



## Charnwood Borough Council

### 2018/19 Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Comments received from stakeholders during consultation

Comment	Name/organisation	(A)RO Comments
<p>I cannot see any reason to change the current polling station arrangements for Anstey due to the following: It has ample car parking spaces. It is close to the centre of the village so encourages people to vote. It has a disabled access and onsite disabled parking. It has two access doors so you can have an entrance door and an exit to ease pedestrian flows. Its size is ample for numerous desks to separate electors at busy times for the amount of electors in the ward. I've been a teller for our party on numerous polling days and have stood outside at differing hours throughout the polling day and never seen any problems with the venue, even in the evening at very busy times. I could not think of any other site that could be used to replace it or to have in addition to it, other than Martin School on Link Road which is on the edge of the village. Having an additional site could in my opinion confuse the existing electorate.</p>	<p>Paul M Taylor Treasurer Charnwood Conservative Association</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>At Anstey Parish Councils meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October the Council considered the review of polling stations being carried out and the Council AGREED that the Jubilee Hall is an ideal location for the local polling station in Anstey.</p>	<p>Liz Hawkes, Clerk to the Anstey Parish Council, Jubilee Hall, Staddon Road, Anstey</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>I've read through your report. I haven't had any comments from Parish Councillors but it looks ok to me.</p>	<p>Ann Irving Clerk Woodhouse Parish Council.</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>I am the youth worker at Passion. We are located in the Bull Ring, Shepshed. I would like to offer our building as a voting station. We don't have parking facilities but do have a central location.</p>	<p>Vicky Gould Youth Worker at Passion, Bull Ring, Shepshed</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>I note your comments on No. 2 Loughborough Ashby and No. 3 Loughborough Nanpantan,</p>	<p>Max Hunt County Councillor,</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken</p>

<p>which have traditionally shared the same polling place on the university campus. As you indicate, it has not been ideal that the polling place has moved. As far as candidates and political agents are concerned, if the polling place does move from time to time, as long as we have timely and clearly described advice it's no problem. Room numbers, for example, are not as helpful as building road names. Further to that, I would venture to suggest that most electors on campus will be voting for the first time and the previous location will be immaterial.</p> <p>Certainly the big EHB hall was used to accommodate the large numbers voting in general elections, and that will no doubt occur again. According to press speculation this could be within the next six months or even coincide with local elections as previously. I think it's inevitable that different facilities will be needed for the general, as opposed to the local elections.</p> <p>The alternative venue of the Students Union was looked at about 10 years ago and ruled out very quickly because it is licensed premises and extremely busy in that regard in the evening. Whilst it may seem the soul of sobriety in the day time, it can be extremely lively later on. I note also that the University security and general staff do not operate the students union.</p> <p>For those reasons I would recommend that alternative venues be sought and under the university's jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Loughborough North West</p>	<p>into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>Having been a Councillor for Loughborough Ashby Ward since 2011, a resident of the Ward for over 30 years plus a former Loughborough University Lecturer (17 years) and graduate, I have excellent knowledge of locations in and around campus.</p> <p>The Hut is a suitable site and I am happy for this to continue to be used. However, I have grave reservations about the use of the Student Union as a Polling Station. Whilst it is a big building and can accommodate numbers, it is in my opinion totally unsuitable. There has to be consistency in a site used and I believe one of my colleagues has already pointed out about room numbers and disadvantaging voters. Road and Hall names are much more helpful.</p> <p>The Students Union is a busy hub at the quietest of times and becomes even more 'industrious' and frequented especially in the evenings. As you are aware it also serve alcohol (licensed premises) and this makes it even more unsuitable. This puts security into question, too.</p>	<p>Cllr Julie Bradshaw, Loughborough Ashby Ward</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>

