

Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts 2019/20

Representations received by the Acting Returning Officer (ARO)

Respondent	For	Representation
ARO for East Surrey	No Changes	Alternative to Archway Theatre is particularly welcome.
Chipstead Residents' Association	No Changes	<p>(1) For Chipstead, the Peter Aubertin Hall serves the community well as a location for voting.</p> <p>(2) It is central to the village and has a large car park at the rear</p> <p>(3) It is also easily accessible by bicycle and on foot</p>
Horley resident	HRE3 / HRE4 - Tanyard Barn Community Centre	<p>Tanyard Barn Community Centre - Having twice been forced to use this totally unsuitable place.</p> <p>Firstly the access is poor having to travel a long distance through a new housing estate and its associated road parked vehicles.</p> <p>Poor parking at the polling station. This site has very restricted parking and on both occasions, both times the actual voter traffic was very low with only a couple of people actually voting. The available parking for voters is non-existent once the polling station staff + tellers had taken all available parking spaces. I was told to either park in-front of the local shop or use a residents parking place. Both options are far from satisfactory as firstly the shop needs to trade and hence needs its few parking spaces for customers and not passing voters and secondly the residents have allocated parking spaces for their use and not hundreds / thousands of passing voters who do not either live near to connecting public transport or the ability to schedule voting around the times that the bus runs.</p> <p>It must have been plainly obvious to even the most inept that this location is totally unsuitable for use as a polling station and also if it had to be used then the traffic situation could very easily have been made a lot safer by permanently lowering the bus bollards whilst the polling station is in use.</p> <p>I hope when the inevitable accident occurs between either cars or a car and a pedestrian R & BBC will take full responsibility for their very poor choice of a polling station location.</p> <p>PS have R & BBC ever carried out any risk assessment for the many hundred / many thousands of extra vehicle movements that their choice of polling station generates through this residential housing estate at election time?</p>

Appendix 2 – Representations, Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts 2019/20

Cllr Nick Harrison	No changes	<p>The arrangements for the new Tattenham Corner & Preston ward worked well in May 2019, and would be perfectly satisfactory for County Council and Parliamentary elections too.</p> <p>No changes suggested.</p>
Walton Village Forum	No Changes	<p>As Treasurer for the Walton Village Forum, I can confirm that we are happy for Breech Lane Community Centre, Breech Lane, Walton on the Hill to be used as a polling station.</p>
Westvale Park Resident & Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson	HRW2 - St Wilfrid's Church	<p>I'd like to provide comment to relocate the polling station for HRW2 from St. Wilfred's Church, Horley Row to a more central location for residents in that catchment area.</p> <p>A location such as Meath Green Infant school would be more central and easier access by foot for Westvale Park residents in particular.</p> <p>Current occupancy at Westvale is approx 800 homes.</p> <p>Westvale Park residents currently have to go to St.Wilfrid's church on Horley Row. That's 2.8 miles to drive, or 1.2 miles to walk.</p>
Banstead Village Residents Association	No Changes	<p>Following discussions with the BVRA committee on the matter of polling stations in Banstead I can report we are satisfied with the existing polling stations as being both accessible on foot and adjacent to carparks. We therefore have no need to consider alternative arrangements</p>
Westvale resident	HRW2 - St Wilfrid's Church	<p>Hello, it's crazy that our closest polling station is 2.8 miles, please remember we can't cut through the back of the development and it's not actually easy to get to Horley. Reigate is actually closer or Hookwood.</p> <p>You will miss out on a lot of votes as people won't bother if that far away.</p> <p>If Reigate could be an alternative or Hookwood this will increase the Westvale residents that vote for sure. The whole of Westvale park only has road access from Reigate Road – Not Meath Green Lane which Google Maps shows.</p>
Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council	No Changes	<p>I am writing on behalf of Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council.</p> <p>I confirm that Councillors have reviewed the consultation and have no comment to make as the polling districts and polling stations remain the same for our residents.</p>

