

Responses to the Polling District Review 2023

Respondent	Comments	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments
Dennis Livingstone Councillor for Nuthurst and Lower Beeding Ward	<p>I note that for the parish of Nuthurst there is currently only one polling station at Mannings Heath Village Hall. Due to the size of the parish this makes it very difficult for voters in the rural areas to access the polling station, they would in many cases need to travel by car (no public transport) for over 3 miles, some even longer.</p> <p>A second polling station was previously provided in the local Primary School of St. Andrews in Nuthurst, this I now believe is no longer possible. However, there is now another venue that I would think is suitable, Copsale Village Hall. This has recently undergone an upgrade of facilities including for disabled toilets and step free access.</p> <p>Could you kindly consider this location please.</p>	Thank you for your comment. At the local elections this year, turnout for this polling station was the highest in the District. It is therefore recommended that the existing arrangements remain and that the polling district is not split, as the turnout figures do not indicate that an additional polling station is required.
Joanne Knowles Councillor for Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead Ward	<p>Further to your request for feedback.</p> <p>The ramp to enable independent, disabled access at Partridge Green village hall polling place could not be found at the local election in May. Mobility scooter and wheelchair users were manually helped and no one was unable to access the polling station. However I felt this was physically challenging and inappropriate.</p> <p>Kindly ensure the ramp is available in future.</p>	Thank you for your feedback. We have made contact with the venue, who have confirmed that a ramp will be made available.
Residents	We are very happy with our local polling station of the Tythe Barn in Pondtail Road	Thank you for your comment.

<p>Nigel Dennis County Councillor, Horsham Hurst Division</p>	<p>I just have one comment/suggestion to make which is that if Horsham Youth Centre, Hurst Road is being reinstated as a Polling Station for HHXG then it could also be used for HKXC.</p> <p>Between 1993-2005 this was used as a Polling Station for the whole of this area but when the ward and division boundaries were redrawn, HKXC has had to vote at the Holbrook Club which is far away.</p> <p>There would be several advantages in switching HKXC to Horsham Youth Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would be within walking distance for at least some of the electors whereas most people from HKXC drive a car to the Holbrook Club, it is also conveniently en-route to the rail station or town centre hence voting can be combined with other trips. - It would even up the numbers better between the two polling stations as the Holbrook Club polling station gets busy at peak times. - As HKXC is part of Denne Neighbourhood Council area and Horsham Town it would respect that allocation rather than requiring them to vote in North Horsham. <p>I declare an interest as an elector of HKXC myself!</p>	<p>Thank you for your proposal. Following discussions with ward members, it is proposed that the Holbrook Club is retained for HKXC. There are concerns surrounding the traffic and parking pressure at the Youth Centre, should there be two polling districts attending this venue. The parking arrangements at the Holbrook Club are sufficient.</p> <p>Further to this, there are administrative complexities to this proposed arrangement, as HKXC and HHXG (the voters allocated to the Youth Centre) are in different County Divisions. For the West Sussex County Council elections this would introduce an element of risk and complexity to the voting processes within the polling station.</p>
<p>Forest Neighbourhood Council</p>	<p>Thank you for inviting Forest Neighbourhood Council to be part of the consultation process. This is to confirm that we have no amendments to make to the current polling stations arrangement in our neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council</p>	<p>Thank you for consulting Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council. I confirm that we have no objection to the proposed schedule of polling places.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>Colin Minto Councillor for Forest Ward</p>	<p>I have raised my concerns before about these two polling stations being so close together and a considerable distance from the North of the Forest Ward.</p> <p>Even with these suggestions It doesn't make sense that the furthest away residents have to essentially travel past a closer station, IMHO Opinion.</p> <p>There must be an opportunity to use a hall closer to the Forest section of the Ward, and I do not understand given the vast size of Millais and The Forest Schools (the latter with its additional and separate building space for Youth Clubs and Technology etc.) that these cannot be used.</p> <p>There is also the Salvation Army, Stroke Centre, QE2 School in better positions so I hope these have been assessed.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestions. We have assessed the Stroke Centre, which unfortunately as it is on school grounds, is not a suitable venue. The centre need to close the access gate during the day, which means that is not able to be used as a polling station.</p> <p>It has previously been agreed that schools would not be used as polling stations to avoid disruption to education. Use of buildings on school grounds has issues around safeguarding.</p> <p>The Salvation Army are currently booked on Thursdays, and so are unable to accommodate us.</p>
<p>Washington Parish Council</p>	<p>Washington Parish Council wishes to comment that it supports the continued use of the Washington Memorial Hall as a polling place in the Washington Parish.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>North Horsham Parish Council</p>	<p>Members agreed that they have no issue with the proposed changes but would want assurance of minimum boundary changes for Polling Districts until there is a solution for the continuation of the Mowbray Development</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Statutory reviews take place every 5 years, and the Parish council would be consulted as to any future proposed changes to the polling district boundaries.</p>

