

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2022/23

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

John Williams

From: Bob Deering <Bob.Deering@hertfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 February 2023 19:12
To: John Williams; Mary Brady; Carolyn Redfern; Nick Kirby; Joseph Whelan
Cc: James Ellis
Subject: [External] RE: Review of polling districts and polling places - Hertford Sele

John

Thanks for this. I appreciate that I'm not offering you a solution but I would think myself that the polling station should be inside the Ward.

Bob

From: John Williams <John.Williams@eastherts.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 February 2023 17:33
To: Mary Brady <Mary.Brady@eastherts.gov.uk>; Carolyn Redfern <Carolyn.Redfern@eastherts.gov.uk>; Bob Deering <Bob.Deering@hertfordshire.gov.uk>; Nick Kirby <nick.kirby@hertford.gov.uk>; Joseph Whelan <joseph.whelan@hertford.gov.uk>
Cc: James Ellis <James.Ellis@eastherts.gov.uk>
Subject: Review of polling districts and polling places - Hertford Sele

Dear Councillors and Colleagues,

Many thanks to all who responded to the consultation on East Herts' recent review of polling districts and polling places.

In relation to Hertford Sele Ward the issue has been raised both previously and during the consultation of the lack of a polling place in the area of Campfield Road/Mount Road/Valeside, and the distance and hilly nature of the walk from this area to the existing polling place at The Sele School Training Hub.

In view of the points made I intend to recommend that the polling district HSE1 should be split, with the Campfield Road area forming a polling district of its own. This will enable an alternative, more convenient polling place to be allocated to electors in this area as and when such a venue is identified.

So far however, no suitable premises within the area itself have been found. Two possible venues have been suggested for investigation – the Apollo Recording Studios in Mimram Road and the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Hertingfordbury Road. However as you will be aware both of these are on the other side of the A414 and are outside Sele Ward. Officers are enquiring as to their possible availability but subject to this I would welcome your feedback on their suitability or otherwise as a possible polling place for electors in the Campfield Road area in place of The Sele School.

In addition, if you are aware of any potential venues in Valeside or Campfield, Ashley, Chelmsford or Mount Roads themselves or very nearby I would be grateful for your suggestions.

Best regards and I look forward to hearing from you.

John

John Williams

From: Ian Kemp
Sent: 24 January 2023 13:13
To: John Williams
Subject: FW: Polling Stations - Kingshill

Hello John

I circulated the question about alternative polling stations in Kingshill (WARE4) and it was asked whether the infant school on the same site could be used instead, see below. I assume they are run by the same group but thought it was worth asking.

One councillor with contacts at the school was very surprised and was convinced that the school would still be happy to be used as a polling station in May. Let's hope he's right.

There is a small shopping arcade but I can't imagine any of those buildings being usable as a polling station.

Kind regards,

Ian Kemp
District and Town Councillor, Ware St Mary's Ward

From: Martin Butcher <martin.butcher@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 January 2023 18:57
To: Ian Kemp <ian.kemp@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>; Councillors <councillors@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>; Terry Philpott <townclerk@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Polling Stations - Kingshill

Thinking about this some more.

Is Kingshill Infants an option? Same site but different school. I imagine this depends on the reason for St Mary's pulling out. If available, this would be the best option.

The Poles Lane Scout huts have a lot of space and could probably manage but very few people will walk because of the need to walk back up the steep hill on Kingsway, so traffic will be a considerable issue.

Wodson Park is not a good option for the reasons Ian cites

Can't think of another option

Martin

Sent from Outlook for Android

From: Ian Kemp <ian.kemp@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:46:02 PM
To: Councillors <councillors@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>; Terry Philpott <townclerk@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>; Thomas Day <Thomas.Day@waretowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Polling Stations - Kingshill

Could I draw councillors' attention to the potential problem below regarding St Mary's School at Kingshill.

If anyone can suggest any alternative locations for polling stations to serve the Kingsway area, please let me or John Williams know. I have suggested that the extra electors might be accommodated in the Scout Hut at Poles Lane which is already used for the Old Vicarage Estate, but don't know if there's room. A room at Wodson Park might be a possibility but is not conveniently accessed by foot from Kingshill.

