

Annexe B - Responses to consultation

Respondent	Organisation	Polling station	Comments
Ally		Binfield Memorial Hall, Terrace Road South, Binfield, RG42 4DJ	Not fair to evict the play group and rainbows for a day.
Shona Collins		Birch Hill Community Centre, Leppington, Bracknell, RG42 7WW	Very convenient from Juniper. Using CC means school not disturbed. Well satisfied.
Not provided		Birch Hill Community Centre, Leppington, Bracknell, RG42 7WW	Spacious location allowing plenty of flexibility on set up, making its easy to use and navigate. Plus high quality, clean facilities for use by staff during the day.
Angela Carey	Sandhurst Town Council	College Town Infants School, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, GU47 0QF	Further to your correspondence on the review of polling districts and polling places in the Borough. The Polling districts for Sandhurst were discussed in the recent Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting. A concern was raised with the polling district for College Town. Currently this is located in College Town Infant School and this subsequently means that both the Infant and Junior schools are closed for the day of any election as they share the same site. Sandhurst Town Councillors are concerned about the impact that this has on the community as it affects more than 500 children and their parents or carers who may have to take time off work to stay at home. College Town is the only ward in Sandhurst which currently uses a school as a polling station. Most elections take place in May, which is a critical time for the Year 6 Junior School pupils as the KS2 SATs are generally held the week after the election. Enforcing a day off can be very disruptive. It was suggested that an alternative location may be the Sandhurst Sports Centre site, either using The Spot or the Sports Centre itself. This is within the ward boundary. Although STC are aware that this site is now part of Sandhurst School, it is a stand-alone building and therefore would allow the school to operate throughout the day of any election. It also has good parking facilities, something which cannot be said of the Infant School. On behalf of STC I would appreciate the consideration of another site for the Polling District for College Town and await your response.
David Gaston		College Town Infants School, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, GU47 0QF	Facilities are fine except for parking
Not provided		Crown Wood Community Centre, Opladen Way, Bracknell, RG12 0PE	Satisfactory with plenty of parking
Eddie West		Crown Wood Community Centre, Opladen Way, Bracknell, RG12 0PE	Adequate
Hannah Ellis		Crown Wood Community Centre, Opladen Way, Bracknell, RG12 1FW	Very organised and very easy to get to.
David Gibson		Crowthorne Parish Hall, Heath Hill Road South, Crowthorne, RG45 7BN	Very good
Adele Swadling	Crowthorne Parish Council	Crowthorne Parish Hall, Heath Hill Road South, Crowthorne, RG45 7BN	The Parish Hall is the only polling station in Crowthorne serving both Crowthorne North and Crowthorne South residents. With the inclusion of the additional housing proposed for Cricket Field Grove, Buckler Park (former TRL site) and the numerous infill developments, the number of residents will increase considerably and as such the Parish Hall may no longer be able to accommodate the volume of residents wishing to vote.
Janet Wood		Crowthorne Parish Hall, Heath Hill Road South, Crowthorne, RG45 7BN	Quite a small hall, however it is easy to navigate
Jonathon Monger		Crowthorne Parish Hall, Heath Hill Road South, Crowthorne, RG45 7BN	The current polling station isn't easily accessible to all residents of Crowthorne
Beth Slade		Jennett's Park Community Centre, 1 Tawny Owl Square, Bracknell, RG12 8EB	There are two areas of Jennetts Park the other being Wykery Copse. They were able to vote in minutes with no queue where as JP residents had to queue for 45 minutes at the time we voted. There was only one list which seemed to be what was taking the time.
Edwin Sutton	Jennetts Park Community Association	Jennett's Park Community Centre, 1 Tawny Owl Square, Bracknell, RG12 8EB	Currently Jennett's Park and Wykery Copse are in two separate polling districts, use the same building for voting but different rooms
Not provided		Jennett's Park Community Centre, 1 Tawny Owl Square, Bracknell, RG12 8EB	Very good
Not provided		Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell, RG12 1EH	Easy access and parking facilities good. Friendly and supportive staff at Kerith Centre.
Dr Ranjit Kapuge		Martins Heron Community Centre, Whitton Road, Martins Heron, RG12 9TZ	Suitable and ideal for Martins Heron & Warren voters
Anoma Radkevitch		Other	This is regarding Wokingham Without - RG40 3BP is in the Bracknell constituency. I have voted sometimes with Bracknell & sometimes with Wokingham. My address says Wokingham. All our council services are with Wokingham. I would prefer our voting area to be under Wokingham. The area of Wokingham Without is not at all high in population. I don't think it would make much difference to numbers. It would be more democratic to accurately reflect the local situation.
Claire Groves		Owlsmoor Community Centre, Yeovil Road, Owlsmoor, GU47 0TF	Everything here works very well. No change should be made.
Sally Woods		The Parks Community Centre, 8 - 10 Nicholson Park, Bracknell, RG12 9QN	I feel this venue is perfect for using as a Poll Station! There is plenty of parking, access into the building is clear with plenty of room to accommodate pushchairs and wheelchairs, the main hall is more than adequate in size and the disabled toilet is clearly located and easily accessible.
David Cavill		Warfield Park Community Hall, The Plateau, Warfield Park, RG42 3RL	The community hall is the ideal location for the park residents as most would be unable to travel any distance
Peter Lewis		Wildridings Primary School, Netherton, Bracknell, RG12 7DX	Whilst the arrangements work fine for a polling station, it is very noticeable that over 300 children are denied a day's education each time the school is used as a polling station. Given the local authorities view that every days education makes a difference to the outcomes of these children (with parents being fined £60 a day if they don't send their children to school), the current arrangements do not appear to be appropriate. (Wildridings school is located in one of the most deprived areas of Bracknell, where the educational progress of the children is challenging.)
Dee Hamilton	Councillor	Wildridings Primary School, Netherton, Bracknell, RG12 7DX	Are we still keeping BW at the school after all concerns raised about children missing school

