

# Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

## Summary of consultation responses with Officer comments

Please note that responses from venues solely confirming availability are not included.

#	Date	Constituency / Division / Ward	Respondent	Consultation response	SDC Officers Response
001	11 October 2024	Sevenoaks Rural North East Division	David Brazier, County Councillor	I have taken careful note and have no comments to make	Response does not raise any concerns with the draft proposals and is noted.
002	14 October 2024	Kippington Ward	Resident	I am unhappy with the proposal to continue having the Polling Station outside of the ward. It would be far better for the CA polling district to use the Kippington Centre which is already used for the BY polling district. There are two separate rooms which could be used, one for each polling district. Many CA residents complain at having to go into Sevenoaks and pay to park to vote at the Stag venue.	<p>Previously electors in CA would vote at Solefield School. The school has become unavailable as a polling station, and for recent polls those electors have cast their votes at The Stag Theatre.</p> <p>Whilst the proposed location is outside of the polling district and current district council ward, it is the next nearest polling station geographically and well served by public transport and car parking. The District Council has agreed to review whether parking arrangements can be reviewed for the purpose of voting at The Stag.</p> <p>No other polling locations within the CA polling district are available to the Council, and no further locations have been suggested in response to this polling district review.</p>

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003	15 October 2024	Eastern Ward	Elizabeth Purves, District Councillor	<p>Before the new complex at Trinity School was built, voters from the northern half of Eastern ward would vote at Wildernesse School which was well located for them.</p> <p>I have suggested in the past a mobile polling station at Hillingdon Green which was not thought suitable although I see no reason why it is not. It could be parked on the hard standing on the Green and mobile toilet facilities provided for polling staff.</p> <p>I know of no other suitable places for a polling station in the Hillingdon area. Please include the use of Trinity School or a Mobile polling station at Hillingdon Green as polling stations in the Consultation response so that voters from the northern half of Eastern ward are no longer disadvantaged.</p> <p><i>Please note that this consultation report was supported with additional data and information about the electorate, which is shown in full at the end of this table.</i></p>	<p>As part of this polling district review the Council wrote to all three schools occupying the same site as Trinity School seeking their support in providing a polling location. Consultation responses 006 and 007 illustrates that neither of the grammar school annexes are able to assist.</p> <p>Whilst Trinity School has not replied during the consultation period they were contacted earlier in 2024 are explained that due to a severe lack of capacity within the school in school hours and use of their main rooms by external hirers after school they would be unable to assist.</p> <p>A mobile polling station is suggested as an alternative to be located on Hillingdon Green. Whilst the standard of mobile buildings has greatly improved, there are concerns about ensuring the right facilities are provided for staff and electors. This includes ensuring health and safety, accessibility and ensuring staff have access to heating, facilities for food and drink and rest breaks within the station.</p>

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004	23/10/2024	Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone Ward	Evelyn Divall, Parish Clerk Penshurst Parish Council	Thank you for your email regarding the above. I circulated this to all my Councillors and Chairman and the Chairman has confirmed that the PC note there are no changes proposed for anywhere within the Sevenoaks District and are therefore happy with this decision.	Response does not raise any concerns with the draft proposals and is noted
005	23/10/2024	Tonbridge Constituency	Acting Returning Officer for Tonbridge	On behalf of the ARO for Tonbridge Constituency, we note the details of your polling district review. As there are no changes to the current arrangements, we do not have any further comments.	Response does not raise any concerns with the draft proposals and is noted
006	28/10/2024	Eastern Ward	Headteacher, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys (Sevenoaks campus)	I have discussed the email below with Ms Simpson and unfortunately, we are unable to help with this request.	It is noted that Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, at the Sevenoaks campus, is unable to provide a location for a polling station.
007	04/11/2024	Eastern Ward	Headteacher, Weald of Kent Grammar School (Sevenoaks campus)	Thank you for contacting the school. We would love to help but unfortunately our Sevenoaks Campus has very limited space. I will not be able to offer you the appropriate rooming to act as a polling station. I am sorry to be unable to help and I would like to suggest you ask the other 2 schools on the campus (Trinity School, Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar School). They have more space and might be able to help.	It is noted that Weald of Kent Grammar School, at the Sevenoaks campus, is unable to provide a location for a polling station.

