

Polling Station	Parish	Ward	Area Committee	Electorate	Consultee	By	Proposal / Comment	Alternative Proposals	Proposals	Recommendations
Therfield Chapel	Therfield	Ermine	Royston	419	Barbara Scrivens, Elector	Email	I live in Kelshall and wonder why when there is an election it is necessary to have a polling station in our village hall and also one in Therfield. The two villages are so close it seems an unnecessary expense and would make sense for the two villages to combine. As Therfield is the larger village that would be the logical venue.	All Poll at Therfield Chapel	Therfield and Kelshall are two separate Villages, Kelshall is the smaller village and the proposal was to move the polling station from Kelshall to Therfield Chapel. There was no call to join the two Parish Councils - given the separate identities of the two villages and that there is a swath of agricultural land between the two.	The recommendation is to leave the two polling stations as they are.
Kelshall Village Hall	Kelshall	Ermine		136						
Benslow Music School		Hitchin Highbury	Hitchin	1605	Linda Steeples, Lettings Administrator	Email	Further to your recent letter regarding the review of polling districts, places and stations, we confirm that we would like to continue to offer our premises as a polling station, where availability allows. On previous occasions we have offered Palmer Hall as first preference, and when not available, then Fieldfares. The latter room is smaller but it was agreed as being suitable by your office. We did encounter a recent issue (which was discussed), when using Fieldfares, as we currently have building work in the vicinity. When the project is completed this will not be a problem.		The Returning Officer thanks Benslow Music School for their continued support	No Action Needed
							If you wish to make a further on site review of the facilities, please do not hesitate to make an appointment.			
		Bearton Ward	Hitchin		C.McIntosh, Elector	Email	When reviewing the districts please can you sort out Bearton Ward as we live in Benslow Lane where the lower part odd numbered houses up to number 45 are all part of Bearton Ward, whereas the opposite side of the street and all the odd numbers at the top of Benslow Lane are all Highbury Ward. Why it was ever thought appropriate to split approx. 20 houses from another 180 in the same 'dead end' street area I cannot begin to understand.		This change came about in 2007 following a Boundary Review. In the interest of electoral equality part of Hitchin Highbury was transferred into Hitchin Bearton.	No Action Needed
							On a practical level, this means we often do not get hand-delivered information relating to our own Bearton Ward because many assume it stops at Walsworth Road plus we often do not get information directly relating to relevant local issues in Benslow Lane as this is delivered by Highbury Ward.....mad!!!			
Icknield Walk First School		Royston Meridian	Royston	2685	Charlotte Gatward, Parent	Email	I am writing in response to the Polling district review.			
							My son attends Icknield walk first school in Royston. The school is used as a Polling station and is closed for this purpose whenever we have an election, of which there were 2 in May 2019.	Move to Royston Town Hall	The current Polling Station is situated within a large residential area . Further building has started to the east of the area and will be incorporated into this Polling District. Various alternatives were investigated for the new polling station. Royston Town Hall is out of the ward. Royston Football club have an open bar for patrons and would not be able to accomodate us. The Guide Hut on Garden Walk has little parking and is on double yellow lines. St James Academy does not have a building for use as the old Sixth form block houses a team dealing with vulnerable children. There would also be safeguarding issues as the pupils move from one part of the site to the other. Royston Leisure centre is within the ward and can accomodate 1 or 2 polling stations within the Sports Hall. This has seperate access and a large carpark.	Recommendation is to move the Polling station for DAA from Icknield Walk first school to Royston Leisure Centre.
							Due to the timing of the Easter Holidays, May Bank Holidays and Summer half term, this meant that there was only 1 week in the entire month of May that the children could go to school for all 5 days.			
							The ward I am in votes at Royston Town Hall, the Town Hall was practically empty for most of the election days, its a very large space. I personally feel that the hall could be divided with a temporary partition to allow constituents of Palace ward and Meridian ward to vote in the Town Hall which is fully accessible to everyone also.			
							This also means that the children do not have to miss school. I dont think it reflects well that parents face fines for taking their children out of school but the council can just close the school as and when for voting.			

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Icknield Walk First School		Royston Meridian	Royston	2685	David Paterson, Parent	Email	I wish to request consideration be made for the location of Polling District DAA (Royston Meridian) which is currently at Icknield Walk First School Poplar Drive. Due to the structural arrangements of the school building, the school is closed to all students on polling days, impacting their education adversely, and causing organisational and financial difficulties for parents.			
							Alternative venues could be: - The old 'youth centre' on the Meridian School site - this is separate from the main building accessible directly inside the school gate - A section of the main hall at the Royston Leisure Centre - this has good access and parking making it accessible to all.	Move to 1. Youth Centre on Meridian School Site. 2. Royston Leisure Centre		
Icknield Walk School		Royston Meridian	Royston	2685	Ian Brown, Elector	Email	Please can Icknield walk primary school Royston no longer be used as a polling station on election days as the school has to close to pupils , not a good use of a school , could you please use the girl guide hut in Garden Walk instead, which is still in the same ward and has no effect on pupils education	Move to girl guide hut, Garden Walk - No Parking Yellow lines		
Icknield Walk School		Royston Meridian	Royston	2685	Lee-Ann Sapsford, Parent	Email	I would like to register my thought that voting locations in N Herts (Royston) should be changed do they do not include Icknield walk first school. The 2 elections this year in quick succession caused great disruption and frustration to ourselves as a 2 parent working family.	No alternative sited		
Icknield Walk School		Royston Meridian	Royston	2685	Jane Sherwood, Head Teacher	Email	I am writing as a head teacher of a Icknield Walk First School which has to close when it is being used as a polling station, as our hall where the polling takes place is in the middle of the school building. I can understand why we are deemed to be the most appropriate place for our area, however closing the school can be disruptive to the children's learning and is not very popular with the parents! The only other places I can suggest as alternative venues are the Guide Hut on Garden Walk or the Leisure Centre, but I am aware that they are a bit of a distance from us. If there is nothing that can be done we will of course continue to provide a venue.	1. Guide Hut - 2. Leisure Centre		
Icknield Walk School			Royston	2685	Philip Asher, Parent	email	I write to share views about existing polling place arrangements for Icknield Wall First School. The school closes entirely for the day since the leadership deem it unsafe to open. This dislocates over 300 children from their right to a day of education. The school does not replace this lost day, citing that it is impractical to do so. As a parent and resident in this area, it is hugely inconvenient to close the school and requires myself or my wife to use a day of holiday entitlement to care for our children. We'd rather use a holiday day for an actual holiday. We vote by post and have not used a polling station since moving to Royston 11yrs ago. There is a very suitable Guide Hut only 2minutes walk from Icknield Walk First School (located on Garden Walk). The hut has all facilities required and no doubt the Guide Association would appreciate the opportunity to receive additional income afforded a polling place, and a chance to play this role in the community. This would remove any need to use the school and thus allow the children to receive their education uninterrupted by politics. I trust this comment is helpful. I look forward to the outcome in hope that this year I will not need to take a day of holiday leave in order for democracy to take place!			

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		Hitchin Walsworth	Hitchin		Chris Parker, Elector	Email	All seems well in Walsworth.			No Action Needed
Tannery Drift School		Royston Heath	Royston	2576	Jean Green, Councillor	Email	Hello I was asked about places to hold the polling station for Heath ward Royston - Toby at The Heath Sports Club is happy to have the station sited in his club. This may be good solution with plenty of parking and very well known.	Move to Heath Sports Centre	<p>The Current polling station is located towards the east of the polling district , problems have been experienced with the security of the children during Polling days and carparking is limited. Various alternatives have been looked at . Royston Bows Club is unavailable , the Bowling Calendar starts in May and there is a full itenary of matches so they could not guarantee use. The Heath Sports Club does not have a seperate room for use as the serving area , coffee machine and the dishwasher would be in constant use and this area runs along the top of both dining areas. There are also large patio type windows that do not have covering and privacy could not be guaranteed. The Army Cadet Hut in Tannery Drift is of suitable size and has all facilities however, the hall is dark and cold with little natural light. Royston Golf Club can offer a seperate private room of good size with its own entrance onto the car park.</p>	It is recommended that the polling station be moved from Tannery Drift School to Royston Golf Club.
Tannery Drift		Royston Heath	Royston	2576	Hannah Cooper, Elector	Email	I want to express my views regarding the polling station at tannery drift school.			
							I understand it is in a different building to where the children are but i an shocked every year that the children are still expected to go to school whilst this is happening. The security at the school is rediculously laxed with the security chap when there is one spending most of his time standing on his phone.			
							It disrupts school drop off and pick up and i feel the station would be better placed at the army cadet hut next door. Thank you for reading my email.			
Grange Youth Wing		Letchworth Grange	Letchworth	1436	Kelly Rosenwink, Pre School Manager	Email	I am the manager of Tiny Hands Pre school in Letchworth and we have just taken over the lease of the Youth wing on pelican way SG6 4NR.	No alternative sited		
Grange Comm Centre				3922	Caroline Davis, Tiny Hands		It has previously been used as a polling station and was vacant.			
