

05 November 2019 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks



Governance Committee

Background papers

	Pages	Contact
4. Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling stations	(Pages 1 - 32)	Nicola Fletcher Tel: 01732 227188

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Correspondence sent to the Acting Returning Officers of Dartford and Tonbridge & Malling

10 July 2019

Dear [Acting Returning Officer]

As you will be aware, we are required to undertake a review of polling districts and polling places this year. Sevenoaks DC intend to complete our review in November, ahead of the publication of the revised Register of Electors on 1 December 2019.

The district council is required to consult with the three Acting Returning Officers for the Parliamentary Constituencies that represent the district. The AROs are also required to comment on the proposals.

Each venue included on the previous schedule of polling places was visited by officers during 2018, with an assessment undertaken in line with Electoral Commission guidance. This included a review of accessibility and core facilities required for use by polling station staff. In addition, each venue was used on 2 May 2019 for the local government elections and/or 23 May 2019 for the European Parliamentary Elections, and a further assessment as to their suitability was carried out at that time.

On the basis of those assessments, we have compiled the attached draft proposals as part of the review for that part of Sevenoaks District that forms part of your parliamentary constituency. Please could you look at the draft proposals for your Constituency and let us have any comments and contributions by 29 July 2019. Similarly, if you are happy with our recommendations, please let us know. These (with additional submission from you if appropriate) will then go out to public consultation from 31 July to 1 October, noting that they include your contributions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Electoral Services

Sevenoaks District Council | Council Offices | Argyle Road | Sevenoaks | Kent TN13 1HG

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Correspondence sent to elected representatives

31 July 2019

Dear [title or name of elected representative]

As you will be aware, Sevenoaks District Council is legally required to determine the polling districts (the geographical areas that determine which polling station electors must vote at) and polling places (the venues where the Returning Officer will allocate polling stations at an election). We must keep these under review, and must by law complete a formal review this year.

As an elected representative of residents of part of the Sevenoaks District Council area, you are invited to contribute to our review.

Attached is the consultation document for your attention. This is also available on our website.

The consultation period runs from 31 July 2019 to 1 October 2019. If you wish to comment on the draft proposals, you may either email elections@sevenoaks.gov.uk, or write to us at the address given in the consultation document. Please note that contributions to the review must be made during the consultation in order for us to consider them, and not introduced at a future meeting of the Governance Committee or Council.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Electoral Services

Sevenoaks District Council | Council Offices | Argyle Road | Sevenoaks | Kent TN13 1HG

Correspondence sent to organisations with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability

31 July 2019

Dear colleague

Sevenoaks District Council is legally required to determine the polling districts (the geographical areas that determine which polling station electors must vote at) and polling places (the venues where the Returning Officer will allocate polling stations at an election). We must keep these under review, and must by law complete a formal review this year.

As a local community representative, we would like to invite you to contribute to our review. We need to ensure our polling places are accessible for all electors, as far as that is possible, so would appreciate your input into this review.

Attached is the consultation document for your attention. This is also available on our website.

The consultation period runs from 31 July 2019 to 1 October 2019. If you wish to comment on the draft proposals, you may either email elections@sevenoaks.gov.uk, or write to us at the address given in the consultation document.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Electoral Services

Sevenoaks District Council | Council Offices | Argyle Road | Sevenoaks | Kent TN13 1HG

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Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations : Consultation document

Introduction

All district councils are required to complete a review of polling districts and polling places every five years, ahead of scheduled Parliamentary General Elections. This particular review must, by law, be completed by 31 January 2020, although best practice dictates it should be concluded, where practicable, in advance of the publication of the next revised Register of Electors on 1 December 2019 to enable any changes to take effect from that date. The purpose of the review is to ensure electors are given “such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.”

As part of the statutory review, contributions from the (Acting) Returning Officers for the Parliamentary Constituencies that represent the district should be sought. As such, Sevenoaks District Council has consulted with the (Acting) Returning Officers for the Dartford, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling constituencies, and their contributions are included within this consultation document.

This consultation document contains an assessment of existing and proposed polling districts and polling places within the district.

Commenting on the proposed recommendations

We welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the proposals within this consultation document. Anyone making representations should, if relevant, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

The consultation period runs from 31 July 2019 to 1 October 2019. Any changes are expected to take effect from the publication of the new Register of Electors on 1 December 2019.