<p>Horley Labour</p>	<p>Various – Horley Wards</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>This is the submission of the Horley Labour Party (a branch of the East Surrey Labour Party) to the review of polling places being undertaken by Reigate and Banstead council. The majority of the submission relates to the HRC2 and HRC1 polling districts, with some comment also being passed on the polling district arrangements in the Horley West and Sidlow ward. Our proposals can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return the HRC2 polling station to the Archway Theatre. • Locate the HRC1 polling station at either Edmonds Hall or St Wilfred’s Church • Create a new polling district for Westvale Park <p>HRC2</p> <p>At this year’s local and European elections, the HRC2 polling station was moved from the Archway Theatre to Edmonds Hall on Albert Road, the same (long, thin) road as the HRC1 polling station at Regent Hall. The feedback that Labour Party activists picked up on included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters in the Riverside Gardens area choosing not to vote at all • Voters from said area saying that they would not vote again whilst the polling station was so far away • Voters from said area turning up to vote, only because somebody more mobile had assisted them into town • Voters turning up to Regent Hall, finding out they were in the wrong place, and turning back since they didn’t want to walk any further • Confusion, and consequently frustration, about there being two different polling places on one road • Even from those who persisted in voting, complaints that the polling place was too far for many of the older residents in the Gardens area, many of whom cannot drive. <p>On top of the common complaints about and reactions to the new polling place, difficulties we have noticed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop sign on Albert Road means that voters who drive to vote have to drive around to the top of the road to reach the polling place • Wheelchair users have complained to us that cars parking on pavements make the road difficult to navigate in a chair • The parts of the polling district furthest away from the polling place include areas with a higher percentage of voters who would benefit from a nearby polling station • Turnout in Horley Central and South at local elections this year was the joint lowest in the borough.
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	<p>Although turnout in Horley Central was never the highest, it had traditionally been higher than 27%. Furthermore, Horley East (which much of HRC3 used to be a part of) tended to see turnouts above 30%.</p> <p>It is therefore not unreasonable to conclude that the change in polling station affected turnout this year, with feedback from voters suggesting that keeping the HRC2 polling station at Edmonds Hall could further inhibit turnout in future</p> <p>Therefore, despite the limitations of the venue, we suggest that the HRC2 polling station returns to the Archway Theatre, since this is a more convenient location for the vast majority of voters in the polling district, especially those based in the Riverside Gardens area. Whilst a better lit venue might be preferable, the lack of such venues in the immediate area makes this very difficult (the library is one potential alternative, but this would involve shutting the library which may be disruptive).</p> <p>HRC1</p> <p>The location of the HRC1 polling place at the Regent Hall end of Albert Road has been fine for many years, though with the addition of parts of the old Horley West to this polling district some re-evaluation may be useful. The main issue this year was the confusion relating to two polling stations being on one road, with more than a handful of voters mixing up the two polling stations. There is limited evidence that this problem was more pronounced on European election polling day when the polling stations generally lacked tellers, though even on local election polling day the frustration at the ‘lack of common sense’ was evident. Hence wherever the polling station is located in future, it is important that there aren’t two polling stations on the same road.</p> <p>It was also notable when speaking to voters in the northern part of the polling district (Chequers Drive, Southlands Avenue etc.) that they were unhappy having to walk down to Regent Hall when they had previously voted at St Wilfred’s Church. To take these new voters into account, there are a couple of possible options using current polling places that could work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move the HRC1 polling station to Edmonds Hall • Move the HRC1 polling station to St Wilfred’s Church <p>It should be noted at any option for this polling district will annoy some voters, with voters at the southern ends of Lumley and Oakwood Roads likely preferring the polling station they can easily drive to (the stop sign on Albert Road again necessitating detours for these voters). However, it is worth taking the needs of all the district’s voters into account.</p> <p>Edmonds Hall benefits from being closer to voters who are used to voting at St Wilfrid’s Church, which makes it a nice compromise. Not sharing the polling station with another district will also make things less confusing. It would also be a compromise option for Albert Road voters, who can still easily walk to their polling station as they are used to.</p>