							The main hall at the community centre is also used as a polling station so there are 2 polling stations in this one area.		<p>Currently two polling stations are housed within the Grange Community Centre (3922 electors) and one within the Youth Wing (1436 electors). Grange Community Centre would struggle to accommodate the 3 polling stations within the one hall. These polling stations serve the whole geographical area known as "The Grange". These facilities are owned by NHDC and have use as a polling station in the contracts. There are no other suitable facilities within the ward. It is recommended that the polling stations remain within the Grange Community Centre and Youth Wing.</p>	
							We are in the middle of a huge expensive refurbishment on the whole building to make it fit for purpose to use as a Pre school. I am putting forward the request for the Youth Wing to no longer be used as a polling station going forward due to the following reasons: 1- A large amount of expensive equipment will be in the building so we would need a member of staff to be present at all times if it was used. 2 - The children using the setting come 5 days a week so the session would have to be closed if polling were to take place causing us a financial loss and the working parents that use our setting would have to find alternative childcare. 3 - Safeguarding of our children is paramount and it would not be safe for them if the public had access to the building with all their personal details on view. 4 - The equipment will be set out permanently so there will not be any space for the polling booths to be put up.			No Action Needed
							Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information on this matter.			

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The Annex, LGC Academy		Letchworth South East	Letchworth	1499	Mike & Sheila Steele	Email	Our polling station is the Little Stars Nursery in Alison, off Radburn Way. We are not happy with the way this is set up, in fact we have debated whether to make an official complaint.			
							The last 2/3 times we have gone to vote, there has been a Labour party activist sitting in the vestibule area asking for our name and address. We have always refused this as we felt we were being intimidated. However on the last occasion the activist was only about 3 feet away and could hear everything that was being said. I think this is illegal. I am told they shut the door between the voting area and the vestibule, but this hasn't been happening, even then they can hear what is being said. Either the polling station should be moved into the junior school or the Labour party member should remain outside. No other political party was in attendance.		Reiterate at training that Polling station doors are to remain closed at all times during the Poll. Tellers are to remain outside the polling station	No Action needed
							I know that in other areas in the past there was always a policeman on duty inside the voting area, but I understand why this is no longer an option			
Baptist Church Hall		Hitchin Priory	Hitchin	2001	Sean Jones, Elector	Email	I am content no changes are proposed for the Hitchin Priory polling station at Baptist Church Hall, Upper Tilehouse Street, Hitchin			No Action needed
Whitehill School		Hitchin Highbury	Hitchin	3311	Suzanne Godfrey, Elector	Email	My opinion for the consultation is to keep it as it is. We've found it very convenient. Our polling station is Whitehill School, Hitchin			
Whitehill School		Hitchin Highbury	Hitchin	3311	Helen Armitage, Elector	Email	I would like to suggest that Whitehill school in Hitchin no longer be used as a polling station, this area has a perfectly adequate community centre on St John's Road that could be used instead, meaning that the school wouldn't have to close which does cause problems for working parents.	St.Johns Community Centre	The polling station is to the south of a mostly residential area there are 2 polling stations within the one building. St.Johns Community Centre already houses a polling station for a different ward. The building is not suitable for 3 polling stations, this would cause voter confusion and there is only a small carpark that would not be adequate during busy times. After discussion with Steve Mills at the School and given the lack of representations it is recommended that the Polling stations remain at Whitehill School.	No Action needed
Not Specific					Tim Scales, Elector	Email	I'd like the following feedback regarding your public consultation;	No alternative sited		
							I would humble suggest that if a school has to be closed so that it may be used as a polling station then that school is not a suitable location for a polling station. Due to the wonderful political climate we find ourselves in there are currently multiple elections per year and the burden on working parents who have to take time off when schools are shut is a significant problem			No Action needed
Not Specific		Hitchwood, Offa & Hoo	Sth Rural		David Barnard, Councillor	Email	This ward was formed as an amalgamation of three separate wards, adjoining each other. The Councillors who represented each of these wards, conjoined to represent the new area. The result has been a greater workload for all, including an enormous rural area, with many Parishes, etc., to control. To date, this has been covered very effectively, and no change is desired.			
							However, it may be, that east of Luton sites could come into the emerging Local Plan, and other substantial sites will be developed across the ward, within St. Ippolyts, Pirton, Whitwell, Offley, some of which are currently under construction, or recently completed.)			
							But, at this time, I see no reason to add to your workload by suggesting any amendments.			