Any comments or contributions must be made in writing by **1 October 2019** and may be submitted as follows:

By post: Electoral Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG

By email: elections@sevenoaks.gov.uk

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Definitions

<i>Polling districts</i>	A polling district is a geographical area. District councils are required to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of elections. The polling district determines which polling station an elector must attend in order to vote in person. Each parish and parish ward must have a separate polling district.
<i>Polling place</i>	A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer at an election. The district council must designate polling places for each polling district. Each polling place should be accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities, as far as practicable.
<i>Polling station</i>	A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. These are chosen by the relevant (Acting) Returning Officer for a given election, and not by the council.
<i>Returning Officer</i>	The individual who has responsibility for delivering free, fair, democratic elections in accordance with the relevant legislation. This role is independent of the council. At a Parliamentary Election, this individual is known as the Acting Returning Officer, hence the term '(Acting) Returning Officer' refers to the individuals responsible for delivering each level of election. This is also known as the (A)RO.

How these proposals have been developed

Polling districts

A review of the boundaries and extent of each existing polling district has taken place, to ensure they remain relevant and appropriate. Each parish and parish ward is to be a separate polling district, and the boundaries and designations of polling districts should not adversely impact on an electors ability to attend their polling station.

Polling places

Each venue included on the previous schedule of polling places was visited by officers during 2018, with an assessment undertaken in line with Electoral Commission guidance. This included a review of accessibility and core facilities required for use by polling station staff. In addition, each venue was used on either 2 May 2019 for the local government elections and/or 23 May 2019 for the European Parliamentary Elections, and a further assessment as to their suitability was carried out at that time.

In preparing this submission, the (A)ROs have considered the accessibility levels of current polling stations, the assessments undertaken over the past year, and the current numbers of electors and levels of postal voting.

It should be noted that for the purpose of taking the poll, the (A)RO is entitled to require the use of schools. However, we have taken the view for a number of years that we should avoid the use of schools wherever possible to attempt to minimise disruption to schooling. However, in some areas there is no suitable alternative and we continue to recommend the use of schools.

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Wherever possible at polling places that have access issues, polling staff direct voters to an alternative entrance or set up ramps (where appropriate) in liaison with the caretaker of the premises. Unfortunately, due to the nature of some of the facilities there is limited scope at some venues for this. In these areas, polling station staff are trained how to best assist voters who may need additional support or who would be unable to enter the polling station unaided.

