

# **Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment**

*Consultation Period from 15 -29 October 2018*

## **1. Introduction**

Brighton & Hove City Council will be conducting a partial review of its polling districts and polling places under Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Within these proposals, the intention is not to make unnecessary changes to polling places and districts. The proposals seek to address issues which have arisen during recent elections and are informed by feedback from the (Acting) Returning Officer, polling station staff, polling station inspectors and electors.

The proposals outlined in this document will update the current polling scheme to account for the following considerations:

- a) To try and identify new polling places in areas where the existing provision is inadequate.
- b) To ensure, as far as practicable, that polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
- c) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- d) To try and minimise disruption to schools

A further full review of all polling districts and places within Brighton & Hove will take place during the latter part of 2019 in line with the requirements of both the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The existing Brighton & Hove City Council ward boundaries, and the parliamentary constituency boundaries, are not part of this review, although they will be reviewed periodically in future by the relevant Boundary Committee or Commission.

The Council and (Acting) Returning Officer would like to use this opportunity, to highlight their appreciation for the continued co-operation of polling places in providing their buildings for the day so that electors have a convenient place to vote.

## **2. The Review and Decision Making Process**

The council publishes notice of holding the review, and consults the (Acting) Returning Officer for each Parliamentary Constituency in the council's area. The (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals have been included in this consultation paper along with lists of streets and maps of the affected polling districts.

The council then invites comments on the proposals. The consultation paper will be published on the council's website, and will also be sent to councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties, and any other interested groups or persons, including those who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

All representations will be considered by the (Acting) Returning Officer and published in the final report. The final report will confirm the (Acting) Returning Officer's final recommendations. If any representation has been denied then a reason for that will be included. The Policy, Resources and Growth Committee will consider the proposals and make a final decision on 6 December 2018. The final agreed polling districts will then be passed to the Electoral Registration Officer and, if necessary, revised registers will be published on 2 January 2019.

### 3. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Publication of notice of review, and consultation document including (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals	Monday 15 October 2018
Closing date for representations	Monday 29 October 2018
Final proposal published via Agenda papers and website	Thursday 29 November 2018
Council Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting – approval of scheme	Thursday 6 December 2018
Revised Register Published for Effected Wards	Wednesday 2 January 2019
City Council Elections	Thursday 2 May 2019

**Hollingdean & Stanmer Ward, Brighton Pavilion Constituency**



Polling District	Electorate	Streets	Previous Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	
GU	2056	Arlington Crescent Ashburnham Close Ashburnham Drive Beatty Avenue Chalvington Close Coldean Lane Crawley Road Ditchling Road Forest Road Framfield Close Haig Avenue Hawkhurst Place Hawkhurst Road Highfields Ingham Drive Kenwards Kingston Close Middleton Rise Monk Close Nanson Road Park Close	Park Road Reeves Hill Ridge View Roundway Rushlake Close Rushlake Road Saunders Hill Selham Close Selham Drive Selsey Close Standean Close Talbot Crescent The Byway The Charltons The Meads Twyford Road Waldron Avenue Walton Bank Woburn Place Wolseley Road Woodview Close	Coldean Primary School, Kenwards	St Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Coldean Lane

At the 2016 EU Referendum it was necessary to put a temporary polling station on the site of Coldean Primary School whilst at the 2017 Parliamentary election the nearby St Mary Magdalen Church Hall was used.