Ian

Ware St Mary's Ward

- Proposed Polling District WSM4: St Mary's Junior School has notified the council that its premises may not be available for use at the elections in May 2023. Therefore suggestions for suitable alternative polling place venues within the polling district are invited.

Ian Kemp

District and Town Councillor, Ware St Mary's Ward

John Williams

From: Nick Kirby <nick.kirby@hertford.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 January 2023 13:16
To: John Williams
Subject: [External] RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Dear John

Please see comments below from Hertford Town Council:

Hertford Bengoe

Alternative venues in HBE2 suggested:

Bengoe Parish Hall, Duncombe Rd, Bengoe, Hertford SG14 3DA
United reformed Church, Cowbridge, Hertford SG14 1PG

Hertford Castle

HCA1 -St Johns Hall, adjacent to All Saints Church is suggested as an alternative venue as has good access and parking.

The Council also noted that there is no longer a suitable polling place in the vicinity of Campfield Road. It was noted that the Apollo recording studios 18 Mimram Rd, Hertford SG14 1NN may be suitable but are actually in Castle Ward.

Kingsmead

Alternative venues suggested for HK12 were:

Ware Road Adult Day Centre at the bottom of Stanstead Road
Zoo Café, Ware Road

Methodist Church In Ware road has two entrances so could be used for polling stations for HK12 and HK13

Kind regards

Nick Kirby
Civic Administration Manager



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Castle, Hertford. SG14 1HR

Direct line: 01992 528062

Reception: 01992 552885

Hertford Town Council website: www.hertford.gov.uk

Hertford Castle website: <http://hertfordcastle.co.uk>

Hertford Town Centre Directory website: <http://go.hertford.co.uk>

Please help us support the Mayor of Hertfords Charities

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3055414>

John Williams

From: Liz McGarry [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2023 21:35
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: [External] Polling Station in Kingsmead, Hertford

I am very concerned that the polling station has been moved from Braziers Fields to Pinehurst Community Centre.

I feel that walking up Gallows Hill may be too difficult for some people to walk. If they choose to drive there will not be enough parking for them at Pinehurst.

I worry that making it difficult for people to vote may put people off. Maybe the Tory biased Council want that? I know that insisting on voter ID is politically motivated. It is making it more difficult for younger people to vote. Maybe now changing the polling Station is also politically motivated?

I just feel there are other options like The Ware Day Centre or Braziers field or the Zoo Cafe or Wheatcroft School.

Thank you

Liz McGarry
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

John Williams

From: Calvin Horner <Calvin.Horner@hertfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2023 12:49
To: John Williams
Cc: Lucy Leeson; Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher
Subject: [External] FW: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022
Attachments: Comments on Polling District Review.docx

Dear John,

Please find attached my response to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. These are limited to suggestions about the proposals for Bishop's Stortford.

Regards,



Cllr Calvin Horner
County Councillor | Bishop's Stortford East
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DE, Postal Point:CHO147
T: 03001237567
E: calvin.horner@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Comments on Polling District Review

Cllr Calvin Horner

The comments below relate to Bishop's Stortford Wards where I have suggested amendments to the polling district boundaries or suggestions for alternative polling station arrangements.

BS All Saints

BSA1 and BSA2 - I propose an alteration to the boundary between BSA1 and BSA2 whereby the properties in Hockerill Street, Crown Terrace, Red Lion Court, Bakers Court, Dane Street are placed in BSA1. All Saints vestry is considerably closer to these roads than either of the suggested polling stations for BSA2 and is currently the polling station for Crown Terrace.

BSA2 – I would suggest Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club and Hockerill Cricket Club as replacements for Thorn Grove School. The former is located in Bowling Lane, off Beldams Lane and the latter on Beldams Lane. Whilst both are in Uttlesford they are within easy walking distance from the majority of BSA2 (see note above on Hockerill Street area) and the former has a car park.

BSA4 – I propose using South Mill Arts in preference to Holy Trinity Church. South Mill Arts has already been the polling station for Tanners Wharf and is more convenient for both Tanners Wharf and the Goods Yard flats as it is closer by foot and has a car park.

BS Central

No comments

BS North

BSN3 – Should neither Charringtons House nor the Water Lane Hall be available because of the redevelopment of Old River Lane, I would suggest several possible locations for all or part of BSN 3 in preference to either Windhill Church Centre or Holy Trinity Church, as they are both outside the proposed polling district. These suggestions include Avanti Meadows School, the Community Room at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre and Northgate End Young Persons Centre.