Draft proposals

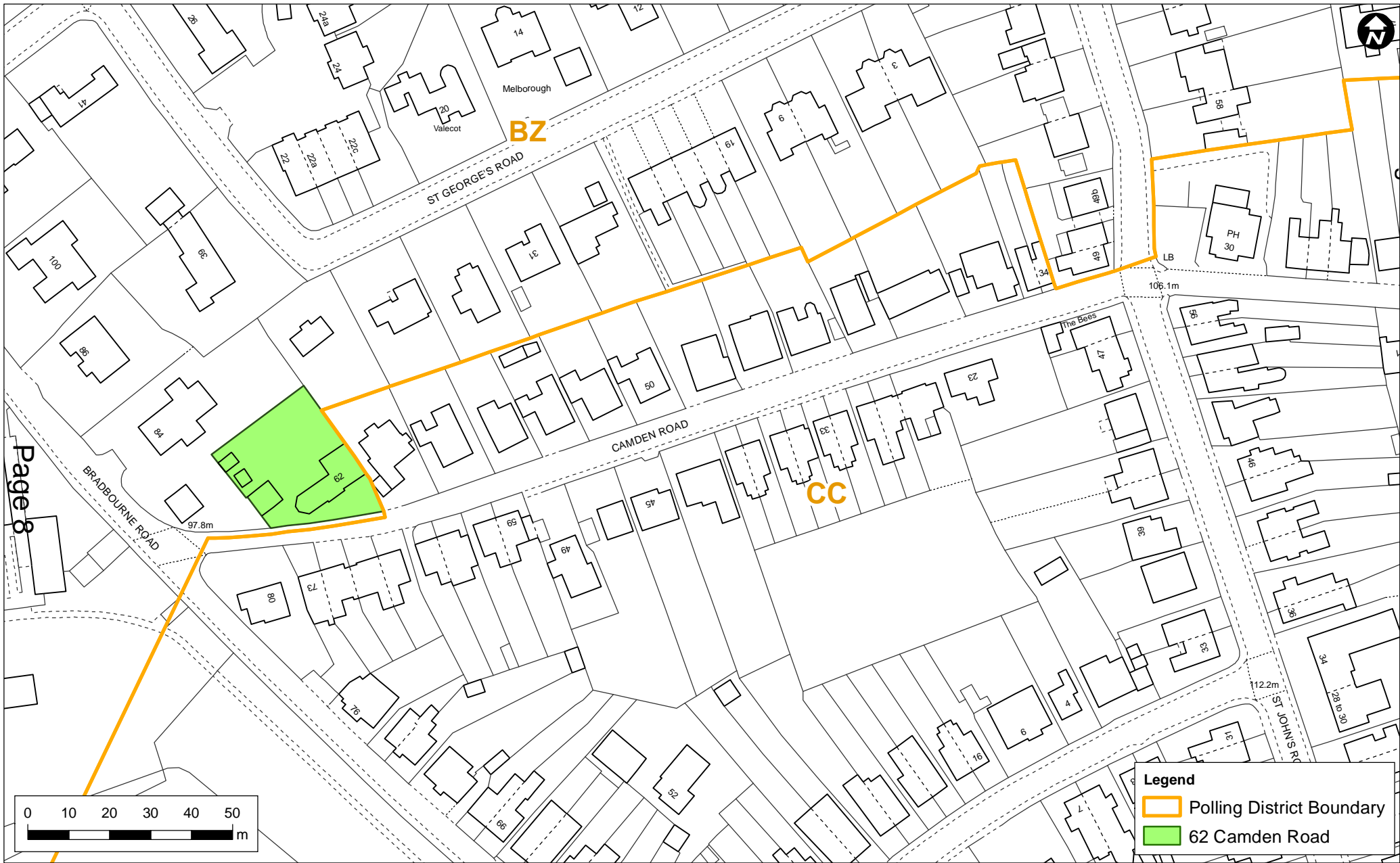
Polling districts

Following this review, **no substantive changes** are proposed to the boundaries and extents of polling districts as they remain relevant and appropriate. One minor change, to adjust the boundary between polling districts BZ and CC such that all properties are included in the same polling district in future, is proposed. This will affect one property, and this is shown in the attached map.

The decision as to how many polling stations should be placed within a polling place is one for the (A)RO to make at a given election, and this decision is reviewed ahead of each election to take into account changes in electorate, postal voters, likely turnout and any level of combination of polls.

Polling places

The pages that follow show the draft proposals for polling places, listed by Parliamentary Constituency and then by district ward within the constituency.



Legend

- Polling District Boundary
- 62 Camden Road

Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks**Ward : Ash and New Ash Green**

AA	Ash	The Village Hall, The Street, Ash, Kent, TN15 7HB	Sevenoaks Rural North East	Ash-cum-Ridley - Ash ward	314 (of which, postal voters: 16)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AC	New Ash Green North West	New Ash Green Youth Centre, Ash Road, Ash, Kent, DA3 8JY	Sevenoaks Rural North East	Ash-cum-Ridley - New Ash Green North West ward	2063 (of which, postal voters: 181)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AD	New Ash Green South East	New Ash Green Village Hall, Centre Road, New Ash Green, Kent, DA3 8HH	Sevenoaks Rural North East	Ash-cum-Ridley - New Ash Green South East ward	2253 (of which, postal voters: 223)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Ward : Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge

AF	Brasted	Brasted Village Hall, High Street, Brasted, Kent, TN16 1JA	Sevenoaks West	Brasted parish	762 (of which, postal voters: 90)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AG	Toys Hill	Toys Hill Village Hall, Puddledock Lane, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PY	Sevenoaks West	Brasted parish	375 (of which, postal voters: 79)	Access to the venue is poor, with steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this rural location. It is not possible to place a temporary ramp, as doing so would cause a dangerous obstruction for other users of the venue and block access in the area. Given the small number of electors allocated to this station and the lack of suitable alternatives, there is a requirement to continue to use this venue as a polling place. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote. The (A)RO will consider mechanisms to alert the polling station staff to the presence of voters outside the station who are unable to ascend the steps.

AH	Chevening	Chevening Church Hall, Homedean Road, Chipstead, Kent, TN13 2RU	Sevenoaks West	Chevening parish	2288 (of which, postal voters: 367)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CI	Ide Hill	Ide Hill Village Hall, Ide Hill, Kent, TN14 6JG (Wheatsheaf Room)	Sevenoaks West	Sundridge with Ide Hill - Ide Hill	529 (of which, postal voters: 65)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. The Wheatsheaf Room is down the corridor from the main entrance, but access is flat and smooth.
CJ	Sundridge	Sundridge Village Hall, Main Road, Sundridge, Kent, TN14 6EJ	Sevenoaks West	Sundridge with Ide Hill - Sundridge	984 (of which, postal voters: 141)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Ward : Crockenhill & Well Hill

AN	Crockenhill	Crockenhill Village Hall, Stones Cross Road, Crockenhill, Kent, BR8 8LT	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Crockenhill parish	1329 (of which, postal voters: 154)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CH	Well Hill	Well Hill Mission Church, Well Hill, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7PR	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Shoreham - The Well Hill Hundreds	223 (of which, postal voters: 30)	The current polling place is suitable, although accessed via an unpaved road. There is a small step to access the hall, but it is not possible to place a temporary ramp. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote. There are no suitable alternatives available in this small rural polling district.

Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks**Ward : Dunton Green & Riverhead**

AO	Dunton Green	Dunton Green Village Hall, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, TN13 2TE	Sevenoaks West	Dunton Green parish	2367 (of which, postal voters: 279)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
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BN	Riverhead	Riverhead Village Hall, Amherst Hill, Riverhead, Kent, TN13 2EL	Sevenoaks West	Riverhead parish	1827 (of which, postal voters: 358)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
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Ward : Eynsford

AV	Eynsford	Eynsford Village Hall, High Street, Eynsford, Kent, DA4 0AA	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Eynsford parish	1507 (of which, postal voters: 207)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
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Ward : Farningham, Horton Kirby & South Darenth

AW	Farningham	Farningham Village Hall, High Street, Farningham, Kent, DA4 0DH	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Farningham parish	1146 (of which, postal voters: 122)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
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BE	Horton Kirby	Fighting Cocks Public House, The Street, Horton Kirby, Kent, DA4 9BY	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Horton Kirby & South Darenth parish	951 (of which, postal voters: 115)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. The room is quite dark, but the (A)RO provides temporary lighting for use in the polling station. Alternative venues have been considered, but are unable to guarantee availability for future elections so are not suitable for designation as a polling place.
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BF	South Darenth	Horton Kirby & South Darenth Jubilee Hall, Horton Road, South Darenth, Kent, DA4 9AZ	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Horton Kirby And South Darenth parish	1757 (of which, postal voters: 288)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
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Polling district	Current polling place	County division	Parish	Total electorate	Review of access
Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks					
Ward : Fawkham & West Kingsdown					
AX Fawkham	Fawkham Village Hall, Valley Road, Fawkham, Kent, DA3 8NA	Sevenoaks Rural North East	Fawkham parish	485 (of which, postal voters: 61)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CS East Hill	Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6AA	Sevenoaks Rural North East	West Kingsdown - East Hill ward	274 (of which, postal voters: 60)	Access to the venue is not ideal, with steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this rural location. It is not possible to place a temporary ramp. Given the small number of electors allocated to this station and the lack of suitable alternatives, there is a requirement to continue to use this venue as a polling place. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote.
CU West Kingsdown East	The Old School, School Lane, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6JN	Sevenoaks Rural North East	West Kingsdown - East ward	1240 (of which, postal voters: 164)	There are two small steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this rural location. It is not possible to place a temporary ramp. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote.
CV West Kingsdown-Hever	West Kingsdown Village Hall, London Road, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6BZ	Sevenoaks Rural North East	West Kingsdown - Hever ward	2744 (of which, postal voters: 368)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CT Knatts Valley	Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6AA	Sevenoaks Rural North East	West Kingsdown - Knatts Valley ward	223 (of which, postal voters: 25)	Access to the venue is not ideal, with steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this rural location. It is not possible to place a temporary ramp. Given the small number of electors allocated to this station and the lack of suitable alternatives, there is a requirement to continue to use this venue as a polling place. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote.
Ward : Halstead, Knockholt & Badgers Mount					
AE Badgers Mount	Badgers Mount Memorial Hall, Orpington-by-pass, Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7AH	Sevenoaks West	Badgers Mount parish	531 (of which, postal voters: 64)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AY Halstead	Halstead Parish Council, The Centenary Pavilion, Station Road, Halstead, Kent, YN14 7DH	Sevenoaks West	Halstead parish	1284 (of which, postal voters: 151)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BI Knockholt	Knockholt Village Centre, Main Road, Knockholt, Kent, TN14 7LG	Sevenoaks West	Knockholt parish	956 (of which, postal voters: 107)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. We have been advised that the building may be redeveloped in future, but it remains accessible and available in the meantime.