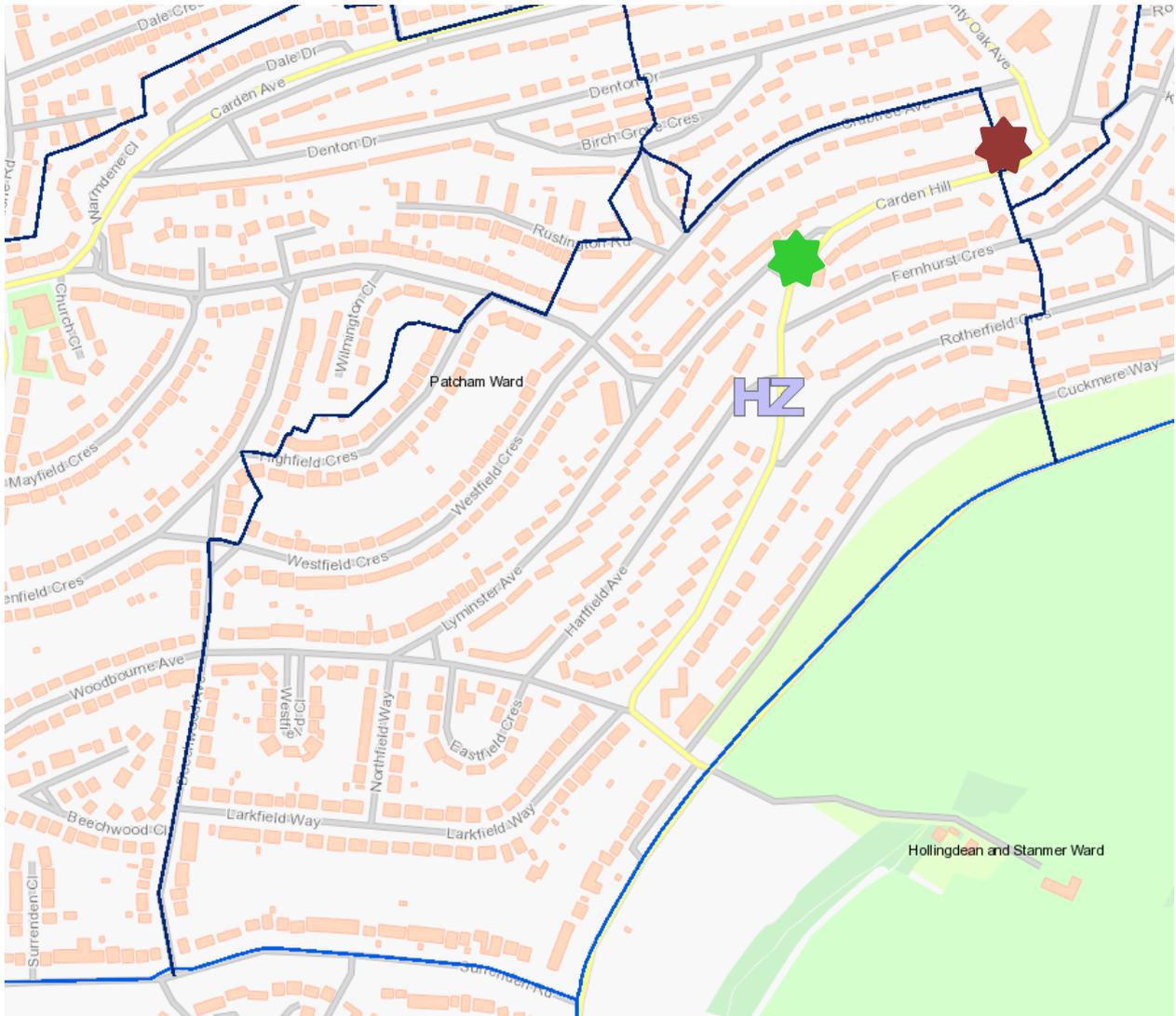
Following the success of using St Mary Magdalen Church Hall it is proposed that this venue is now designated as the polling place for the GU polling district. The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have undertaken a visit to the venue and it provides a large room for polling to take place, there is also disable access and parking available.

### Consultation Questions

1)

- a) Do you approve of the St Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Coldean Lane being used as a polling station for GU polling district?
- b) Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

**Patcham Ward, Brighton Pavilion Constituency**



Polling District	Electorate	Streets		Previous Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place
HZ	1784	Beechwood Avenue Carden Hill Crabtree Avenue Cuckmere Way Ditchling Road Eastfield Crescent Fernhurst Crescent Hartfield Avenue Highfield Crescent Larkfield Way	Lyminster Avenue Northfield Way Rotherfield Crescent Surrenden Road Warnham Rise Westfield Close Westfield Crescent Wilmington Way Woodbourne Avenue	Hollingbury Library, Carden Hill	Temporary Polling Station, Junction of Carden Hill and Lyminster Avenue

Hollingbury Library has been closed since 2017 and is to be redeveloped.