BS Parsonage

BSP1 – I propose that the southern section of Castle View, Hockerill Street, Kingfisher Way, Heron Court, Kings Court, Fuller Court, Stansted Road south of All Saints Close and All Saints Close form a separate polling district to vote at All Saints Church Vestry as this is considerably closer than Parsonage Community Hall by foot.

BS South

BSS1 – I would suggest Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road, (contact Tim Kingston-Hepner 01279 507575) which has two buildings that may be suitable to serve as a polling

station in preference to Thorley Community Centre as it is located within the proposed polling district and has a large car park.

BSS2 – suggestions would be Thorley Community Centre or the Barnabas Centre In Church Lane, Thorley

BSS3 & BSS4 - in addition to the Bishop's Stortford Baptist Centre I would also suggest the Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, Thorley which is part of Thorley Parish Church in preference to St. Michael's Mead Community Centre.

BS Thorley Manor

BST1 - Consideration should be given to having two polling Districts for the Bishop's Stortford Thorley Manor South Town Ward. The first including St. Michael's Mead (former BSO3) and the part of former BSO2 west of the by-pass, to vote at St. Michael's Mead Community Centre. The second to include the remainder of former BSO2 within the ward, to vote at Thorley Community Centre, provided there is adequate space. Such an arrangement will provide polling stations within reasonable walking or driving distance for most electors and Thorley Community Centre already serves as a polling station.

John Williams

From: Mione Goldspink
Sent: 19 January 2023 20:08
To: John Williams; Lucy Leeson
Cc: Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher; calvin.homer@hertfordshire.gov.uk; Chris Wilson; Richard Townsend; Terence Beckett
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Dear John,

Many thanks for this. Instead of Thorn Grove Primary School, I suggest either the Cricket Club building in Beldams Lane or the Bowles Club, also in Beldams Lane... The latter has a better car park. The name of the cricket club is Hockerill Cricket Club – contact Chris McKibbin, Hockerill Cricket Club, The Club House, Beldams lane, Bishop's Stortford, Essex, CM23 5LG . the phone number on their web site is not recognized unfortunately.

Contact for the Bowls club is membership Secretary, Rick Helm 01279 508384, or Clubhouse, 01279 501578. I hope that these will work.

I do hope that you are keeping well.

With best wishes,

Mione.

Cllr Mione Goldspink

The Meads Ward, Bishop's Stortford

John Williams

From: Ben Crystall
Sent: 18 January 2023 15:24
To: John Williams
Subject: Polling districts etc

Dear John

I hope you are well.

I wanted to get back to you with comments on polling places before Friday.

Re Kingsmead – I think that the site on Ware Rd would be a welcome addition but I am concerned by the lack of places in the east of the ward given that the nearest site is the Pinehurst Community Centre at the top of the steep hill. Is there an opportunity to make use of Ware Rd Day centre, which is HCC-owned, I believe, or one of the buildings at Wheatcroft School? Kingsmead Residents Assoc contacted me to express their concern and I believe they have contacted you. I think the hill could be a significant issue for many people in the Ware rd area and something at the bottom of the hill would seem a must.

Re Bengoe: If the Bengoe Club is unavailable, would the Bengoe Parish Hall on Duncombe rd be a suitable backup for HBE2?

For Hertford Castle, could the Quaker Room at the Friend's Meeting House be employed as a replacement for the River Room? Or Wallfields itself, or the community hall at All Saint's Church?

Best wishes

Ben

Cllr Ben Crystall
Bengoe Ward
East Herts District Council

John Williams

From: Mary Brady
Sent: 16 January 2023 11:20
To: John Williams
Cc: Carolyn Redfern
Subject: RE: Sele Ward Polling Stations - Consultation on Polling Places

Dear John,

I wrote to James Ellis in the Legal Department of East Herts District Council in 2022 to point out concerns about access to voting provision. The residents from the Sele Road area, Campshill Road area which are some of the roads which run off A414 in Hertford (the Hertingfordbury Road) this area is known as the Hertingfordbury Road Estate, are a long way from the nearest polling station in the Sele School Hub. Statistics show that since the polling station in that area was removed the actual number of voters has dropped considerably, presumably because they cannot travel to the Sele Hub. There is an urgent need for a polling station in this area as these people are being deprived of their legal right to vote.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Best regards, Mary Brady East Herts District Councillor for the Sele Ward

John Williams

From: David Snowdon
Sent: 14 January 2023 20:20
To: John Williams
Subject: Re: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Hi John,

Some further suggestions on Stortford.