							I will confer with my ward colleagues, but I expect that we will agree on the Polling Stations, as present.			No Action needed
Not Specific		Hitchwood, Offa & Hoo	Sth Rural		Faye Frost, Councillor	Email	I fully support Cllr Barnards comments. Hitchwood Offa and Hoo covers by far the largest area in the District, with around 7 parish councils to attend every month. It is a massive workload to be covered by 3 elected members. At this time, I dont see any reason to amend the polling stations in this ward. They are well locates and known by residents			No Action needed

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	Codicote			2761	Lorraine Ellis, Parish Clerk - Codicote	Email	The letter states that the review commenced on 14th August and will run until 16th September 2019. Unfortunately the Parish Council do not hold any meetings in August and their next meeting will not be taking place until 24th September. Could your deadline please be extended to 25th September to enable Codicote Parish Councillors to discuss the matter - you will appreciate that a week has been lost between the start of the review (14th) and your letter advising us of the review (21st).			No Action needed
	Radwell		Baldock	94	G T Kingsley	Email	The current arrangements for Radwell seem satisfactory and no changes are proposed			No Action needed
St. Georges Hall	Letchworth East		Letchworth	2097	Christine Clements, Parish Administrator	Email	Clulow Room, St George's Hall, we have no objections continuing as a polling station, we are disabled friendly and have toilet facilities.		The Returning Officer would like to thank St. George's Hall for their continued support	No Action needed
Weston Village Hall	Weston & Sandon			916	Christine Adams, Bookings Secretary	Email	As the representative of Weston Village Hall (bookings secretary), I confirm that we are happy with our current situation with NHDC. WVH has easy access, easy parking and sits centrally in the village. I myself usually liaise directly with the officer in charge, and this has proven to work well.		The Returning Officer would like to thank Weston Village Hall for their continued support	No Action needed
Kimpton Memorial Hall				1793	Carina Helm, Parish Clerk	Email	Kimpton Parish Council supports the continued use of Kimpton Memorial Hall as a polling station for the parish of Kimpton. It has a central village location with free car parking facilities and disabled access so suits the needs of all residents.		The Returning Officer would like to thank Kimpton Parish Council for their continued support	No Action needed
Rushden Village Hall				201	Kate Heath PC	Email	I am writing to you as a Parish Councillor for Wallington Ward, Rushden and Wallington PC. Wallington has no public transport.			
Wallington Village Hall				124			Approximately 15% of households in the village contain at least one adult who does not drive. Approximately 25% of our residents are retired. We have a number of residents who are elderly and frail or have disabilities, including one person who is a permanent wheelchair user.		The Returning Officer would like to thank Rushden and Wallington Parish Council for their continued support	
							For all of these reasons, I believe it is very important that we should keep our current polling station in Wallington Village Hall. The Village Hall is central to the village and is highly accessible, with completely level, step-free entry. There is also an adapted toilet for disabled visitors.			No Action needed

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Lordship Farm School		Letchworth South East and South West	Letchworth	3622	Ben Parry, Headteacher	Email	<p>In response to your letter of 21st August 2019, with regards to the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2019, we would like to make the following representations.</p> <p>Lordship Farm Primary School is currently used by the local authority as a polling station. Over the last few years as the school has expanded to two form entry across all year groups, we currently have 452 children on roll, using the school as a polling station has become increasingly difficult and disruptive for the day to day running of the school and the safety of the children, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assemblies can be held as the polling station uses the schools only hall. Music lessons cannot be conducted in the designated rooms at the back of the school due to safeguarding. Music teachers are cut off from the main school and this entire area is open to the public. As there is little or no space available in the main school as an alternative place to conduct music lessons, the school has to cancel them. PE lessons that are normally held in the school hall have to be cancelled. All clubs before and after school have to be cancelled. The rooms at the rear of the school hall are the only areas available for meetings and counselling sessions, these again have to be cancelled on polling days due to safeguarding risks. If the school is used as a polling station and the weather is wet, we have no area for our reception class children to play during the lunchtime period, thus forcing us to return them to their classrooms for the duration of the lunch break. The fire door in the school staff room into the main school cannot be locked for obvious reasons. This leaves the school open to the public and again poses a huge safeguarding risk. Increasingly polling station staff access the school through this door to use the staffroom kitchen facilities which is totally unacceptable and despite numerous attempts from us to ask them to not. Signage to the polling station entrance is usually poor resulting in countless members of the public trying to access the polling station via the main school reception area. Staff are frequently met with rude replies from the public when it is explained that they have come to the wrong entrance. We have to ensure and pay a member of our staff to unlock the school early on polling day and to again attend in the late evening to close and secure the school. The school is never left in the clean and tidy state that we hand it over to the polling station staff. School staff are left to clean the area to make it safe for the children and staff to use the following day. <p>Taking into account all of the above we would like to make representations to have the school removed as a polling station for North Herts, due to the severe disruption and obvious safeguarding issues this causes the school.