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008	15/11/2024	Westerham and Crockham Hill Ward	Angela Howells, Town Clerk, Westerham Town Council	<p>Westerham Town Council has reviewed the document, and the only comment is that the John Fryth Room, St Mary's Church, Westerham is not a suitable venue for a polling station as there is no parking and therefore no access for the disabled and those with difficulty walking.</p> <p>Westerham Hall is the preferred location for the polling station in Westerham.</p>	<p>The John Fryth Room was previously used as a polling station when the Westerham Hall was unavailable.</p> <p>The response from Westerham Town Council is in support of the recommendation that the polling station remains at Westerham Hall.</p>
009	15/11/2024	Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village, Swanley St Marys and Swanley White Oak Wards	Ryan Hayman, Town Clerk, Swanley Town Council	<p>Please see below STC's response as agreed at the Full Council Meeting held on</p> <p>12385 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS - APPENDIX A</p> <p>To approve the following recommend changes:-  Whiteoak Ward - Army Cadet Force Hall to Five Wents Hall  St Marys Ward - Youth Centre to St Mary's Church Hall  Swanley Village - The Lamb Pub to Red Lion Pub  APPROVED</p> <p>It was noted that the Army Cadet Force Hall change to Five Wents Hall was necessary due to the lack of disabled access and parking at the ACF Hall. It was also mentioned that Five Wents Hall is</p>	<p>The consultation response suggests an alternative polling place for CN (Swanley Lane) within the White Oak ward at Five Wents Hall. The proposed location sits outside of the polling district and is located at the opposite end of Swanley Lane to the current venue, the Army Cadet Force (ACF) Centre. As the proposed polling station is outside of the polling district, it is recommended that the ACF Centre remains as the polling place. However, the suitability of the Five Wents Hall as a polling station will be assessed. Subject to the outcome of that assessment, the Five Wents Hall would be adopted as the most suitable polling venue to be used should the ACF Centre be unavailable for a particular poll.</p>

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				<p>visually part of the Whiteoak Ward even if technically it is within Hextable.</p> <p>The Youth Centre hosting the polling is locally believed to be in jeopardy due to the recent changes within KCC. Therefore the St Marys Church Hall is well placed as an alterative with good parking options and better positioned in the Centre for all St Mary's Ward residents.</p> <p>Swanley Village was proposed to be changed due to the size of the Lamb and privacy concerns. The Red Lion has a function room which can be used and is more central location for the village again with improved parking facilities.</p>	<p>The consultation response suggests an alternative polling place for CM (St Mary's) at St Mary's Church Hall. A new polling place is required to be identified as the Council has been notified through this review that the existing venue, Swanley Youth Centre, is no longer available as a polling place. The proposed location will be assessed to determine its suitability.</p> <p>The consultation response supports the draft proposal for polling district CO (Swanley Village) that The Red Lion should be the agreed polling place for those electors, replacing The Lamb Inn, which is less accessible to voters.</p>
010	15/11/2024	Sevenoaks Constituency	Acting Returning Officer for Sevenoaks	I have reviewed the proposals for the Sevenoaks Parliamentary Constituency and support the recommendations which offer effective arrangements which enable the electorate to engage in the democratic process.	Response supports the draft proposals and is noted

## **Additional Data Provided in support of consultation response 003**

### **Review of Polling Stations.**

each polling station should be accessible for all electors.

in Sevenoaks Eastern this is not the case, and voters from the Northern half of the ward are disadvantaged.

Sevenoaks Town.

**Kippington** has 3 polling stations **1246 voters per station.**

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

**Town & St Johns** has 4 polling stations **1245 voters per station.**

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

There is only ONE polling station for Eastern ward. (at St Johns Church)

Sevenoaks Eastern is divided into two

Hollybush BW

and Hillingdon, BV, much of which is deprived.

The one polling station is satisfactory for the (Hollybush) half of the Ward, but not for the Hillingdon end of the ward. Too far

.At the 2019 District Elections, Double the number from the southern, Hollybush end, voted compared to the northern end, Hillingdon end.

There is a need for a polling station in Hillingdon. People living on the Hillingdon estate are less likely to have a car and if the weather inclement, less likely to want to walk to the one polling station. Parking is difficult, and there are yellow lines everywhere.

The present arrangement of polling stations clearly disadvantages, people from Hillingdon

There is a need for a second polling station in the Hillingdon half of the ward..

**WE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING EVERYBODY TO VOTE, NOT MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM**