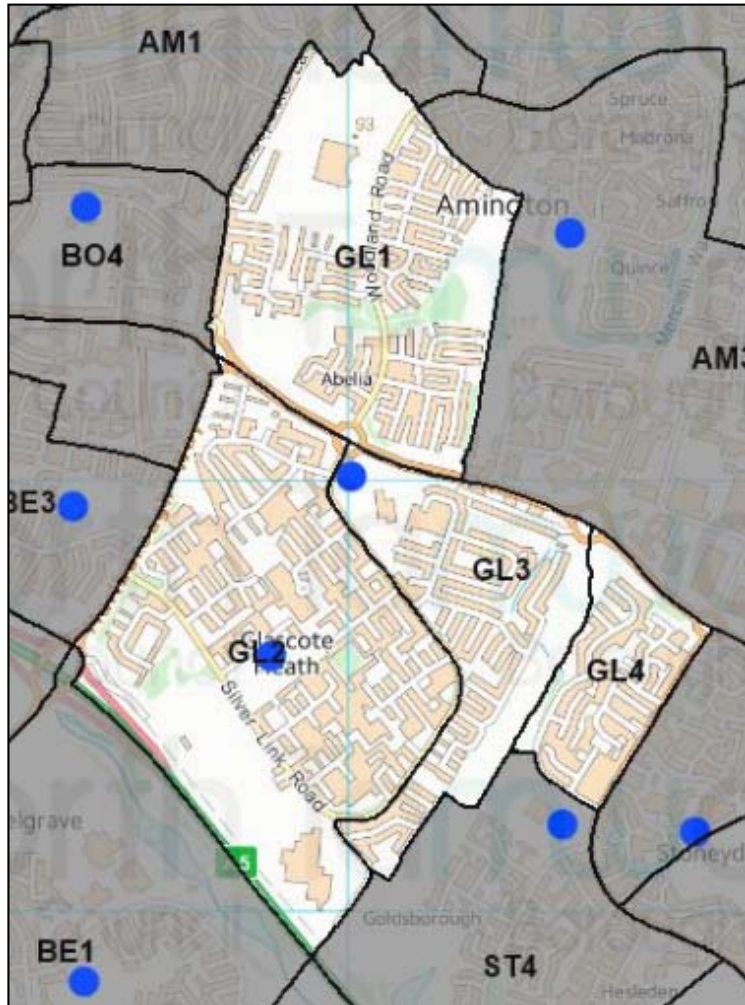
Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.

Glascote Ward: Recommendations continued

Two other submissions were received regarding the polling districts, polling places and polling station within the Glascote Ward all recommending “no change”. There have been no comments made by electors asking for change at the recent elections or as part of this consultation relating to any of the polling districts, polling places or polling station within the ward. Therefore, for this reason I am recommending that the polling districts, polling places and polling stations do not have any changes made to them.

It is recommended that 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.

Glascote Ward (Proposed)



New Polling District	Proposed Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate	Estimated Polling Station Electorate	No of polling stations
GL1	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Silver Link Road, Glascote Heath, B77 2EA	2,161	1,772	2
GL2	Oakhill Primary School	Hawksworth, Glascote Heath, B77 2HH	3,658	3,000	2
GL3	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Silver Link Road, Glascote Heath, B77 2EA	1,323	1,085	1
GL4	Stoneydelph Primary School	Crowden Road, Stonydelph, B77 4LS	978	802	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.