

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Responses to Consultation

Contributor	Details of Comments	Returning Officer's Response
Chevening Parish Council	The Parish Council voted unanimously to retain polling at Chevening Church Hall.	
Edenbridge Town Council	<p>1. Edenbridge Scout HQ, Station Road, Edenbridge - difficult access for mobility buggy.</p> <p>2. Scout HQ and W.I. Hall - voter confusion due to close proximity of the two polling stations.</p> <p>3. Scout HQ – polling booths not wide enough for mobility buggy so impairing secrecy of the vote.</p>	<p>1. A ramp, specifically designed for the situation, is being constructed.</p> <p>2. The two polling places serve electors of different wards and, therefore, different polling districts. Legislation requires polling places to be within the polling district (except in special circumstances). It is unwise to have electors of different wards sharing the same premises as this leads to ballot papers being placed in the wrong ballot boxes and consequent difficulties at the counting of votes.</p> <p>3. Wider booths, already used at other locations, will be allocated to the Scout HQ in the future.</p>
Cllr John Scholey	Polling arrangements for Edenbridge North & East Ward are satisfactory.	
Halstead Parish Council	The Parish Council is pleased to note the retention of the Pavilion, Station Road, Halstead.	
Margaret Bown, Hartley resident	Approves of existing arrangements for All Saints Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley (the hall is accessible).	
Seal Parish Council	The Parish Council and local District Councillors agree with the retention of the current polling places.	
Shoreham Parish Council	The Parish Council approves of the current	

	arrangements.	
Cllr Robert Brookbank	Birchwood (Swanley) polling district – Cllr Brookbank seeks a polling place within the polling district and suggests the new hotel at Birchwood.	Contact made with the hotel for second successive year; they are still of the opinion that the hotel does not have suitable accommodation and will not, therefore, offer their premises for polling purposes (see Appendix B).
Westerham Parish Council	The Parish Council is not aware of any problems or access difficulties with either of the two polling places serving the Parish.	
County Cllr Nick Chard	Supports the polling stations allocated to the Sevenoaks East County Electoral Division.	
Acting Returning Officer for Dartford Parliamentary Constituency	Satisfied with the current arrangements in respect of that part of the Dartford Parliamentary Constituency that lies within the Sevenoaks District Council area.	
Acting Returning Officer for Tonbridge & Malling Parliamentary Constituency	Although some venues (such as The Rock Public House) are not ideal, accepts there are no alternatives in the area; therefore, happy with proposals.	
Sevenoaks Liberal Democrats	<p>1. Kemsing polling districts – unsatisfactory for electors of Kemsing West to have to poll at St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing (situated in Kemsing East); however, unable to suggest alternative solution.</p> <p>2. St. John's C.E.P. School, Kennedy Gardens, Sevenoaks – venue for voters of three polling districts at 2011 elections caused a lot of problems. Noted that this is a temporary arrangement.</p>	<p>1. Continue to seek for suitable polling place within the Kemsing West polling district (see Appendix B).</p> <p>2. Discussions taking place with Knole Academy East for a return to former Wildernesse School site for electors of Hillingdon and Wildernesse polling districts (see Appendix B).</p>
Tonbridge, Edenbridge & Malling Conservative Association	Supports the representations made about the disabled access difficulties at Edenbridge Scout HQ.	See above and Appendix B.