Beckie Ripley		Wildridings Primary School, Netherton, Bracknell, RG12 7DX	As a parent of a child in this school, I find it an inappropriate place for a polling station. As parents we have our child's education to think about. We can be fined if head/borough deem it necessary for my child's absence from school. Our child's attendance drops in case of illness yet this excused for polling. I find it unacceptable that the borough deem it acceptable for an entire school to be absent for a whole days education.
Anne Marie	Winkfield Parish Council	Winkfield Parish polling stations	I should like to confirm that Winkfield Parish Council has no comments to make on the above review.
Andrew Gorham		Wooden Hill School, Staplehurst	Disrupts education of pupils and increases cost of childcare to parents
Heidi Spurdle		Wooden Hill School, Staplehurst, Bracknell, RG12 8DB	It is sad that our local school has to close on election days. My children have to stay at home, in order to allow the school to be used as a polling station, when there are more suitable locations in the local area.

Other Representations

The below representation was received following the close of the consultation, however meetings were held with Warfield Parish Council and the feedback received was taken into account during the review.

Response to the review of Polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2017

Warfield Parish Council November 2017

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Warfield Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of the Polling districts, polling places and polling stations undertaken by Bracknell Forest Council during the period September to November 2017. We would like to express our thanks to members of the Electoral Services team for presenting details of the consultation to the council in October 2017.

1.2 The Parish Council offers comments on:

1. Projected electorate in the parish
2. Proposed changes to polling districts
3. Review and proposals for polling stations

The council also makes some additional comments, that fall outside the scope of this review.

2.0 Project electorate in the parish

2.1 One aspect of the review is to consider the impact of the next four years' worth of planned residential developments on existing electoral arrangements.

2.2 The current electorate, properties and councillors within the parish of Warfield are:

Parish Ward	Polling district	Electorate	Properties	Councillors
Whitegrove	WG – Whitegrove	4,481	2,240	7
St Michael's	WM – St Michael's	821	709	1
Warfield Park	WN – Warfield Park North	331	170	2
	WP – Warfield Park	824	556	
Quelm	WQ - Quelm	1,716	932	3
Totals		8,173	4607	13

Source: Bracknell Forest Council

2.3 The review makes it clear that it will look at the impact of the next four years' worth of planned development. The current development plan for Warfield is due to run through to 2025/26, so the impact of this plan will fall in both this and future reviews of polling arrangements. Therefore, any impact for the next four year period is a best estimate as the delivery of new properties is dependent on developers bringing forward applications to build and these being granted by the local authority.