<p>I don't need to make reference about the disaster of the use of the Sport's Hall at the last General Election. Therefore, I strongly object to the suggestion of using the Student's Union as a Polling Station and recommend that an alternative place be found; if a suitable venue cannot be found on campus, then a venue off campus may need to be looked into.</p>		
<p>I have some knowledge of this being a former Councillor in the area and know the history of the University not being able to find a fit and proper site for a polling station.</p> <p>It's the description of the building that causes the problems. It's likely to be a new intake of voters not familiar with the campus and to continually use room numbers is not helpful and places voters at a disadvantage compared to outside the campus.</p> <p>Regarding using the Students Union building I would strongly object first it is not the University, second it serves alcohol and especially in the evening noisy. If the University want a polling station on site then a decent, accessible and obvious building is required.</p> <p>Also in the mix is the strong possibility of a general election the sports hall used in 2015 was a disaster with not enough polling staff, resulting in the huge number of ineligible students queuing instead of being sifted out in advance.</p> <p>If the University does not produce a decent building for a polling station then one outside of the campus is needed.</p>	<p>Cllr Mary Draycott, Hastings Ward</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>
<p>Regarding the one request to move from Cobden School to the former Children's Centre next door, I would like the following taken into consideration.</p> <p>First it is not such an obvious site as the school and although only next door it is down the Pinfold Jetty which is dark and has a very rough surface to the path. I also question the condition of the building with it being closed and moth balled.</p> <p>I do not think it is suitable for a Polling Station. My preference is for it to remain at the Cobden school as known, safe and well lit.</p>	<p>Cllr Mary Draycott, Hastings Ward</p>	<p>The issues and concerns raised have been taken into consideration and an assessment of the Children's Centre and Cobden School has been carried out.</p> <p>The Children's Centre is now under management of the school and used for their pre-school children so all facilities inside the building are functioning satisfactorily. The proposed area in the building has been inspected and it meets the criteria required for use as a polling station. The entrance to the building via Pinfold Jetty has street lighting and the jetty is used regularly by the public and previously by parents with young children and buggys. To ensure there is</p>

		<p>adequate lighting to the area it is possible to provide additional temporary lighting to the approach to the entrance which in the past has been required when the mobile unit at the school has been used. Additional Polling Station Signage can also be provided to the approach to the building to ensure electors are clear where the polling station is located.</p> <p>The school was also inspected and issues raised by the Head Teacher were taken into consideration. New pedestrian gates are being installed adjacent to the mobile classrooms and it would not be possible to section off the entrance and provide security for the children as for previous elections. If the school is used as a polling station the only means to ensure the security and safety of the children is to close the school on polling day which would cause disruption to the parents, teachers and the children's education.</p>
<p>I have asked volunteers and hearing impaired people at our lip reading class and hard of hearing group for their views. We have had lively discussions and the first comment people wanted me to make was that CBC is to be commended for asking for the opinion of deaf and hard of hearing people. Many hard of hearing people are getting on a bit so mobility is an issue for them too. Therefore, we suggest the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convenient parking for disabled users.</li> <li>• Good access for wheelchair, tripod and walking stick users.</li> <li>• Staff should not rely on oral instructions but have written ones (with clear print) clearly visible. Should oral instructions be vital, then staff should be patient and bear in mind that some hearing impaired people may struggle with understanding. Profoundly deaf people will need written instructions or a sign language interpreter anyhow.</li> <li>• In the case of emergencies, hearing impaired people may not hear warning signals. Staff should be sure that they are made aware of the emergency.</li> </ul>	<p>Jack Sandover, Loughborough lip reading class and hard of hearing group</p>	<p>The views and comments expressed have been taken into consideration when completing the review and final report.</p>

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outside tellers can be a nuisance when a disabled person is struggling with access. They should be asked not to interfere.</li><li>• The voting card which is sent out to voters could have a "tick box" for the voter to tick if he/she needed assistance which he/she could show when "registering" at the polling station.</li><li>• Hearing loss, along with others, is a "non-visible disability". It might be worth considering a "lanyard" which officials could see (this is of course an idea with wide application)</li><li>• In general, though, we experienced no problems with lighting, layout or "signposting" to and in the polling station which were generally seen as good with, really, not much need for improvement.</li><li>• Our enquiries with members has shown that about half (a larger than normal proportion?) use postal voting for convenience or to avoid some of the above. We suggest, therefore, that registering for postal voting should be well publicised with clear instructions. On the other hand, voting in person can be a chance to get away from the isolation that hearing impaired people often experience so we should like to see voting continue to be a pleasant experience where disability is not a problem.</li></ul> |  |  |
|---|--|--|