Polling district	Current polling place	County division	Parish	Total electorate	Review of access
Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks					
Ward : Hextable					
BD Hextable	St .Peter's Church, College Road, Hextable, Kent, BR8 7RH	Swanley	Hextable parish	3336 (of which, postal voters: 375)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Kemsing					
BG Kemsing East	Kemsing Parish Council St Ediths Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent, TN15 6NA	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Kemsing parish	1686 (of which, postal voters: 237)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BH Kemsing West	Kemsing Parish Council St Ediths Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent, TN15 6NA	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Kemsing parish	1585 (of which, postal voters: 227)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Otford & Shoreham					
BK Otford	Otford Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford, Kent, TN14 5PQ	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Otford parish	2688 (of which, postal voters: 462)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. Redevelopment work may be taking place during 2019, although the venue is still expected to be available for all scheduled polls.
CF Romney Street	Shoreham Village Hall, 25 High Street, Shoreham, Kent, TN14 7TB	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Shoreham - Romney Street ward	168 (of which, postal voters: 48)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CG Shoreham	Shoreham Village Hall, 25 High Street, Shoreham, Kent, TN14 7TB	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Shoreham - Shoreham ward	717 (of which, postal voters: 77)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward: Seal & Weald					
BP Seal	Seal Village Hall, 17 High Street, Seal, Kent, TN15 0AL	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Seal - Seal ward	1330 (of which, postal voters: 161)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BO Seal St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence Village Hall, Church Road, Stone Street, Kent, TN15 0LL	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Seal - St Lawrence ward	333 (of which, postal voters: 53)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BQ Underriver	Underriver Village Hall, Carters Hill, Underriver, Kent, TN15 0SB	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Seal - Underriver ward	267 (of which, postal voters: 48)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CD Wildernesse	Church Hall, St. John The Baptist Church, Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3NU	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Wildernesse ward	336 (of which, postal voters: 79)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CE Sevenoaks Weald	Weald Memorial Hall, Long Barn Road, Sevenoaks Weald, Kent, TN14 6PT	Sevenoaks Rural South	Sevenoaks Weald parish	923 (of which, postal voters: 137)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Polling district	Current polling place	County division	Parish	Total electorate	Review of access
Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks					
Ward : Sevenoaks Eastern					
BV Hillingdon	Church Hall, St. John The Baptist Church, Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3NU	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Eastern ward	1297 (of which, postal voters: 221)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BW Holly Bush	Church Hall, St. John The Baptist Church, Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3NU	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Eastern ward	1747 (of which, postal voters: 309)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Sevenoaks Kippington					
BX Kippington North	Christ Church United Reform Church, Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2JG	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Kippington ward	1176 (of which, postal voters: 222)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BY Kippington South	The Kippington Centre, Kippington Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2LL	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Kippington ward	1096 (of which, postal voters: 218)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CA Sevenoaks Common	Solefield School, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PH	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Kippington ward	1468 (of which, postal voters: 287)	The venue is accessible via a small step, for which the (A)RO should provide a temporary ramp to ensure access for disabled voters.
Ward : Sevenoaks Northern					
BR Bat & Ball	Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5DN	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Northern ward	788 (of which, postal voters: 88)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BS Bradbourne	Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3OG	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Northern ward	1226 (of which, postal voters: 218)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BT Greatness	Sevenoaks Town Football Club Pavilion, Greatness Playing Fields, Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5BU	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Northern ward	1222 (of which, postal voters: 135)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Polling district	Current polling place	County division	Parish	Total electorate	Review of access	
Parliamentary Constituency : Sevenoaks						
Ward : Sevenoaks Town & St Johns						
BZ	Lower St. John's	Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 3OG	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - St John's ward	910 (of which, postal voters: 138)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. We propose to move one property from BZ to CC to match the other properties on the street.
CC	Upper St. John`s	United Reformed Church, St Johns Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3LW	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - St John's ward	1296 (of which, postal voters: 262)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible. We propose to move one property from BZ to CC to match the other properties on the street.
BU	High Street	Stag Community Arts Centre, London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1ZZ	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Town ward	1399 (of which, postal voters: 289)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CB	Tubs Hill	St. Luke's Church Hall, St. Lukes Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 1XT	Sevenoaks Town	Sevenoaks - Town ward	1377 (of which, postal voters: 225)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Swanley Christchurch & Swanley Village						
CK	Christ Church	Christ Church Centre, Kingswood Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8AN	Swanley	Swanley - Christchurch ward	2068 (of which, postal voters: 228)	The entrance into the building is step-free, although there are steps down into the hall in which the polling station must be placed. These steps are steep and there is no step-free alternative access. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and provides an accessible polling booth in the lobby area at the top of the steps to enable electors to be able to vote. There are no suitable alternatives available in this
CL	High Firs	High Firs County Primary School, Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8NR	Swanley	Swanley - Christchurch ward	2265 (of which, postal voters: 284)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible, using a ramp available at the venue.
CO	Swanley Village	The Lamb Inn, Swanley Village Road, Swanley, Kent. BR8 7NN	Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley	Swanley - Swanley Village ward	343 (of which, postal voters: 55)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Swanley St Mary's						
CM	St. Mary's	Swanley Youth Centre, St Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent. BR8 7BU	Swanley	Swanley - St Mary's ward	3262 (of which, postal voters: 367)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
Ward : Swanley White Oak						
CN	Swanley Lane	ACF Centre, Swanley Lane, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7JQ	Swanley	Swanley - White Oak ward	1620 (of which, postal voters: 223)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible, although the car park is gravelled and fairly rough access.
CP	White Oak	White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre (Captain`s Room), Garrols Close, Swanley, Kent. BR8 7BF	Swanley	Swanley - White Oak ward	3184 (of which, postal voters: 406)	The venue is accessible via a small step, for which the (A)RO provides a temporary ramp to ensure access for disabled voters.
Ward : Westerham & Crockham Hill						
CQ	Crockham Hill	Crockham Hill Village Hall, Main Road, Crockham Hill, Kent, TN8 6RP	Sevenoaks West	Westerham - Crockham Hill ward	587 (of which, postal voters: 132)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
CR	Westerham	Westerham Village Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1BJ	Sevenoaks West	Westerham - Westerham ward	2878 (of which, postal voters: 346)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

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* Note that all polling districts that are currently within the Sevenoaks Parliamentary Constituency will remain in the Sevenoaks Parliamentary Constituency if the changes to the constituency boundaries as proposed by the Boundary Commission for England take effect.