2.4 Over the period of the plan 2,200 new properties are planned for Warfield, but at our best estimate around 800-1000 may be constructed during the next four years, all within the existing St Michaels ward. The remaining 1,000 properties will also be built within the St Michaels ward over the period to 2026 and potentially beyond.

2.5 Based upon this the assumption made for the increase in population over the next four years is potentially on the high side, but will still be substantial.

3.0 Polling districts

- 3.1 The council considers the proposal for creating the new (WH) Woodhurst Park polling district to be a sensible approach as is the proposal to maintain West End lane within the St Michaels polling district.
- 3.2 It should be noted that Woodhurst Park is the name of the specific development that is taking place and will accommodate around 800 homes. A further development to the east of this area (known as the Western Consortium area) has planning permission and building will start at the beginning of 2018. This will deliver a further 250 + homes on land behind Newell Green (and to the east of the newly constructed Sopwith Road).
- 3.3 The Western Consortium development poses a quandary, some of the development (around 200 properties) will only have vehicle access via Sopwith Road, while 57 will have access onto Newell Green. Based upon the existing allocation policy of the Elections team it would seem appropriate that the 57 properties are allocated to polling district WG and use the Brownlow Hall as a polling station. The other 200 properties through geographical location should also be allocated to polling district WG, but as their access takes them away from the Brownlow Hall it may be applicable to allocate these properties to proposed polling district WH. As a parish council we are undecided on the best recommendation to make for these properties, but on balance if a new polling station was not to be located on Sopwith Road, it would seem sensible to call all of the Western Consortium site to polling district WG.

4.0 Polling Stations

- 4.1 There are currently three polling stations located within the Parish based at the Brownlow Memorial Hall, the Warfield Park Community Hall and Whitegrove Community Centre.
- 4.2 The Parish Council believes there is scope for additional capacity at both the Brownlow Hall and Warfield Park Community Hall, although we recognise the concern that the Electoral Services team have regarding vehicular access to the Brownlow Hall. We appreciate that the Brownlow Hall also poses some access issues for those using mobility equipment larger than a wheelchair.
- 4.3 The view of the Parish Council is a preference for any additional polling station to be located within Warfield, although a site is difficult to identify. The new older person accommodation, due to open in 2018 may offer appropriate facilities. This will be operated by Bracknell Forest Homes, who should be contacted.
- 4.4 The proposal of the Electoral Services team to use Jocks Lane as a polling station for polling district WH is pragmatic but our concern would be that this station is located within the parish of Binfield and for most residents would have to be accessed by car. This location is adjacent to properties in Elan Place which are located in the Borough ward of Warfield Harvest Ride and the Parish ward of Quelm, whose electors would continue to use the Whitegrove Community Centre, which would seem an anomaly as they would have to pass this polling station to get to their allocated site.
- 4.5 The Parish Council would also like to put on record the confusion that occurs at Warfield Park where the majority of residents vote at the Warfield Park Community Hall but due to ward and parish boundaries the remainder vote in the parish of Winkfield.

4.6 Warfield Parish Council will be happy to work with the Electoral Services team to make better use of the two polling stations in our control at the Brownlow Hall and Whitegrove Community Centre. The Parish Council is currently drawing up plans for a new substantial community building as part of the development taking place in Warfield. This building will not be completed within the current review period, but we would be happy to make this facility available in the future.

5.0 Ward and Parish boundaries

5.1 While it is outside the scope of this review, the Parish Council would like to express its concern over the size and allocations of both borough and parish wards and councillor allocation.

5.2 The 2,000+ new homes to be constructed in Warfield are all located within the St Michaels parish ward, which is currently represented by one elected member, while similarly sized Whitegrove ward is represented by seven members.

5.3 The Parish Council would also like to see an early review of borough ward boundaries. The parish is integrated into three borough wards at present, only one of which represents just Warfield residents. While recognising the contribution and work of all the borough councillors representing the various parts of Warfield, we feel the current ward boundaries need urgent review to ensure the population of Warfield is adequately represented.

5.4 Warfield Parish Council would be happy to provide any support to Bracknell Forest Council in encouraging the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to carry out a review of electoral arrangement in Bracknell Forest.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 We thank Bracknell Forest Council for the opportunity to participate in this review and will be happy to assist in any other way as the review continues.