</p>		<p>The polling station serves 2 wards and is situated to the south of a residential area. Various alternatives have been researched. St Christophers do not have a separate room available and are concerned with safeguarding. Letchworth Golf Club do not have a suitable room available. Attempts to contact Letchworth Corner were unsuccessful. Cloisters Hall has a suitable room with separate access and a large carpark. The Dining hall is bright and can accommodate the two required polling stations.</p>	<p>The recommendation is that the polling stations currently at Lordship Farm School be moved to the Cloisters.</p>
CCE/CCC/CCA/CC B			Letchworth		Martin Stears-Hanscomb, Kate Aspinwall, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir Cllrs	Email	<p>I am emailing on behalf of my colleagues – Cllr Kate Aspinwall and Cllr Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Councillors for Letchworth South East Ward with two proposals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To include the Polling District CCE within CCC. This was a hangover from a previous boundary change and is in the same Ward and County Division as well as voting at the same polling station. <p>To transfer Ivel Court from CCA to CCB and to consider also transferring Hadleigh from CCA to CCB. In both cases the polling station of CCB is adjacent to the properties in question. The CCA polling station is at some distance from the properties</p>		<p>The polling district of CCE was created during a boundary review and sits within polling district CCC. There is currently no necessity for this polling district to be separate from CCC.</p> <p>The polling station at Jackmans old Library is out of area and serves CCB (1885 electors) The proposed change incorporating Hadleigh and Ivel Court will move 85 electors from CCA (1089 electors) to CCB. The road of Hadleigh seems to form a natural boundary and could be incorporated into Polling District CCB without elector confusion.</p>	<p>It is proposed that the polling district CCE be incorporated into polling district CCC.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that the areas known as Ivel Court and Hadleigh be moved from Polling District CCA to CCB</p>

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Westmill Community Centre			Hitchin	3518	Mrs M Furr	Letter	In reply to your letter concerning polling places and stations. I spoke to three separate groups at the Community Centre at Westmill, Tuesday Friendship group, Weds Bingo and Walsworth townswomens Guild who use our centre. The Westmill groups were unanimous in their preference for the polling station to stay at the Community Centre as it is easy to find and has good parking facilities. The Walsworth group was also quite satisfied with the provision			No Action Needed
Barley Town house			Royston	524	Mel Chamings PC	Email	Thank you for your correspondence consulting on the 5 yearly review of polling arrangements.			
							Barley Parish Council considered the current arrangements of polling district boundaries, and access to and location of our polling station in Barley at their September meeting.		The Returning Officer would like to thank Barley Parish Council for their continued support	
							The councillors had no representations to make about the current arrangements which were considered to be satisfactory.			No Action Needed
							Coombes Community Centre is currently used as a polling station and until a new lease was signed about 18 months ago we were reimbursed for centre hire and our costs.			
							The current arrangement means the centre is used by NHDC for polling at no charge at all and as a result of this the centre loses income from hirers of approximately £100.			
							The centre receives no subsidy from NHDC and has to pay all its costs from income, but as mentioned we get no income on polling days. So this means the RCA and centre which is a registered charity is subsidising the polling activity within the building. The charity incurs costs every time the centre is used for polling.		Coombes Community Centre is a NHDC owned building and has in the lease a clause that the Returning Officer can use the facility, free of charge on Polling Day. The loss of income was reflected in the lease negotiations	
							There are costs involved in consumables such as heating, lighting, water and toilet use and furniture used by the polling staff. So having the polling here at the centre is a cost to the charity and I would like to suggest it is moved elsewhere so we can continue our business uninterrupted and not be subsidising NHDC.			
							In the nearby vicinity is an Academy School, a Scout Hut and a Children's Centre and an evangelical church, all of which may be able to provide a venue for polling day.			
Coombes Community Centre			Royston	2521	Gillian Morland, Centre Manager	Email	The community centre is a perfect venue with ample car parking and toilet & kitchen facilities, with full disabled access, but I would also appeal that if this was to continue that we could at least claim £200 costs for loss of income and costs of consumable and related staff costs. This would mean NHDC are still using the centre rent free, but just reimbursing the costs.			No Action Needed
32 Representations										