BSA2: The most obvious suggestion would be the Hert and Essex Sports Centre on Beldams Lane. Another alternative in the ward might be the Nags Head PH, although as a busy pub is likely to be less ideal. There are also two other potential venues on Beldams Lane: the Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club and the Hockerill Sports & Social Club. Both are just outside the ward (not a problem in itself), but are actually in Essex. I must say I've never had to think before about whether that is even legal or not before!

BSN3: Grange Paddocks would be the obvious and most suitable venue. Another alternative should Grange Paddocks or Northgate End not be suitable would be the Town Council building on Windhill which is just outside the ward. Again, the TC is far from ideal (parking), and is a long way from the North of the polling district. It would be an interesting question as well whether the main table in the Council Chamber could actually be moved out of the room!

David

John Williams

From: Bengoe Rural Parish Council <bengeoruralparishcouncil@outlook.com>
Sent: 14 January 2023 09:12
To: John Williams
Subject: Re: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Hi John,

Just to confirm that Bengoe Rural Parish have no comments to add to this consultation.

thanks
Victoria

John Williams

From: Suzanne Rutland-Barsby
Sent: 13 January 2023 17:04
To: John Williams; Lucy Leeson
Cc: Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher
Subject: Re: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Hello John

On Hertford Castle Ward. The River Room at the theatre not being available and the suggestion of St Andrews in Bengio Ward, might be confusing?

Hertford Town Council own the Seed Warehouse, opposite the Theatre, maybe, if suitable, that could be rented from them for the election in May.

Kind regards Suzanne R-B

John Williams

From: Kingsmead Residents' Association - Hertford <krahertford@gmail.com>
Sent: 13 January 2023 15:55
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Cc: Rosemary Bolton; Ben Crystall; Andrew Porrer; Stuart Hunt; Mari Stevenson; Sue Barber
Subject: [External] Proposed New Polling Station for HKI2

Dear Electoral Services Manager

Having taken a straw poll of members I am writing on behalf of Kingsmead Residents Association (KRA) to object to the use of Pinehurst Community Centre as a new polling station for the Hertford Kingsmead polling district HKI2 because the logistics of the centre mean that it will be a large disincentive to voting and may disenfranchise those with mobility or other issues because of the logistics associated with travelling from much of the HKI2 area but particularly Ware Road/Mead Lane and surrounding streets. Stanstead Road has a very steep hill, a narrow pavement and high traffic levels with associated higher speeds than the speed limit. Due to this anyone with a disability or who is getting older or who has some minor mobility issues will find it difficult to walk from the 'bottom' of the hill to the top which will mean that more people will need to drive to vote.

Which introduces the second logistical issue with Pinehurst Community Centre: one of the challenges on the Pinehurst estate is around parking with a limited amount of on street parking spaces coupled with the fact that the garages on the estate are not wide enough for a car to drive in and allow the doors to open meaning that the majority of residents are forced to park on street. This means that the roads around the community centre and the entrance road from Stanstead Road are congested meaning that journeys will cause even more congestion issues on the estate plus that the additional voters will struggle to find parking spaces.

The Pinehurst community centre is also relatively small with restricted corridor access which caused much of the issues with the use of Braziers Field as people were having to wait to go in or out plus squeeze past those queuing to go in at the last election due to the restricted corridor width. It's likely that the check in process for voters may cause delays this year due to the new requirement to present ID before a voter can vote which is likely to cause queuing. Having double the number of voters allocated to Pinehurst Community Centre may exacerbate this issue

As such we would like to suggest alternative venues for a new polling station to serve HKI2 in order of preference:

- a. Ware Road Day Centre - this is ideally located roughly in the centre of the HKI2 polling district and, by its nature provides adequate disabled access plus should also permit indoor queuing
- b. Pioneer Hall, Ware Road - this is a large hall which reduces the issues with queuing obstructing entrance and egress plus allows for queuing inside and may mean that it could be used as a double centre for HKI2 and HKI3