Polling district	Current polling place	County division	Parish	Total electorate	Review of access	
Parliamentary Constituency : Dartford						
Ward : Hartley & Hodsoil Street						
AB	Hodsoil Street & Ridley	Hodsoil Street And Ridley Village Hall, Sevenoaks Rural Greenfields, Hodsoil Street, Kent, TN15 7LE	North East	Ash-cum-Ridley - Hodsoil Street and Ridley ward	415 (of which, postal voters: 56)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AZ	Hartley North	Scout Hut, Larkwell Lane, Hartley, Longfield, Kent, DA3 7EH	North East	Hartley parish	2267 (of which, postal voters: 372)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BA	Hartley South	All Saints Church Hall, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent, DA3 8EL	North East	Hartley parish	2161 (of which, postal voters: 358)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

* Note that these three polling districts are currently within the Dartford Parliamentary Constituency; if the changes to the constituency boundaries as proposed by the Boundary Commission for England take effect, these three polling districts will be part of the Gravesham Parliamentary Constituency.

Parliamentary Constituency : Tonbridge & Malling

Ward : Cowden & Hever

AM	Cowden	Cowden Memorial Hall, Chantlers Mead, Cowden, Kent, TN8 7HU	Sevenoaks Rural South	Cowden parish	639 (of which, postal voters: 110)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible, using a mobile ramp stored at the venue.
BB	Four Elms	Four Elms Village Hall, Ide Hill Road, Four Elms, Kent, TN8 6NS	Sevenoaks Rural South	Hever - Four Elms ward	480 (of which, postal voters: 60)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BC	Hever	Hever Village Hall, Hever Road, Hever, Kent, TN8 7NH	Sevenoaks Rural South	Hever - Hever ward	521 (of which, postal voters: 86)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible, using a mobile ramp stored at the venue.

Ward : Edenbridge North & East

AP	Marlpit Hill	St. Paulinus Church Centre, Hillcrest Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6JS	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge North & East ward	1542 (of which, postal voters: 211)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AS	Spitals Cross	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge Kent, TN8 6BY	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge North & East ward	1241 (of which, postal voters: 122)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AU	Town	Edenbridge WI Hall, Station Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5LX	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge North & East ward	929 (of which, postal voters: 121)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Ward : Edenbridge South & West

AQ	Marsh Green	St John's United Reformed Church, Marsh Green Road, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5QR	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge South & West ward	360 (of which, postal voters: 48)	Access to the venue is not ideal, with steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this area (the one other venue - the Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses - is not available for use as a polling station), and it is not possible to place a temporary ramp due to the height of the steps. Given the small number of electors allocated to this station and the lack of suitable alternatives, there is a requirement to continue to use this venue as a polling place. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order
AR	Pound Green	Edenbridge Rugby Football Club, The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Coomb Field, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5HZ	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge South & West ward	1062 (of which, postal voters: 125)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
AT	Stangrove & South End	The Scout Hut, Station Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5HP	Sevenoaks Rural South	Edenbridge - Edenbridge South & West ward	1793 (of which, postal voters: 225)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

Ward : Leigh & Chiddingstone Causeway

AJ	Chiddingstone Causeway	Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway, Kent, TN11 8JN	Sevenoaks Rural South	Chiddingstone - Chiddingstone Causeway ward	325 (of which, postal voters: 49)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BJ	Leigh	Leigh Village Hall, High Street, Leigh, Kent, TN11 8RL	Sevenoaks Rural South	Leigh parish	1516 (of which, postal voters: 215)	The venue is accessible via a small step, for which the (A)RO should provide a temporary ramp to ensure access for disabled voters.

