

Responses to the Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

The notice of a proposed polling place review was published on 15 October 2018. A consultation was opened and the council invited comments on the proposals. The consultation paper was published on the council's website, and was also 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.

Below are the responses received during the consultation and the replies by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Q1a. How much do you agree or disagree with St Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Coldean Lane being used as a polling station for GU polling district?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	4	20.0	21.1
	Tend to agree	5	25.0	26.3
	Neither agree nor disagree	5	25.0	26.3
	Tend to disagree	1	5.0	5.3
	Don't know / not sure	4	20.0	21.1
	Total	19	95.0	100.0
Missing	No response	1	5.0	
Total		20	100.0	

Q1b. - Are there any alternative venues that the Council should consider as a polling station for GU polling district?

- I object to the use of religious building as venues for polling stations as it deters me and other from voting. Polling station should be in non religious buildings.

The (Acting) Returning Officer can confirm that St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall is not a Place of Worship but a community hall space linked to the Church. Throughout Brighton & Hove arrangements like this are in place - no Places of Worship are designated as polling places.

Q2a. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for 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?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	2	10.0	10.0
	Tend to agree	6	30.0	30.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	7	35.0	35.0
	Tend to disagree	2	10.0	10.0
	Strongly disagree	1	5.0	5.0
	Don't know / not sure	2	10.0	10.0
	Total	20	100.0	100.0

Q2b. - Are there any alternative venues that the Council should consider as a polling station for HZ polling district?

- None of the existing temporary Polling Stations have been truly successful, each has its own individual difficulties, even Preston Park which looks like level ground is not once the ramp is in place. The Green at Patcham gets more difficult each time as the trees grow larger and again the ramp is too short & steep. The proposed temporary station for Hollingbury is I believe on a hill. Could a temporary Polling Station be placed on the playing field of Carden School using the entrance where the Boot Fair was? This would take it away from the main school building. Or on Carden Recreation Ground junction with Carden Avenue & Carden Hill, this park is well served by local public transport and at present street parking is free. However is it just outside of HZ Polling District? But if only a temporary solution whilst the Library is renovated it may be better suited for less abled people.
- Can't think of any maybe Cardenas school

The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have undertaken a number of visits to the area and highlighted several sites within the polling district where a temporary building could be placed. After consultation with those who site the structures, the green at the junction of Carden Hill and Lyminster Avenue was selected. Electoral Commission guidance advises that polling places where possible should be within the polling district. As the building is temporary it should therefore be sited within the polling district. During the full statutory review in 2019 all Patcham polling places and districts will be studied to try and ensure all polling places are suitable.

Q3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for OX polling district being split across Hove Park and the junction of Nevill Road and Orchard Road/Nevill Avenue?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	3	15.0	15.8
	Tend to agree	4	20.0	21.1
	Neither agree nor disagree	8	40.0	42.1
	Don't know / not sure	4	20.0	21.1
	Total	19	95.0	100.0
Missing	No response	1	5.0	
Total		20	100.0	

Q4a. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Brighton & Hove Cricket Club Pavilion, Nevill Recreation Ground, Eridge Road being used as a polling station for the new OW polling district?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	1	5.0	5.3
	Tend to agree	6	30.0	31.6
	Neither agree nor disagree	5	25.0	26.3
	Tend to disagree	1	5.0	5.3
	Strongly disagree	2	10.0	10.5
	Don't know / not sure	4	20.0	21.1
	Total	19	95.0	100.0
Missing	No response	1	5.0	
Total		20	100.0	

Q4b. Are there any alternative venues that the Council should consider as a polling station for OW polling district?

- Bishop Hannington Community Hall is large enough to host two Polling Stations, & has a large car park for people driving to the Polling Station. Eridge Road is close to a very busy, but blind corner for traffic there are near misses here every day. The entrance from Nevill Road is no better.

The (Acting) Returning Officer's staff have undertaken a site visit to Eridge Road with a member of the Accident Prevention team within the Council;'s Transport Projects team. Additional signage will be provided near the school to ensure electors are

aware of arrangements. Additional signage outside the site on Nevill Road can be explored. The location of Bishop Hannington Youth & Community Hall makes it unsuitable for roads at the north of OW polling district.

Q5a. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Bishop Hannington Community Hall, Holmes Avenue being used as a polling station for revised OX polling district?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	2	10.0	11.1
	Tend to agree	5	25.0	27.8
	Neither agree nor disagree	7	35.0	38.9
	Tend to disagree	1	5.0	5.6
	Don't know / not sure	3	15.0	16.7
	Total	18	90.0	100.0
Missing	No response	2	10.0	
Total		20	100.0	

Q5b. - Are there any alternative venues that the Council should consider as a polling station for OX polling district?

- I object to the use of religious building as venues for polling stations as it deters me and other from voting. Polling station should be in non religious buildings.

We can confirm that Bishop Hannington Youth & Community Hall is not a Place of Worship but a community hall space linked to the Church. Throughout Brighton & Hove arrangements like this are used with no Places of Worship designated as polling places.

Q6a. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Hove Town Hall, Norton Road being used as a polling station for UY polling district?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	5	25.0	26.3
	Tend to agree	4	20.0	21.1
	Neither agree nor disagree	7	35.0	36.8
	Don't know / not sure	3	15.0	15.8
	Total	19	95.0	100.0
Missing	No response	1	5.0	
Total		20	100.0	

Q6b. - Are there any alternative venues that the Council should consider as a polling station for UY polling district?

No responses received