- c. Methodist Hall, Ware Road - this is a smaller hall and it is already allocated as a voting location for HKI3. It would be preferable to 'double bubble' with HKI3 but not optimal as there is not the room to allow sufficient internal queuing
- d. Braziers Field - location is preferable to options b and c but It needs an improved layout with linear voting booths rather than the four booth central layout plus the queue has to stand outside which is not ideal in poor weather

One thing I would note that as a voter that queued for over 30 mins to vote at Braziers Field last election is that there were a number of issues with Braziers Field including the time to book people in and check them off the list, having to dance around the queue to get in and out of building plus the poor voting booth layout restricted the limited space in the room even further. I witnessed one voter in front of us giving up on voting after waiting for 15 mins and I would ask that you compare turn out figures for HKI2 over the past three elections to determine whether the long queue had an effect.

KRA are extremely concerned that the current plan for voters from HKI2 to vote in Pinehurst Community Centre will mean that the turn out for HKI2 will reduce due to the logistics issues and would ask that if you do move forward with this plan despite objections that you assess the impact on voter turn out for HKI2. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or would like to discuss this matter further

With regards,

Vicky Glover-Ward (Chair)

Kingsmead Residents' Association - Hertford

<https://www.krahertford.org/>

@kingsmeadresidentsassociation

John Williams

From: Diane Hollebon
Sent: 13 January 2023 15:12
To: John Williams
Cc: David Snowdon
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Good Afternoon

I note revision to proposed Polling Stations within B.S. South Ward.

Another suggestion for consideration as the Thorley Christian Centre will not be available is to use Richard Whittington School. Residents have in the past walked to Thorley Christian Centre thereby reducing the need to drive to this Centre which does not have adequate parking provision which is why drivers used to park in the Thorley Sainsburys Car Park and use pedestrian crossing to access Vicerons Place/Christian Centre to vote. The loss of this venue will be greatly felt within the community.

If I understand your e.mail correctly, you are looking at the following venues for voting: Thorley Hill School, Richard Whittington School (which I previously suggested), plus St Michaels Mead Community Centre.

Thorley Community Centre does not offer ease of access to South Ward voters at all - it is located next to The Harvest Moon P.H. located in Friedburg Avenue. Parking will also be a problem during peak voting times.

I await your comments on my feedback.

Diane Hollebon
Cllr for South Ward

John Williams

From: Ian Kemp
Sent: 13 January 2023 14:22
To: John Williams; Lucy Leeson
Cc: Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher; Ian Kemp
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Thank you John for the update. I note with interest the possible loss of St Mary's School in Ware as a polling station for WSM4, which would be disappointing. I will ask around the Town Council for any alternative locations nearby to serve the Kingsway area.

One possibility would be to use the Scout Hut in Poles Lane which is already in use as a polling station for the Old Vicarage Estate area of Ware St Mary's Ward (WSM1), and is still within walking distance of the Kingsway area. I haven't had the impression in the past that this station is excessively busy, although I don't know whether the interior space is considered sufficient to cover two subsections of the ward rather than one. North West Ware is rather short of community facilities and I'm not aware at present of any other obvious options.

Another possibility might be Wodson Park, but this is outside the ward and is also not easily accessible by foot, cycle or public transport from the Kingsway area.

Kind regards,

Ian Kemp
District and Town Councillor, Ware St Mary's Ward

John Williams

From: Rob @ Hewlett [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 January 2023 14:03
To: John Williams
Subject: [External] East Herts Draft Polling Scheme

Dear John,

Having just received your documentation on this scheme proposals via Benington Parish Clerk I have a question for you.

On page 2 of this documentation it lists Benington as being in Stevenage, which it is clearly not. Then on page 3 It shows no Proposed changes to polling places and no adverse comments were received at the May 2021 polls. I have been making adverse comments on this about this ludicrous misinformation, as have many local residents to electoral services and planning for some considerable time.

Please let me know when this error will be corrected.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Rob Hewlett

John Williams

From: Rosemary Bolton
Sent: 12 January 2023 18:35
To: John Williams; Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Re: KINGSMEAD WARD

Good evening

Thank you very much for these details.

I understand the decision not to have the room at Braziers Field as a polling station. It is however very disappointing for the large number of frail and vulnerable residents in that area.

I fear the residents who have used the Braziers Field station in the past would struggle to get up the hill to the proposed extra station at Pinehurst Community Centre.

