

Responses from the Polling District Review

Respondent	Response	Local Authority/Returning Officer's comments
<p>Toni Bradnum Horsham District Councillor Nuthurst Ward</p>	<p>Thank you for the list of Polling Stations and I would like to object to the Nuthurst register being required to vote at Mannings Heath village Hall. The side room at St Andrews school should be used, even though it may be inconvenient for the school to accommodate. I believe we have a right to insist on its use. Failing that, Copsale Village hall could be used, or a mobile unit at the Black Horse public house car park. Chichester District have and do use all sorts of odd places for people to exercise their right to participate in democracy with their vote.</p>	<p>At the local elections this year, the first time Nuthurst residents had been required to vote at Mannings Heath, turnout for the Nuthurst & Lower Beeding ward was the third highest in the District at 41.87%. It is therefore recommended that the existing arrangements remain and that the polling district is not split.</p>
<p>Mike Morgan Horsham District Councillor Henfield Ward</p>	<p>Only one very minor point for Henfield is that the Village Hall changed its name some years ago and is now called "The Henfield Hall".</p>	<p>Name of hall corrected as per Cllr Morgan's comment.</p>
<p>Matt Allen Horsham District Councillor Broadbridge Heath Ward</p>	<p>The only comment I wish to make is about the polling station in polling district HGGB in my ward of Broadbridge Heath. It isn't a good polling station as it is a considerable distance away from the majority of residents in Wickhurst Green. That said it is about the only place that could realistically hold a polling station.</p> <p>My main concern is for those with poor mobility. At the local elections this year there was a considerable walk in order to get into the room to cast your ballot. I appreciate the side car park here has now opened up which reduces that walk, but it is still some distance inside. When the next election comes around (which realistically could be any time) would it be possible for officers to make sure that the room closest to a door is chosen for voters to access.</p>	<p>No other suitable alternative for a polling station. As noted, the new leisure centre car park is now available for electors to use. We will look at the location of the room used for polling to ensure it is the most suitable.</p>
<p>Ruth Fletcher Horsham District Councillor Denne Ward</p>	<p>I have two comments especially relevant to disabled voters and to first time voters lacking in confidence about how the system works:</p> <p>1) The location of the polling station for the EU elections was changed from the Holbrook Club to North Heath Lane after the polling cards were issued. This caused noticeable confusion (which was amplified by voters' confusion over whether there really was going to be an election and whether the election had already been held because people muddled up the cards for the local and EU elections). The</p>	<p>These issues arose due to the short notice given of the EU elections, with poll cards having to be printed and sent before confirmation had been received re hall bookings. Where polling stations were subsequently changed, affected electors were sent a letter advising them of this. Comments regarding</p>

	<p>diversion signage put up at the Holbrook Club was in my view inadequate and there was no assistance for anyone one who might walk to the Holbrook Club but have found it too much to then divert to North Heath.</p> <p>2) I was aware of a number of voters confused by having two polling stations in one building, so clearer information would help.</p>	<p>signage are noted and will be borne in mind if a similar situation occurs in the future.</p>
Slinfold Parish Council	<p>As far as I am aware, the current arrangements for Slinfold work well. It is not something that the PC has been involved with and we have not had any negative feedback.</p>	
Dr Nigel Dennis County Councillor Horsham Hurst Division	<p>I am happy with the current polling stations within my County division of Horsham Hurst. Otherwise, in Horsham Town, I would just comment that the polling station allocated for HKXC (Millpond) is a long way from this polling district.</p> <p>There were also a few anomalies on the electoral register at recent elections where small groups of voters appear to have been placed in the wrong polling district in relation to the maps of the boundaries. It is possible that some of these may have been picked up in the interim but could you check.</p>	<p>The polling station for HKXC (Millpond) reflects district ward and county division boundaries and there is no other suitable location. The anomalies on the register identified by Dr Dennis will be corrected.</p>
Liz Kitchen Horsham District Councillor Colgate and Rusper Ward	<p>Kilnwood Vale electors need to vote in Kilnwood Vale and they could now vote in the school which has been built there.</p>	<p>The use of Kilnwood Vale Primary School has now been agreed until the proposed community hall becomes available.</p>
Tony Hogben Horsham District Councillor Colgate and Rusper Ward	<p>I feel it is vital as part of this review that we get a polling station for Kilnwood vale. Residents of Kilnwood vale just didn't turn out to vote, anybody without a car couldn't have voted as it is a real trek to Faygate or Colgate village hall crossing the busy A264 road, I think Kilnwood vale is the largest area without a polling station? Turnout was very low at 27% for last election for the whole ward however I haven't got the exact numbers but I would guess that Kilnwood vale was the lowest in the district?</p>	<p>The use of Kilnwood Vale Primary School has now been agreed until the proposed community hall becomes available.</p>
Jeremy Quin MP Horsham Constituency	<p>Request to avoid using school buildings if alternatives exist (particular reference to Billingshurst Primary and Northolmes Junior)</p>	<p>The Returning Officer regularly reviews the use of schools and if at all possible investigates alternative premises. At present there are no suitable alternatives for the 2 specific schools mentioned.</p>

Nuthurst Parish Council	<p>Nuthurst Parish Council have serious concerns that there is only one polling station allocated in Mannings Heath Village Hall. With a bus service running just once a week this seriously restricts the residents in the south of the Parish being given the opportunity to vote.</p> <p>Previously, St Andrew's School has been used as a polling station and when we were advised that this was no longer available the Parish Council suggested that Copsale Hall could be an alternative venue, this was declined because there was not a disabled access. Surely a venue without disabled access is better than no polling station.</p> <p>If neither St Andrews School or Copsale Hall are deemed suitable venues for a Polling Station the Parish Council would like to see a mobile Polling Station located in the south of the Parish in the event of an election.</p>	<p>At the local elections this year, the first time Nuthurst residents had been required to vote at Mannings Heath, turnout for the Nuthurst & Lower Beeding ward was the third highest in the District at 41.87%. It is therefore recommended that the existing arrangements remain and that the polling district is not split.</p>
A Northam	Request to avoid using Greenway School	<p>The Returning Officer regularly reviews the use of schools and if at all possible investigates alternative premises. At present there are no suitable alternatives for this school.</p>
North Horsham Parish Council	<p>No comments to make on the review other than to reiterate that clear signage is required to avoid confusion between St Marks Church and North Heath Lane. That is already indicated on the review sheet.</p>	Noted.
Billingshurst PC	<p>The main issue the Council has is with the use of Billingshurst Primary School as a polling station.</p> <p>As evidenced by the pending General Election, the use of these premises causes considerable disruption to pupils, parents and staff, which we feel is quite easily avoidable. Alternative facilities quite close by are the Leisure Centre and Children & Family Centre, both with car parks. Slightly further down the road is the Scout Hut, which is about to have an improved surfaced entranceway. Somewhat further away, and possibly less accessible are the Women's Hall, Adversane Hall, St Mary's Rooms and Pavilion at Jubilee Fields.</p> <p>And, if none of the suggested alternatives are suitable, then why not use the Billingshurst Centre? On previous occasions this has served</p>	<p>Noted. As this response was received after the close of the review period, this is one of the issues that will be addressed as part of the proposed mini-review.</p>

	<p>all three polling districts and it is common practice for more than one polling district to be catered for by one polling station. The village is not so big that it is problematic to get from one side to the other.</p> <p>Thus, in summary, the Council objects to the future use of Billingshurst Primary School as a Polling Station, given the disruption to children's education, when there are so many viable alternatives</p>	
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