

16/10/2011

Dear Mr Bell,

I write to you in connection with your e-mail dated 28 September 2011. Please accept my apologies for not contacting you sooner but I have been abroad recently.

After a discussion on this matter at the last NKRCC meeting, 19 September 2011, regarding the Council's polling station review, this was the only change that we could find where it was perceived that possible improvements could be made in our area.

As you rightly say, the current arrangements appear to be as a result of the previous layout of roads between the Hillside area, Banchory-Devenick and Portlethen, which have changed substantially over the last few years, and safety concerns for persons attending to vote should their polling place be in Portlethen, requiring them to cross the A90 twice, as opposed to Banchory-Devenick, where no such crossing would be necessary.

It was the general view of the NKRCC that moving the polling place for the residents of Hillside from Banchory-Devenick School might now be worth considering, as the grounds for concern for persons going to and from a polling station in Portlethen no longer exist.

As you rightly mention, there are several factors to consider: the capacity of the Jubilee Hall in Portlethen; the scale of development planned in the Hillside area (and the potential number of new voters thereby) and any plans for a suitable venue there. I am aware of any other venue in the area which might fit the bill, other than B-D School and the Jubilee Hall. I suppose it may also be argued that to move voters from B-D School to a new venue may also free a fairly narrow rural road from some level of traffic congestion.

If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Bob McKinney, Secretary,
North Kincardine Rural Community Council.