I wonder if you would please consider some other options.

The Methodist Church Hall on Ware Road could easily accommodate an extra polling station. There are several rooms in there and access could be from the front and the back of the building for the different stations. The hall is also closer to the town centre and on the flat so easier for residents to walk and access on their way to town. There are also better transport links.

The Zoo Café – former Pioneer Hall – next to the Methodist Church Hall would also be a suitable venue and has some of the same benefits.

The Ware Road Day Care Centre at the bottom of Stanstead Road is closer to the Braziers Field station and has good accessibility. It also has a car park and good transport links. It is run by HCC and I don't know if they would grant permission for its use. It would also be a good alternative.

I hope this is of use to you. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further help.

Best wishes
Rosemary

Cllr Rosemary Bolton
Vice Chairman of the Council
East Herts District Council

Hertford Town Council
Hertford Kingsmead Ward


<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/>

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John Williams

From: David Lowe [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2023 09:19
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: [External] Changes to Hertford Kingsmead polling stations
Categories: Alex

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my disapproval of the idea of closing the polling station at Brazlers Field in Hertford Kingsmead. Although it is not perfect, it is far better than forcing everyone to trek up the hill to a polling station that might be bigger inside but will not be able to cope with the amount of car traffic outside under these circumstances. Please reconsider.

Regards,

David Lowe
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

John Williams

From: Clerk Buckchip <clerk.bucklandandchippingpc@gmail.com>
Sent: 09 January 2023 09:12
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: [External] Review of polling places 2022: Consultation response

Categories: Alex

Dear Electoral Services

Buckland & Chipping Parish Council wishes to make the following comment for Buntingford Ward (pages 18-19):

PD Ref BUN1: The Countryman Inn, Ermine Street, Chipping SG9 0PG.

The Parish Council does not consider this to be a secure venue for the polling station. The property is up for sale/development and therefore its availability cannot be relied upon.

There are two possible alternative venues in the parish:

1. St Andrew's Church, Buckland: No longer used for church services and is now under the control of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). It is understood the CCT has no objections to the church being used as a polling station, for which there is a precedent in various parts of the country. The disadvantage of the venue is that access might be less easy in wet winter weather.
2. Buckland Barn, Lower Farm, Buckland, Buntingford SG9 0PS : Recently closed down as the venue of the annual Christmas at Buckland Barn event.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Kind regards

Colin Marks PSLCC
Clerk to Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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PRIVACY NOTICE

John Williams

From: JC Carroll [redacted]
Sent: 08 January 2023 21:38
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: [External] Polling proposals for Hertford Kingsmead

Categories: Alex

Hi, the proposal to stop using Brazier fields lounge is a concern as the last time I voted there I waited 25 minutes to get in such was the queue length. Only having a station at Pinehurst at the top of the hill will mean long queues and may put off those who find the hill too much for them.

Maybe instead you could use either the Wheatcroft primary school or the Ware Day Services centre on the corner of Ware road and Stansted Road.

Kind regards, John Carroll

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

John Williams

From: Carl Brittain [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2023 10:33
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Subject: [External] East Herts Draft Polling Scheme 2023

Categories: Alex

Regarding the polling arrangements for Kingsmead, I think the Braziers Field polling station is perfectly adequate for local elections. The problem with Pinehurst is that for those who live around Ware Road there is a long hill to climb, which will inevitably lead to everybody going to Pinehurst by car, and this will lead to issues on the roads around the polling station, as well as many unnecessary car journeys.

Congestion at Braziers field polling station in General Elections could be alleviated in elections by reallocating some Kingsmead Roads to the Methodist Hall polling station (Tamworth Road and surrounding roads perhaps?).

Regards

Carl Brittain

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

John Williams

From: clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org <clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org>

Sent: 06 January 2023 16:48

To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors <Electors@eastherts.gov.uk>

Subject: [External] FW: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Please note: The village of Meesden is spelt incorrectly (Meesdon) on Page 37 of this document.

Kind regards. Ken Newstead

John Williams

From: Diane Hollebon
Sent: 22 December 2022 11:35
To: John Williams
Cc: David Snowdon
Subject: FW: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Just another thought relating to below.

Thorley Hill Primary School would be ok as it backs onto the grounds of The High School and therefore it is not too far for those voters who would usually vote at The High School to go to vote.