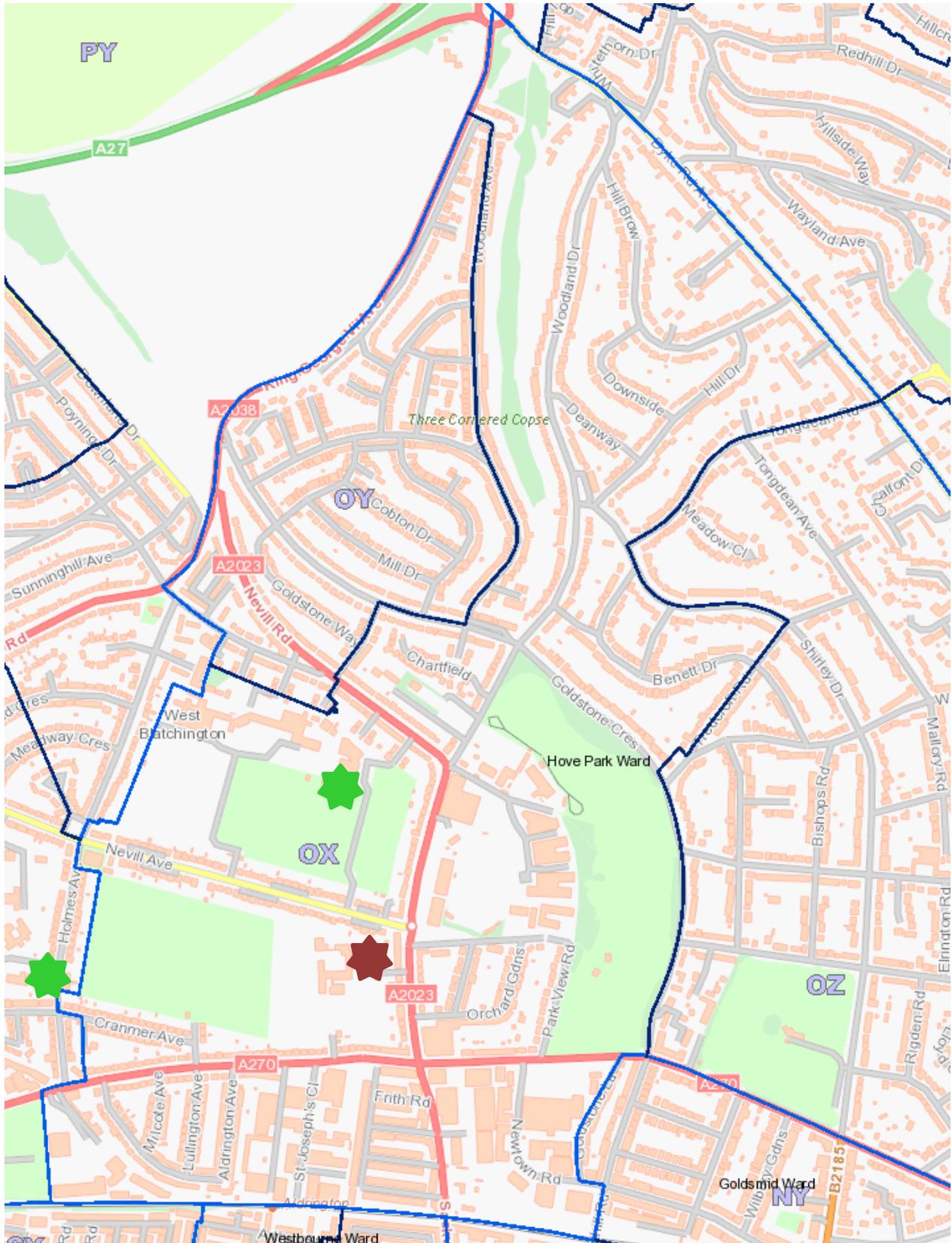
The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have undertaken a number of visits to the area to try and locate alternative premises however, no suitable venue has been located. It is proposed that if Hollingbury Library is still available for use at the local elections on 2 May 2019 then this will be the designated polling place. However, if the venue becomes unavailable then a temporary polling station will be located on the green at the junction of Carden Hill and Lyminster Avenue. At the full statutory review further analysis will be taken of all Patcham polling places with the hope of locating a permanent venue.

