

# **Kirklees Polling District and Places Review – October 2023 Public Consultation Representations**

## ***Dalton ward***

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Tyler Hawkins***

“With regards to the current consultation, please can I suggest/request DA03 be reviewed - I've copied Rob and my ward colleagues in.

I understand why Greenfields Nursery is no longer suitable as a polling station and do not wish to go over old ground. The current DA03 box at the DRAM Centre doesn't actually reside in the DA03 district which presents a lot of confusion for voters. For example, there are those who live near the DRAM whose polling station is on Long Lane and those who live closer to the Cottage Homes box who have to vote at the DRAM.

Can I suggest one of two options be pursued:

1. The boundary of DA03 be redrawn to correct some of the issues highlighted.
2. DA03 electors be spilt between DA02 and DA04 and DA03 in it's current form being scrapped.

Option 2 would be my personal preference – it would make DA02 and DA04 rather large as polling districts in terms of electors but would still be in-line with other polling districts across Kirklees.

Happy to discuss further and would greatly appreciate your consideration”

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Mussarat Khan***

“ I fully support my colleagues proposals”

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Naheed Mather***

“ I too have no objection to this proposal.”

## ***Cleckheaton Ward***

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Kath Pinnock***

“This is a practical alternative to the Town Hall (though I would much rather that the Town Hall was brought back into use).

Years ago the polling station for CL1 was a former school building just behind the Town Hall so older residents will remember having to go down towards the Church to vote.”

## ***Golcar Ward***

### ***Representation received from a Golcar resident***

"Dear Electoral Registration,

You will see from the attached PDF that there is an anomaly in the split between GC03 and GC04 for the new estate off Cowlersley Lane. Because all the residents come out of the same road entrance, they should all be allocated to either GC03 or GC04. At the moment all the GC04 voters go past GC03 homes to vote and many of the GC03 voters go past GC04 homes to vote! These homes are roughly equally spaced between the 2 polling stations, but local residents have suggested that they are all allocated to GC03, as this would not involve crossing the Manchester Road. Allocation to a single polling district would also help when canvassing and when reminding voters where they should vote."

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Graham Turner***

"I would fully support this, as it makes good sense."

## ***Dewsbury Ward***

### ***Representation received from Ethos College***

" Good Afternoon

I have had a look at the attached documents and would like to propose a change please for Ethos College, we have asked on numerous occasions if we could be reviewed as we are a Key stage 4 provision and cannot have our students on site when the school is open to the public. I assume this is the right time to formally request this be looked into again?"

### ***Representation received from Elected Member – Councillor Darren O'Donovan***

## ***Mirfield Ward***

### ***Representation received from a Mirfield resident***

"Dear Sir or Madam

#### **Statutory Review of Polling District Boundaries and Polling Stations: Mirfield**

The current Polling District Boundary/Station Review is an opportunity to tidy up their existing boundaries. This is obviously largely a question of the number of electors who do not have postal votes. I would ask that account is also taken of the practical difficulties that can arise on the ground for those involved in local election campaigns when streets are split between polling districts.

## Appendix 2

Confusion can arise when streets are split between polling districts simply to make up the required number of electors for each polling station. Often, it may be impossible to avoid this but I would suggest it can and should be avoided where possible. This can be achieved in parts of Mirfield by using public rights of way as polling district boundaries. This already happens in Mirfield between Crossley Fields J. I. & N. School and Lockwood Avenue to separate MF06 from MF 07.

I would submit that the splitting of streets between polling districts should be avoided wherever possible. In addition, I would suggest that, where possible, the character and use of buildings and of areas within polling districts should be as similar as possible. Where the use is dissimilar, it may assist in providing clear demarcation lines between polling districts.

With the above in mind, I would propose the following:

1. The public rights of way from Kitson Hill Road via Warren House to the A62 should be the boundary between MF01 and MF02. If this is accepted, can Warren House be regarded as falling within MF02? Where-ever it is placed, it will slightly affect the number of electors who are allocated to vote at each polling station. This proposal requires the boundary to be extended along Kitson Hill Road from its junction with Slipper Lane to that with the PROW on the northern side of the road. Since the southern side of Kitson Hill Road at this point is occupied by Mirfield Free Grammar School sports fields, this would mark a clear separation of MF02 to the north from MF 01 to the south.