Please let me know after the Festive Season which venues will be used.

Many thanks.

Diane Hollebon.

From: Diane Hollebon
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:23
To: John Williams <John.Williams@eastherts.gov.uk>
Cc: David Snowdon <David.Snowdon@eastherts.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Good Morning

Have read the proposed suggestions etc. B.S. South, without access to The High School is going to cause problems for those residents who live off of London Road etc. It may prevent turnout as for some it is too far to go to vote at the Christian Centre. Postal voting would be the best way forward for many in my opinion. I would suggest that some form of advanced notification, when agreed and confirmed, is released to residents to allow enough time to obtain a postal vote. This applies to other Wards too in B.S. Many elderly residents will not want to travel far in order to vote etc.

Thorley Christian Centre should be used, but it is a small venue. It has coped well in previous Elections but whether it can cope with all the voters in South Ward is another matter.

The St Michaels Mead Community Centre was previously used, but could they cope with additional work from other Wards? The Hall is larger than the Thorley Christian Centre.

Have you thought about using the Richard Whittington School? It may be a good option.

I await your comments.

Diane Hollebon
Cllr for South Ward

From: John Williams

John Williams

From: Jeff Jones
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:02
To: John Williams; Lucy Leeson
Cc: Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Dear John,

With regard the proposed Polling Stations in my District, Buntingford, I would just make one comment regarding BUNT 1.

BUN1 As existing BUN 1 unchanged The Countryman Inn, Ermine Street, Chipping, Buntingford, SG9 0PG 226 electors

The Countryman Inn has been closed for business for over 2 years now, and its future is unclear. Although the property has been registered as an ACV the future is still unclear.

The only other alternative location may be St Andrews Church in Buckland that you may want to consider. Vehicular access is not as good as The Countryman but is possible.

Regards
Jeff

John Williams

From: Peter Boylan
Sent: 21 December 2022 05:12
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Cc: John Williams
Subject: Re: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

John

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed polling places review.

I am particularly interested in the proposals for the new Braughing and Standon Ward. The inclusion of existing polling stations that residents are familiar with make eminent sense, including the Old Boys School in Braughing, the Standon Village Hall and the Community Centre in Puckeridge, which are also placed in the most densely populated parts of the ward. However, I am unsure about the inclusion of High Cross Village Hall as a polling station for this Ward.

High Cross Village Hall does not lie within the Ward boundary, nor is it close to the boundary. It lies within the new Ware Rural Ward and is indeed included in the list of polling stations for Ware Rural.

Is it appropriate to have a polling station outside of the Ward boundary such as this?
Can a polling station be used for elections in more than one Ward given that parish council elections will also be taking place on the same day?

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Cllr Peter Boylan
Braughing Ward
Executive Member for Neighbourhoods
East Hertfordshire District Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
Herts. SG13 8EQ
Facebook: [@boylaneastherts](#)
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John Williams

From: Ian Kemp
Sent: 13 December 2022 16:09
To: Legal & Democratic Services - Electors
Cc: John Williams
Subject: RE: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022

Thank you for circulating the proposals for polling stations for the May 2023 elections. I have looked in particular at the Ware area because of the forthcoming ward boundary changes.

The proposals as outlined seem sensible and pragmatic, and I would support these proposals and have no suggestions for improvement. I see that the proposals for Ware Trinity also make appropriate mention of possible future changes for 2027 depending on progress in the N&E Ware development (WARE2).

Some polling stages are on the edges of wards (Ware St Mary's WSM2/3) or in other wards (Ware Trinity WTR1/4) but I agree with the conclusion that no obviously suitable alternative locations are apparent. Possibilities might include Chauncy School or St Catherines School for WSM, and Priorswood School for WTR1, but residents do not seem to have objected to walking to the existing venues, and community/church halls as currently used may be preferable to schools to avoid disrupting children's education.

Kind regards,

Ian Kemp
District and Town Councillor, Ware St Mary's Ward

John Williams

From: Simon Barfoot
Sent: 21 December 2022 14:47
Cc: John Williams; Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher; Lucy Leeson
Subject: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022
Attachments: Notice of Review with Logo.pdf; East Herts Draft Polling Scheme 2023.pdf

Dear Health and Wellbeing Partners,

My colleague John Williams who is the East Herts Electoral Services Manager would like your help as community organisations and health professionals to communicate this information as widely as possible please within East Herts. Please see the explanatory details below including accessibility.