### Consultation Questions

2)

- a) Do you approve of a Temporary Polling Station at the junction of Carden Hill and Lyminster Avenue being used as a polling station for HZ polling district if Hollingbury Library is no longer available?
- b) Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

**Hove Park Ward, Hove Constituency**



Polling District	Electorate	Streets		Previous Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place
<b>OX</b>	3829	Aldrington Avenue Amherst Crescent Benett Avenue Benett Drive Chartfield Cranmer Avenue Deanway Downside Dyke Close Dyke Road Avenue Eridge Road Frith Road Goldstone Close Goldstone Crescent Hill Brow Hill Drive Landseer Road Leighton Road Lullington Avenue Milcote Avenue Nevill Avenue	Nevill Gardens Nevill Road Nevill Way Old Shoreham Road Orchard Avenue Orchard Gardens Orchard Road Park View Road Poynter Road Prinsep Road Sackville Road Shirley Avenue Shirley Drive The Spinney Tongdean Road Torrance Close Tredcroft Road Weald Avenue Woodland Avenue Woodland Close Woodland Drive	Temporary Building, Hove Park Upper School, off Old Shoreham Road	Polling District split in two
<b>OW (New)</b>	2109	Bennett Avenue Bennett Drive Chartfield Deanway Downside Dyke Close Dyke Road Avenue Eridge Road Goldstone Close Goldstone Crescent Hill Brow Hill Drive Nevill Avenue Nevill Gardens	Nevill Court, Nevill Road 68-186 Nevill Road Nevill Way Shirley Drive Woodand Avenue Shirley Avenue The Spinney Tongdean Road Tredcroft Road Woodland Close Woodland Drive		Brighton & Hove Cricket Pavilion, Nevill Sports Ground, Elridge Road
<b>OX (New)</b>	1720	Aldrington Avenue Amherst Crescent Cranmer Avenue Frith Road Landseer Road Leighton Road Lullington Avenue Milcote Avenue 1-84 Nevill Road	Old Shoreham Road Orchard Avenue Orchard Gardens Orchard Road Park View Road Poynter Road Prinsep Road Sackville Road		Bishop Hannington Youth & Community Hall, Holmes Avenue

The previous polling place for OX was Hove Park School on Neville Road. Since 2016, temporary buildings have had to be sited on their grounds with access from Old Shoreham Road. This venue has provided numerous logistical issues and therefore a replacement has been sought. As can be seen on the map, the OX polling district is vast. The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have researched the area and have found it is not possible to find another polling place that suitably caters for all electors in this area. It is proposed that the district is split across Hove Park and Nevill Road with a new OW polling district created.

It is proposed that the Brighton & Hove Cricket Pavilion at Nevill Sports Ground accessed via Elridge Road is designated as the polling place for the new OW polling district. The venue provides a suitable venue with a large room, disabled access and parking for a number of cars. As the venue is in close proximity to Aldrington CE School, the Returning Officer will put in place suitable additional traffic provisions around the beginning and end of the school day to ensure the safety of students and electors. Notice of use of the Pavilion will also be highlighted in the school newsletter.