I calculate this would entail the removal of 70 electors without postal votes from MF01 and their addition to MF02. It appears that the total number of electors currently within MF01 and MF02 could accept this change without the Boundary Commission's recommended polling district size being exceeded. (MF01: 2,605 electors ["double" polling station] minus 70/MF02: 2001 plus 70 electors.)

2. Battyeford J. I. & N. School should replace the Church of Christ the King as the MF01 Polling Stations. This used to be the case. I believe the School is more centrally situated and that it is in a better position to cater for the sheltered housing at Littlemoor Grove, Bankfield Court and Fox Royd Lane. There is no comparable sheltered housing near the Church of Christ the King. Whilst this proposal would necessitate the closure of the School on polling days, it would present the opportunity for the pupils to learn about and emphasise the importance of voting in local and national elections. No transfer of electors is attached to this proposal.

3. The Polling District boundary between MF01 and MF03 should follow the public right of way from Huddersfield Road (A644) to the side of the Chinese Take-away on Nettleton Road. This would require the polling district boundary to be extended along the A644 from Doctor Lane to its junction with the PROW. This would also appear to necessitate the cancellation on the polling district boundaries on Doctor Lane and on Nettleton Road from the Chinese Take-away to the A644. I believe this PROW has been used as the boundary in the past. Nettleton Road is currently the polling district boundary between MF01 and MF03. [Also, I note that the properties, Nos. 1 to 11A, on Nettleton Road already appear to be being treated as falling within MF03 so this section of the boundary on Nettleton road and Doctor Lane will not need redrawing.]

## Appendix 2

The next dwellings westwards along the A644 are in The Maltings, which is separated from the PROW by a substantial boundary wall. This proposal would place four commercial properties – the Take-away, a public house (which “fronts” both the A644 and Nettleton Road), an estate agent and a hairdresser – within the Mirfield shopping centre. I calculate this would entail the transfer of 10 current electors without postal votes from MF01 to MF03, both of which appear well able to absorb this change.

5. The public right of way from Towngate/Pinfold Lane to Dunbottle Lane should become the polling district boundary between MF06 and MF08. This would entail the extension of the polling district boundary from the eastern end of the PROW to Camm Lane and the cancellation of the boundary along Camm Lane and Towngate. The boundary along Dunbottle Lane would change slightly (but Dunbottle Lane is already split amongst three polling districts.) This would have the advantage of uniting the whole of both Camm Lane and Towngate within MF06.

I calculate this would entail the transfer of 64 electors without postal votes from MF08 to MF06. I believe this would make the number of electors without postal votes in MF06 2,253. Clearly, this exceeds the number recommended by the boundary Commission but it is well below the number of 2,500 it recommended before Covid 19 presented significant health risks. If it is thought desirable, see two different ways of addressing this:

First the number of “excess” electors is so small (3) and the MF06 polling station appears well capable of accomodating this extra number so the discrepancy could be regarded as unimportant. {I understand a larger number of electors are already treated in this way elsewhere within the Kirklees Area.)

Second, 15 electors without postal votes could be transferred from MF06 to MF08. This could be achieved by taking the polling district boundary up Richard Thorpe Avenue, by following the first PROW to the right behind Castle Hall School buildings and by following the next right turn along the PROW bordering the eastern edge of the Castle Hall School premises as far as Crowlees Road. This would split in half the four properties on Richard Thorpe Avenue but unite a larger number of properties on the eastern section of Crowlees Road with those already in MF08. This would make MF08 in to quite a small polling district but it would be larger than that for Upper Hopton (Croft House MF05).

I suggest whichever of the above alternatives is applied that seems most appropriate.

6. I believe the present southern polling district boundary in Upper Hopton (MF05) follows the boundary of the former Mirfield Urban District Council. I suggest this should be retained in Kirklees Council’s records for historical reference. However, the boundary meanders across a number of fields and it is not marked on the ground. I propose that the polling district boundary is moved so it follows Hollin Hall Lane and the B6118, i.e. Highgate Lane, Bellstring Lane and Liley Lane, as far as the eastern boundary to MF05. Some electors immediately north of the B6118 are in MF05 and others are not but I believe those with religious faith look to St. John’s Church in Upper Hopton. This proposal would move a few electors from Kirkheaton (and from Lepton (?)) into MF05 but the numbers are small and MF05 would be given a clear boundary on the ground.

## Appendix 2

Thank you for considering my proposals.”