Thank you for your help in advance and encouraging especially those representing individuals or communities with expertise in access or disabilities to provide feedback.

Simon

East Herts Council is undertaking an Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places with a view to ensuring that our polling districts align with new ward boundaries recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and that all electors are able to vote at a convenient and accessible polling place. Consultation on the review is now live and further details may be viewed on the East Herts website at <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/polling-places-review>.

A key aspect of a review of polling places is to ensure that we identify and utilise polling station venues that are accessible to all electors. We are therefore keen to know the views of individuals and organisations both inside and outside the Council with expertise in disability and access issues, and you kindly agreed to pass on our consultation material to such individuals and groups that you are aware of.

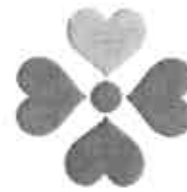
I attach a copy of the Notice of Review and of our consultation document setting out the proposed changes to polling district boundaries and polling places to be used for all elections from May 2023 onwards. I'd be grateful if you could forward this to the relevant persons/groups and invite them to send any comments that they may wish to make on the draft proposals and/or any alternative suggestions for convenient and accessible polling place venues by 20 January 2023 to electors@eastherts.gov.uk or by post to The Electoral Services Manager, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ.



Simon Barfoot
Healthy Lifestyles Programme
Officer – Community Wellbeing
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**North
Herts
Council**

www.north-herts.gov.uk

Richard Cassidy
East Herts District Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

Friday 20 January 2023

Dear Richard,

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

As the Acting Returning Officer for the North East Hertfordshire parliamentary constituency, I support the allocation of Polling Districts and Polling Places as outlined in the draft proposals in full.

I also fully support the polling stations allocated to those Polling Districts and Polling Places within the North East Hertfordshire constituency.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Stimpson
Acting Returning Officer
North East Hertfordshire Constituency



Richard Cassidy
East Herts District Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8EQ

Your ref:
Our ref: MP/LF
Contact: Luke Fattorusso
Direct Dial: 01438 242174
Email: luke.fattorusso@stevenage.gov.uk

13 December 2022

Dear Richard,

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

As Acting Returning Officer for the Stevenage Constituency, I fully support the allocation of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places as outlined in the draft proposals within the Stevenage Constituency.

I also fully endorse the allocation of polling stations for those Polling Districts and Polling Places within the Stevenage Constituency as outlined in the draft proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Partridge
Acting Returning Officer
Stevenage Constituency

John Williams

From: John Williams
Sent: 13 December 2022 10:24
To: Luke Fattorusso; thomas.marsh@north-herts.gov.uk
Cc: Rosalyn Hamilton; Erica Gant; Jessica Brucher; Lucy Leeson
Subject: East Herts Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022
Attachments: Notice of Review with Logo.pdf; East Herts Draft Polling Scheme 2023.pdf

Hi Luke & Thomas,

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has recently completed an electoral review of East Hertfordshire which has recommended changes to a number of district and parish/town ward boundaries to take effect from the forthcoming elections in May 2023. As a result, East Herts Council is undertaking an Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places with a view to ensuring that our polling districts align with the new ward boundaries and that all electors are able to vote at a convenient and accessible polling place. Consultation on the review is now live and further details may be viewed on the East Herts website at <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/polling-places-review>.

I attach a copy of the Notice of Review and of our consultation document setting out the proposed changes to polling district boundaries and polling places to be used for all elections from May 2023 onwards.

As you know, the (Acting) Returning Officer for any constituency affected by a review of polling districts and polling places must comment on the polling stations, both existing and proposed, in the relevant area. East Herts' review of course covers sections of the North East Hertfordshire and Stevenage constituencies and I'd therefore be grateful if you could arrange for any comments or representations that your (A)ROs wish to make on the draft polling scheme to be forwarded to me at electors@eastherts.gov.uk. Our consultation runs until 20 January 2023 but if you are able to forward any comments as soon as possible that would be appreciated so that they can be published in accordance with the rules for the review.

Many thanks in advance and I hope you are both well. Please contact me if you need any further information.

John



John Williams
Electoral Services Manager
East Herts District Council
01279 502147
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