

Polling Place Review – Stage 2 Consultation

Potential move from Rothiemay Primary School to Rothiemay Public Hall.

(* any spelling errors within the comments have not been corrected)

Comments from Public Consultation	Election Team / Returning Officer Comment
Schools shouldn't close for polling! Education is so important	Noted
Appropriate alternative that does not disrupt learning days for children.	Noted
Why have children miss out on school education	Noted
Kids education should be priority.	Noted
Less disruption for pupils & staff	Noted
Kids should be in school	Noted
For various elections the Aberdeenshire Returning Officer has used both venues as rotating extant polling places successfully.	It has also been used successfully by the Moray Returning Officer in the past
Primary school shouldn't be used as it's having a negative affect on childrens education and those with additional needs this change of routine has further negative effect on them that can last days after.	Noted
This will prevent the need for children having a day off school and causing additional childcare issues for parents working.	Noted
Keep the school open	Noted
It is not my local station	Noted
the school can stay open	Noted

Potential move from Greenwards Primary School to the Territorial Army Hall

Comments from Public Consultation	Election Team / Returning Officer Comment
The children miss enough school as it is that this will be a welcomed move for parents especially those who have work	Noted
Childcare is already scarce and children's education is so important, a school shouldn't close for polling when there are plenty of other spaces available	Noted
Too far and a dangerous road for elderly people	<p>There is a crossing slightly further along the road</p> <p>The hall is also on a public transport route.</p>
I support a move away from using/ closing a school for use as a polling station, due to the disruption in children's statutory learning days. I do not support the use of a military building instead, that is not as central in the community. Look for alternatives, please.	<p>Other options within the area were considered but these were discounted for a number of reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue not large enough to accommodate 3 Polling Stations • Traffic access to the venue • Adequate parking • Location • Not on a public transport route

Fantastic idea reduces pressure on working parents to try and find childcare especially when there are so many holidays to cover and not enough annual leave to cover it.	Noted
There is no childcare for children who have to miss school for a full day for this to take place which means us as parents have to take time off work, if alternative venues are available they should be used and the children should not be made to miss a day of school	Noted
I have always been unsure why Schools have been closed to pupils and used as polling stations when plenty other venues are available. I fully support this change.	Noted
The primary school may be more accessible for most, I do not see why this would need to change. Make the use of the school buildings for other things and not just education. I do not see why the school should not remain a polling station.	Elections guidance advises that schools should only be used where no other suitable option is available.
Please stop disrupting children's education!	Noted
Just makes sense to have children in education, not close the school	Noted
Kids education should be priority.	Noted
Less disruption, upset & concussion for SEN Pupils	Noted
Children should NOT miss a day of education to allow school to be used as a polling station	Noted
Keep the schools open	Noted
Education should remain the priority if there is alternatives available.	Noted
Our kids shouldn't miss out on school.	Noted
It causes too much disruption to my children's education	Noted
My child attends Greenwards. She has ASN. A day off isn't just a day off, it's a very stressful day, due to change in routine.	Noted
My children need the structure and routine of school these adhoc days off really upset that.	Noted
This will prevent the need for children having a day off school and causing additional childcare issues for parents working.	Noted

<p>Moving the polling station there is a bad idea - it's not safely accessible for pedestrians because there's no pavement once you get passed the gates. There's no ingress either, meaning that cars would have to almost come to a stop before turning, which will create traffic. Cars would also struggle to get out if they turn left, creating a bottleneck. Finally, it would increase the distance that I would have to walk and I would have to cross one of the busiest roads in Elgin. I understand the Council wanting to not use schools, but they need to find a better option than Greenwards Primary not a worse one. Greenwards is out of the way, and has safer to access. The Council should so everything to maximise turnout in an election, and I am sure that using the Territorial Army would have the opposite effect.</p>	<p>The Territorial Army have indicated that they would be happy to provide additional staff to assist voters and Polling Staff on the day. A one way system is permanently in operation around the carpark and a sign would be provided for cars exiting the carpark to encourage voters to turn left onto Edgar Road and make use of the roundabout at Asda if they want to turn right.</p>
<p>Keep the school open</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Edgar Road is one of the busiest in Elgin with only one traffic light pedestrian crossing between Glen Moray Drive & Asda. For the majority of people seeking to walk to the polling station this crossing is past the polling station. The polling station would also be a very significant distance away from voters on the south side of Elgin, especially for those in the newer estates. The access and egress for vehicles at the site is challenging during peak periods, due to the volume of traffic on Edgar Road and the proximity of car park entrances for the Springfield Retail Park and the access to the Walkers factory car park. At Greenwards Primary School there is much safer pedestrian and vehicle separation, whereas at the TA Hall there is no pavement through the entrance into the car park. When combined with challenging access and egress as mentioned above, resulting in vehicle queuing in a small space, this would prove to be particularly difficult for people coming to the polling station with young children, push chairs or using wheelchairs / disability scooters. A mobile polling station at a more central location in the polling district would be the best solution, otherwise it should remain at Greenwards Primary School until a safe and, importantly, more accessible location can be identified.</p>	<p>The Territorial Army have indicated that they would be happy to provide additional staff to assist voters and Polling Staff on the day. A one way system is permanently in operation around the carpark and a sign would be provided for cars exiting the carpark to encourage voters to turn left onto Edgar Road and make use of the roundabout at Asda if they want to turn right.</p> <p>The use of portacabins has been looked at through discussions with other Local Authorities and only a couple have used them, with mixed results. Portacabins are an expensive alternative and there is the potential that planning permission may be needed depending on where the portacabin</p>

	was situated. Would be very difficult to put in place if a snap Election was called.
Schools should not be used, if there's an alternative. Children should not have their education disrupted for polling.	Noted
Although it is closer, and i could vote on way to/from work and it is less out of my way than Greenwards - my closest station from my house is the New Elgin Hall which is 4 streets away - the Army Reserve Centre would still be a 15min walk from my home. Also I would be concerned about the security of using a MOD establishment and how would this impact regular users of the building (7Scots and Cadet Forces) on polling night?	<p>The TA Centre have confirmed that there would be no disadvantage to the groups on polling day/night as the areas they use are separate to the location of the hall which would be used.</p> <p>The Territorial Army have raised no security concerns around the building being used as a Polling Place.</p>
Great decision	Noted
the school would be able to stay open	Noted