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	<p>This being said, it is not especially advantageous for other HRC1 voters east of the A23 since it is halfway down a road lacking in footpaths; voters in the other east-of-A23 roads would hence have to ‘go-around’ to get there.</p> <p>One (insignificant for voters) disadvantage compared to Regent Hall and St Wilfrid’s, however, is the lack of sheltered space for tellers in case of bad weather. This being said, many of the established options for polling stations (including the Archway and Pathfinder Scout Hut) lack this facility but remain good options for polling stations.</p> <p>St Wilfrid’s Church, assuming the church hall is deemed big enough, has the advantage of being familiar to voters west of the A23. It is also no harder to reach than the Albert Road venues for many voters east of the A23; the walk up Chequers Drive and/or drive down Horley Row is no more inconvenient than the drive ‘around’ into Albert Road.</p> <p>Such a move would likely be unpopular with Albert Road voters and voters at the southern ends of Lumley and Oakwood Roads, just as the move down to Regent Hall was unpopular with Chequers Drive and Southlands Avenue voters. Another possible compromise venue would be Strawson Hall, except it would be unfair to shut down the playgroup on polling day.</p> <p>Ultimately, either of these two options could work well. The Edmonds Hall option is very close to being a Pareto improvement on the Regent Hall option, while the St Wilfred’s Church option will prioritise some voters significantly over others (but will have the advantages of having more voters voting in the same place, and the location of the venue on Horley Row makes it easily reachable from multiple directions). We are sure that feedback from other submissions will help with this polling place choice.</p> <p>Westvale Park</p> <p>Under current arrangements, Westvale Park is included in a polling district with the eastern half of Meath Green. However, for the review to be futureproof, it would be worth making Westvale Park its own polling district.</p> <p>As a community, bus only entrances and exits cut off Westvale Park from the rest of Horley. Reaching either of the current West Horley polling stations from Westvale is a challenge, and as soon as an appropriate community facility is complete in Westvale Park it should be used as an easily accessible polling station for these voters.</p> <p>As a roadmap to this outcome, a new Westvale Park polling district (containing all areas that are due to be developed) should be created, initially sharing a polling place with one of the other polling districts (Pathfinder Scout Hall if HRC1 moves into St Wilfred’s Church, otherwise St Wilfred’s Church and Pathfinder Scout Hut could both work) only to move into the new community facility once it is available.</p> <p>One Final Note</p> <p>Last year, the houses on the north side of Station Road were accidentally included in the HRC1 polling district (at least, on maps and in electoral registers downloaded by political parties). Although this was of no consequence in 2019, in</p>
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		<p>2021 this would have meant voters being inadvertently moved into a different electoral division. The new maps appear to correct for this error, though we do wish to emphasise that there are voters living on the northern side of Station Road and that these voters should always be placed in a fitting polling district.</p>
<p>Horley Town Council</p>	<p>Various – Horley Wards</p>	<p>Horley Central and South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three Polling Stations are clustered in the north of the Polling District which seems unbalanced and unfair. • Having two Polling Stations in Albert Road seems to be confusing. • If a Polling Station was to be moved, this should be well publicised beforehand. • The Polling Station at Horley Town Council is considered less accessible than when it was at the Archway Theatre, in particular, for people arriving into the town by bus as it is quite far from the bus station. • A ‘Mobile Polling Station’ in the south of the Polling District is thought to be more practical if this could be provided. <p>Horley East and Salfords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems a reasonable distribution but Tanyard Barn is difficult to find and better street signage to guide voters to the Polling Station should be provided. Adequate parking facilities should also be made available. <p>Horley West and Sidlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although this looks imbalanced at present, the provision of the community centre at Westvale Park should resolve this issue. <p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any changes made should be well publicised and communicated to voters. • More directional signage should be placed on streets to guide people to their relevant Polling Stations with ease.