

## Appendix C - Responses Received in Relation to the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

The public consultation was open from Monday 4 March 2019, when the Notice of Polling District and Polling Place Review was published, until Monday 15 April 2019. The below comments are reproduced verbatim and were received during the public consultation.

1. Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Colchester BC Polling Station provisions identified for Parliamentary elections within the Witham constituency.

As Returning Officer, I am content that the locations identified represented proportionate provisions for the conduct of the UKPE in 2015 and 2017 and have no concerns regarding these locations for future Parliamentary elections.

2. I feel the polling district Ab needs looking at as the facilities at Thomas lord audley gym do not suit the needs of handicapped and disabled voters. Also it is open to elements to any winter election, which is possible for general elections or by elections.

What is needed is a portacabin or something near top end of school road . And a rebalance of voters north and south so less to vote in st Margaret's church and more in a portacabin

As far as Shrub end (a piece of my county council division).. Northern section of Shrub end (ie. the abbey view area and Kensington road areas and as residents have a long way to go ,) a polling station is needed in this area. Perhaps the new community centre (old mercury site) next to abbey field surgery would be an option

3. Thank you for sending the attached to consult with the borough councillors on moving voters to another polling station instead of Copford Village Hall.

I am happy for the GL West Stanway residents to use Stanway Village Hall.

Regarding polling districts a few changes in Old Heath and the Hythe I would recommend are;

Merge BA and AK as one as they use the same polling station. Move voters who live from 50-66 Port Lane and those on Rec rd to vote at Worsnop House rather than the Hythe CC Voters in Speedwell, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge Rd need a polling station that is closer. Some have a mile walk to the polling station. There is a church on Fingringhoe rd that could be used.

4. No problem for the Stanway Ward, which has one Polling Station - the Village Hall. West Stanway (as part of the Marks Tey/Layer Ward) remains of concern to me. It did have a Polling Station St Albrights Church. Currently it is in Copford and some need to travel nearly two miles. I think when the new Community Centre is built it should be considered as a Polling Station for West Stanway.

The only proposal I can see there which affects Stanway is the mooted idea of moving the Copford Village Hall polling station to Stanway. However, it does not seem to contain any firm proposals.

I would suggest, that if it were an agenda item, the only comment we could/would make is that we would be generally supporting of moving the polling station for West Stanway into a convenient place in the Parish if a location could be found.

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5. As discussed I find the BF polling station at SE Community Centre unsatisfactory ... a number of residents from the estate have failed to vote owing to these changes . It was far better when it was in the heart of the community and easily accessible on foot for many . Car parking is minimal at this venue.

The new school is opening soon and I would like to ask that they be approached and we revert to using the local school as a polling station.

6. I know I am late to the consultatuion but i would like to ask if there can be a new polling station to serve the people in the new estates in Mile End. Chesterwell is already into phase 2, Forest View is over 50 % completed and Kingsway Heath will come on stream very soon.. There is already a significant development called Rosewood which is off Via Urbis Romane which I believe is in Mile End and not Highwoods.

To stop potential voter apathy amongst these residents I suggest that if it is possible we could use Camulous Academy school until the new community centres arrive in a few years time in Chesterwell and Severalls estates. Alternatively I suggest we look at Mile End Methodist church hall which is much closer to the new estates than St John's church hall for these residents. Parking can be on Fords Lane or on Boxted road or Wildeve Avenue.. The church building is fully disabled friendly with a ramp available and a disabled toilet.

There is a pre-school there on Thursday mornings but they do not use the church part of the building for this.

I must declare an interest in this church as I am a regular attendee but i am not a member so have no financial involvement with the church.

7. Happy with the situation in Aldham so approve of current station remaining as it is.
8. I wish to complain about Broomgrove school in Wivehoe, being used as a polling station again on the 23rd may.

Wivehoe has two schools and multiple community centers that could be used instead of it always being at Broomgrove. Finding childcare at short notice as a single working mum is hard work and costly.

I am also frustrated at the double standard applied to children's education. If I were to not send my child to school for a day I would need a good reason and the child penalised, by not receiving prizes for attendance etc but we all have to keep our children home on random days you decide.

If there were no alternatives I would understand but given that there are two schools it could alternate between and several community centers ( William loveless and the scout hall to name but two) all of whom should be able to offer disabled access and appropriate facilities. If you must use Broomgrove can it not be kept to the after school Bungalow.