Parliamentary Constituency : Tonbridge & Malling

Ward : Penshurst, Fordcombe & Chiddingstone

AI	Bough Beech	The Wheatsheaf, Hever Road, Bough Beech, Kent, TN8 7NU	Sevenoaks Rural South	Chiddingstone - Chiddingstone ward	255 (of which, postal voters: 27)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible, using a mobile ramp stored at the venue.
AK	Chiddingstone Hoath	The Rock Inn, Hoath Corner, Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent, TN8 7BS	Sevenoaks Rural South	Chiddingstone - Chiddingstone ward	180 (of which, postal voters: 19)	The current polling place is to one end of the polling district, but the majority of electors are located in this area. Access to the venue is not ideal, with steps into the building. However no suitable alternatives exist in this rural location. It is not possible to place a temporary ramp, as doing so would cause a dangerous obstruction for other users of the venue and block access in the area. Given the small number of electors allocated to this station and the lack of suitable alternatives, there is a requirement to continue to use this venue as a polling place. The (A)RO will ensure the staff are trained with regards accessibility and able to support electors who may need their additional support at an election in order to be able to vote.
AL	Chiddingstone Village	Chiddingstone C of E Primary School, The Village, Chiddingstone, Kent, TN8 7AH	Sevenoaks Rural South	Chiddingstone - Chiddingstone ward	197 (of which, postal voters: 40)	The venue is accessible via a small step, for which the (A)RO should provide a temporary ramp to ensure access for disabled voters. The venue gets particularly busy at the start and end of the school day. Whilst we undertake to minimise the use of schools as polling station venues, there are no suitable alternatives in this case.
BL	Fordcombe	Fordcombe Village Hall, The Green, Fordcombe, Kent, TN3 0RT	Sevenoaks Rural South	Penshurst - Fordcombe ward	556 (of which, postal voters: 92)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.
BM	Penshurst	Penshurst Village Hall, High Street, Penshurst, Kent, TN11 8BP	Sevenoaks Rural South	Penshurst - Penshurst ward	768 (of which, postal voters: 136)	The current polling place is suitable and accessible.

* Note that these polling districts are currently within the Tonbridge & Malling Parliamentary Constituency; if the changes to the constituency boundaries as proposed by the Boundary Commission for England take effect, these three polling districts will be part of the Tonbridge Parliamentary Constituency.

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Notice of review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

1. Sevenoaks District Council is conducting a review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations that fall within the District of Sevenoaks.
2. The (Acting) Returning Officers for the three Parliamentary Constituencies that make up the Sevenoaks District Council area (Dartford, Sevenoaks, and Tonbridge & Malling) will contribute to the review and decide on the number of polling stations for each polling place. Their representations will be published on the District Council's website and noticeboards.
3. Electors within the District of Sevenoaks, or the Parliamentary Constituencies of Sevenoaks, Dartford and Tonbridge & Malling may make a representation.
4. The District Council would welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the proposals and ARO's representations, or any other related matters.
5. Persons or bodies making representations should, if relevant, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.
6. Comments and representations may be submitted as follows:
By post: Electoral Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1HG
By email: elections@sevenoaks.gov.uk
7. Documents relating to the review can be inspected on the Council's website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk, or at the Council's offices.
8. The deadline for making representations is **1 October 2019**.
9. Officers of the District Council will then investigate the representations and report to Members of the District Council. The Council will publish its findings at the conclusion of the review, expected in November 2019.

Dr. Pav Ramewal
Chief Executive, Sevenoaks District Council

31 July 2019

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Consultation response 001

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 July 2019 15:56

Subject: Re: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Dear Dr Ramewal

My ward is Northern Sevenoaks.

The Polling station at Sevenoaks Community Centre will not be available for use until 2021 as it is being rebuilt.

Perhaps the Bat and Ball Station building managed by the Sevenoaks Town Council might be suitable for that part of the Ward.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 4

Consultation response 002

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 July 2019 15:02

Subject: Re: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations (Sevenoaks District) - Kent County Councillors

Many thanks for this. The proposed facilities in my division are fine.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Kent County Council

Consultation response 003

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 August 2019 09:02

Subject: Re: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations - Sevenoaks District Councillors

Dear Richard,

I am happy with the proposed arrangements.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 4

Consultation response 004

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 August 2019 15:10

Subject: Consultation on polling stations

Dear Sir,

I don't think you can be aware that Fordcombe village hall is currently closed and is going to be demolished and rebuilt. Should an election be called in the next eighteen months, a different venue will be necessary.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Consultation response 005

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 August 2019 16:04
Subject: Review of Polling Districts/Stations

Dear Team,

As ward member of Hextable, I thought I would share my thoughts on the current district polling station.

Hextable members have commented after this was looked at previously and given the well-known and existing central location of our polling station at St Peters church, I feel there would be no benefit from changing these arrangements.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 4

Consultation response 006

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 August 2019 14:50

Subject: Review of polling districts and polling places and polling station

Dear Dr Pav Ramewal,

To respond to your letters dated 31st July regarding a review of polling stations.

