

CHALKWELL WARD

Polling District: WHZ

Suggestion: Relocate the portable polling station from current position to new location in Crowstone Avenue

From: A local resident

Comments: The current location of the polling place / portable polling station was considered as part of the previous polling review that took place in 2019. The polling station for this polling district had previously been located at The Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Road, but this is no longer available for our use. Alternative suitable premises have previously been investigated but without any success.

For the last seven years a portable polling station has been located at the western extremity of Chalkwell Esplanade car parking area, at the western extremity of the polling district. This position was selected due to its location away from busy roads, proximity to public conveniences and plenty of car parking. The polling district is mainly residential and the geography and physical barriers at the boundaries of this polling district restrict the availability of alternative appropriate options. There had been issues of anti-social behaviour outside this polling station at the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019 but no further incidents have been experienced or reported.

A request has now been received from a local resident in response to the public consultation as part of this review, to relocate the portable polling station to a new position, in the main carriageway in front of the flank wall of Crowstone House Care Home at the southern end of Crowstone Avenue. Although the suggested location would be more central within the polling district, the siting of a portable in the main carriageway of this road would create an unacceptable obstruction and hazard to traffic, pedestrians and users. A new electricity supply, feeder pillar would also need to be constructed at this site to facilitate any such relocation. It is therefore not recommended to proceed with this suggestion for the reasons outlined above.

Recommendation: The current location of the portable be retained as the polling place / polling station for WHZ.