

STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2021
FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and
Marion Rushbrook

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 – Consultation

Stradishall Parish is impacted by this

Audience: Electors and other interested persons and bodies, including elected representatives and those with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for disabled people.

Open: 16 December 2022 to 27 January 2023

The Elections Act 2022 introduces changes which impact the voting process at polling stations and as a result West Suffolk Council (WSC) has undertaken an audit of polling station facilities to make sure they comply.

The feedback gathered has identified some polling stations which are not available at the next elections on 4 May 2023 and some polling stations which do not provide electors with reasonable facilities for voting or are not accessible to electors who are disabled.

As a result, an interim polling places review is required and will be focused on changes to the polling scheme where venues are not available or are not suitable. The aims of this tailored review will be to:

- seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and
- ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who have a disability.

This is not a statutory review and therefore will not look at all polling places or polling district boundaries as they will be subject to a full review, as required by law, to be completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

Definitions

- Polling District - a geographical subdivision of an electoral area, for example a District/Parish Ward, within which a polling place is designated.
- Polling Place – an area or building in which polling stations are located, and which can be as wide as a whole polling district.
- Polling Station – the actual building in which voting takes place.

Review timetable

Notice of review	16 December 2022
Consultation on recommendations included as part of the review	16 December 2022 to 27 January 2023
Publish the conclusions of the review	10 February 2023
Revised polling arrangements take effect	4 May 2023

See the following link:

[Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places-2022)

The next local elections are being held in May. We will keep you updated when further details are available.

Locality Funding / Coronation Events

With the Coronation be held later in the year local events will be held around the country. These events are seen as bringing communities together, celebrating communities and forging new relationships. We hope to support and offer funding from our locality budget (budget allowing) for your local celebrations. If Stradishall Parish Council would like to request funds, to avoid issues with the pre-election period, applications for funding to support these events should be received by 23 March 2023, in order that they can be processed and finalised within this year's budget and in advance of the pre-election period. Given the timing of the election, it has been agreed that no funds will be ring fenced from or allocated from next year's locality budgets (2023/2024).

Cost Of Living

Link: [Cost of living \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

The rising cost of living pressures can affect any one at any time. If you, or someone you know in West Suffolk are struggling financially at this time, there is support and advice out there that can help.

The Government website has lots of resources and links to support you and your family at this time. [The Help for Households](https://www.helpforhouseholds.gov.uk) [helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk](https://www.helpforhouseholds.gov.uk) campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the support that is available nationally for those that need it most.

[Suffolk Infolink](https://www.infolink.suffolk.gov.uk)

[infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6](https://www.infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6)

details all the support in your community which is local to you and through various national charities and organisations.

Government announcement on Council Tax support for vulnerable households - as at 22.12.22

Following public consultation, West Suffolk Council has already agreed that taxpayers in the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will get a 100 per cent discount for the financial year for 2023/2024.

The Government announced on 19 December that there will be a £100m scheme to help councils offer Council Tax discounts to the most vulnerable households while ensuring that key services that people rely on, can continue to be delivered.

WSC are awaiting more detail from Government about this additional funding and will update the Council Tax webpage (www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/counciltax) when we have more information.

Celebrating West Suffolk's environmental champions



Do you know a person or a group who you think deserves recognition for their environmental work? Or are you helping to lead the way in meeting the climate change challenge?

The Creating the Greenest County Awards 2023 are open to everyone and the categories cover everything from small community initiatives and schools to green heroes and large organisations.

You can nominate yourselves or someone else and if you register your interest early, one of the team will be on hand to support you with your entry.

Find out more here [Creating the Greenest County Awards – Green Suffolk](#)

The deadline for entry is 1 February 2023