Venue: Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road - We can continue to offer our Chamber as a polling station

Venue: Sevenoaks Community Centre – This is now closed until late 2020 whilst refurbishment and extension works are carried out

In place of the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Sevenoaks Town Council can offer the Bat & Ball Station. The Station has 2 rooms and I attach some information about it. I would think that the Booking Hall would probably be the better sized room for you. The address is Bat & Ball Station, Chatham Hill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5AP

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Hall Hire

Sevenoaks Town Council | Town Council Offices | Bradbourne Vale Road | SEVENOAKS |
TN13 3QG

Consultation response 007

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 August 2019 18:39

Subject: Polling Stations : West Kingsdown Village Hall

Thank you for your letter re West Kingsdown Village Hall as a polling station.

I confirm that this venue will be available for future use and many local people have commented that it is convenient with good parking available.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Consultation response 008

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 August 2019 11:55

Subject: Re: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations - Sevenoaks District Councillors

Dear Richard

Thanks for this. An important fact which was apparent in the latest local elections in Eastern Ward was a significant difference in turnout on the day between the Hillingdon and Hollybush polling areas. The results were posted on the wall at the count, showing postal and non postal turnout. From memory the postal turnout was not that different, but the 'on the day' difference was large.

Could you please let me see the data, which should feed into this exercise? And have you kept the comparable information for the 2017 County elections?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Consultation response 009

Review of Polling Stations. Consultation Response for Sevenoaks Eastern.

I note that the Consultation document states that each polling station should be accessible for all electors. I believe that in Sevenoaks Eastern this is not the case, and voters from the Hillingdon (BV) end of the ward are at a disadvantage.

The number of polling stations in Eastern ward is precisely 1 station for 3044 voters. Compare this with the other wards in Sevenoaks Town.

Kippington has 3 polling stations for 3740 votes, = **1246 voters per station.**

Northern ward has 3 polling stations for 3236 voters = **1078 voters per station.**

Town & St Johns has 4 polling stations for 4982 votes = **1245 voters per station.**

Eastern ward has 1 station for 3044 voters = **3044 voters per station.**

Although the polling station for Eastern ward is satisfactory for the BW (Hollybush) half of the Ward, it is an unreasonable distance for voters from the other half of the Ward. BV (Hillingdon). At the 2019 District Elections, 251 people from BV (Hillingdon) voted at the polling station, compared with 514 people from BW (Hollybush). This discrepancy clearly shows the need for a polling station in BV (Hillingdon). People living on the Hillingdon estate (a less affluent area of Sevenoaks) are less likely to have a car and if the weather inclement, less likely to want to walk the distance to St Johns Church in Quakers Hall Lane. Parking is difficult at the Church anyway which only has a small car park, and there are yellow lines on the nearby streets.

I would suggest that if the two new schools in Seal Hollow Road are unable to offer accommodation for a second polling station, a mobile polling station is sited on Hillingdon Green to cater for voters from the BV area. Everyone should be encouraged to vote. If it is made difficult because it entails a lengthy walk, maybe with toddlers in tow or they are elderly or have a disability, they are less likely to vote, as can be seen by the number of votes at the Count for BV (Hillingdon) as opposed to BW (Hollybush).

The present arrangement of polling stations clearly disadvantages voters in Eastern Ward, and in particular voters from the northern half (BV Hillingdon).

12 August 2019

Agenda Item 4

Consultation response 010

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 August 2019 12:26

Subject: Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations: Consultation

I have read the consultation document and am happy with the proposals for the wards in my KCC division – Sevenoaks Town.

[REDACTED]

Consultation response 011

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 August 2019 17:09
Subject: Swanley Youth Centre

Dear Elections Team,

Thank you for your letter dated 31st July enquiring about using the venue for a polling station. You are more than welcome to continue using Swanley Youth Centre for a polling station. Our main hall which is the space you normally used will at sometime be transformed into the Children's Centre (Swanley Children's Centre is being co-located into the Youth Centre). This will put this room out of use for elections as significant building works will take place to transform that area of the building. We have been waiting 18 months so far for this to happen and there are no immediate start dates for this to happen. I will make sure you know when this happens.

When the building work happens I can offer you different space within the building. Catch 22 who rented a room in the building have now vacated the room which was used as the Library when the Swanley Link was refurbished. This room is completely accessible and with its own entry door for gaining access to this building. Whilst smaller than the main hall it would still be big enough for the 2 different areas required for voting. Therefore once the Children's Centre move in and take over the area of the main hall I do have other facilities available which you can use as a polling station.

Basically, you are always able to use Swanley Youth Hub, but we will have to think of different space in the building which can be used once the Children's Centre moves into the building.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Youth Hub Delivery Manager (Sevenoaks) Early Help and Preventative Services 0-25 | Children, Young People and Education | Kent County Council | Swanley Youth Hub, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU

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