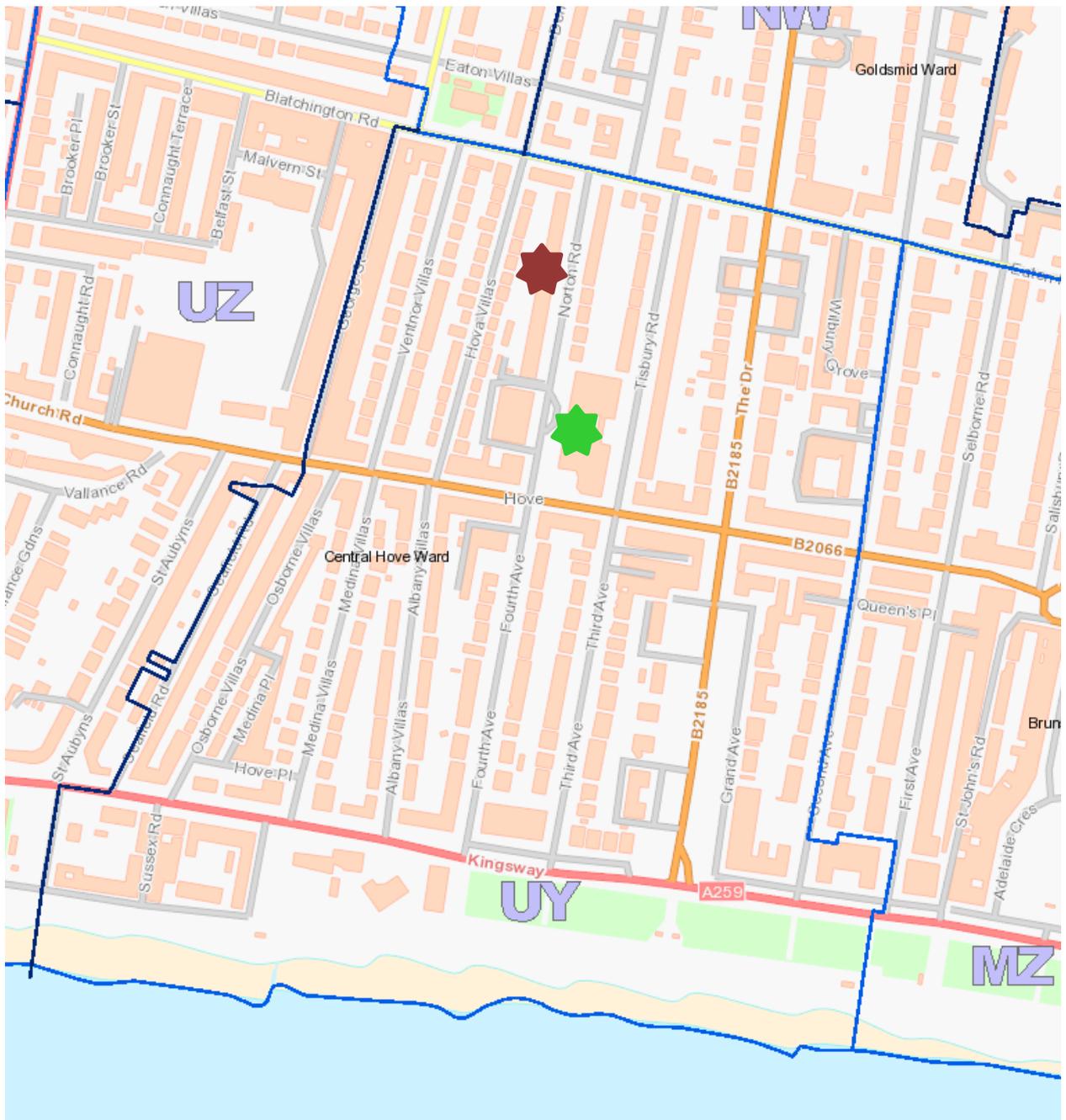
For the revised OX polling district, the (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have visited the area on a number of occasions and explored a number of different options. However, it has not been possible to locate a suitable venue within the polling district that meets all of the considerations outlined at the beginning of this document. Therefore it is proposed that the Bishop Hannington Youth & Community Hall on Holmes Avenue is designated as the polling place for the revised OX polling district. The hall provides a space more than adequate in size and there is step-free disabled access. The venue is located close to a bus stop served by the 5 bus and parking will be available at the Weald Allotments car park opposite the site. The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff will continue to review the revised OX polling district to try and locate an alternative venue going forward.

### **Consultation Questions**

3)

- a) Do you approve of the OX polling district being split across Hove Park and the junction of Nevill Road and Orchard Road/Nevill Avenue?
- b) Do you approve of the Brighton & Hove Cricket Club Pavilion, Nevill Recreation Ground, Elridge Road being used as a polling station for the new OW polling district?
- c) Do you approve of Bishop Hannington Community Hall, Holmes Avenue being used as a polling station for revised OX polling district?
- d) Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

**Central Hove, Hove Constituency**



Polling District	Electorate	Streets		Previous Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place
UY	5001	Albany Mews Albany Villas Albert Mews Blatchington Road Church Road Courtenay Terrace Eaton Road Fourth Avenue George Street Grand Avenue Hova Villas Hove Place Kings Esplanade Kings Gardens Kings Mews Kingsway Medina Place Medina Terrace	Medina Villas Norton Close Norton Road Osborne Villas Queen`s Gardens Seafield Road Second Avenue St. Catherine`s Terrace Sussex Road The Drive Third Avenue Tisbury Road Ventnor Villas Victoria Cottages Victoria Grove Victoria Terrace Wilbury Grove Wilbury Road	Parish Room, Church of the Sacred Heart, Norton Road	Hove Town Hall, Norton Road

Whilst Hove Town Hall was being redeveloped the Parish Room at the Church of the Sacred Heart was used. With Hove Town Hall now available again, it is proposed that it is now re-designated at the polling place for UY. The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have undertaken a visit to the venue and the Council Chamber provides a large space for polling to take place, there is also disabled access available using the same entrance which was not possible at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

### Consultation Questions

1)

- a) Do you approve of Hove Town Hall, Norton Road being used as a polling station for UY polling district?
- b) Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?