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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 22 September 2014 17:38  
To: Elections  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Polling district review 2014 - Longlevens

Longlevens : H3 Polling District

Although my own polling station in Longlevens Ward is adequate in terms of nearness to the actual district which polls there (H1 at Longlevens Rugby Club, Longford Lane), my experience as a candidate for both county and city council elections in Longlevens in recent years suggests to me that the polling station for those in H3 polling district (the area around Greyhound Gardens) is nothing like as near to that district, as it is in the church hall in Church Road, Longlevens. Most voters in H3 who have not opted for postal voting will probably use a car to get them to the church hall, but there will be some, like myself, who have no ready access to a car. They are left with quite a walk from Greyhound Gardens, or the goodwill of a neighbour who has a car and is going that way. I believe this could easily discourage those who are not committed voters from exercising their democratic right. There is also the question of overloading: fully one half of the polling districts in Longlevens (3 out of 6) use the church hall as their polling station. In the lower turn-outs for local elections and with turn-outs of 60-70% for parliamentary elections this may not be a problem, but if we should ever reach the dizzying heights of 85-90% turn-out seen in the Scottish independence referendum, maybe it could!

Has there ever been an approach to the Greyhound public house in Greyhound Gardens, asking if a polling station could be established in there for polling day? I know that there is at least one such polling station in a licensed public house in Stroud, so the precedent is set. It's just a question of getting the pub owners to agree (which of course they may not, though you could always point out that some voters may be entering their premises for the first time and having seen what it is like, may want to go back later for a drink or meal!).

Regards

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