

BURTON
Community Council

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National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff

Dear Sir

Electoral arrangements in Wales - a discussion document

Burton Community Council has examined the above document, and prepared responses to the 21 questions posed on pages 12-14 of the document. Please find these attached in note form.

Yours faithfully



PETER HORTON
(CLERK TO BURTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

- Q.1. If registration is "compulsory", of course penalties for non-registration should be used. It may not "encourage" more people to register, but should certainly actively discourage people from failing to do so.
- Q.2. Use penalties as above.
- Q.3. a) No. Unless penalties are applied.
b) Yes. This is essential to avoid fraud.
- Q.4. Yes.
a) National Insurance numbers, as these are held by all people of voting age.
- Q.5. "Compulsory" applies to everyone, including Black & Ethnic Minority people.
- Q.6. No, as postal voting is subject to fraud. Tighten the restrictions & go back to the old system where postal voting was restricted to the sick & disabled (verified by signature of Dr. or Nurse), or persons absent on business. (Possibly those going on holiday could also be allowed a postal vote if full details of holiday were supplied. Otherwise they can appoint proxy voters on their behalf.)
- Q.7. Electronic voting by computer in polling station would be acceptable.
No to texting or e-mail as this would be too open to fraud or misuse.
- Q.8. No - it would be chaotic! "Vote early and vote often" would result.
- Q.9. Young people like single-issue campaigns, & have little interest in "politics" as a whole. Also, we suspect they are as disenchanted with politicians as the majority of the population!
- Q.10. No.
- Q.11. Yes. Follows the Swedish example & also debates with political parties participate. Teachers should not be allowed to teach party politics.
- Q.12. Yes. (See answer to Q.11).
- Q.13. A local secondary school had a "mock election". All the candidates were rewarded for their efforts with a visit to the Welsh Assembly.
- Q.14. Yes.
- Q.15. Yes.
- Q.16. Possibly, but no real problem exists so the need for "statutory standards" is not really necessary.
- Q.17. Unnecessary, as postal or proxy voting is allowed.

Q. 19 The present arrangements are satisfactory.

Q. 20 Registration is compulsory for all citizens. Keep instructions for registration very simple.

Q. 21 No. Instructions for postal voting are quite complicated. The elderly find them confusing, & it is not always easy to find someone to verify the voters identity. (Use of signature & N.I. number should make this easier). Use simple instructions like "Put a cross by the name of the person you wish to vote for, put in the envelope, & post it".