

Appendix 1 Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2019 Proposed Changes

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station address	Approx Electorate as at the information gathering stage
GT3	Abbey North Ward	Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry	1432
GW2	Hill Ward		2257

Comments Received from Stakeholders

Polling station inspector 2018 – No disabled parking bays available at front of hotel most of the day.

Presiding Officer 2018 – received complaints from electors as all disabled bays were taken with no disabled badges in windows.

Councillor Hills – not the ideal site, you have to proceed through the Hotel to the Polling Booths, parking not too bad, although at times can be difficult when the hotel is busy. I understand that a community centre is to be built as part of the Monksmoor development which could present a better venue in the future.

Town Council - Need to find a better venue for Middlemore, once again access on foot doesn't encourage people to vote (busy traffic and little too far) – realise options are limited – but perhaps this could be something you can input into any planning applications re 'need for community building in this area'.

Same as above for Monksmoor – however, school is now open, perhaps that could be used.

Voter - Parking provision was plentiful, site is easy to access by car. Polling station is quite a walk from the main entrance, but is easily found

Voter - This Polling station is too far from Middlemore. A better facility for the estate would be the pub.

Consultation comments on the proposed change:

The question was asked: Do you agree with the proposal to change the polling station for Monksmoor residents from Daventry Court Hotel to Monksmoor Park CE Primary School?

29 responses were received for this question:

Yes – 20, 68.97%

No – 9, 31.03%

- 1) Would be very convenient
- 2) I don't agree that Monksmoor park school is Suitable venue for the polling station not only isn't there enough parking it will be distributive to local residents and mean that the school will have to close for the day.

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- 3) As long as the school is not closed to facilitate it.
- 4) Inappropriate disruption to primary school unnecessarily - the hotel is only a short distance away! Additional traffic on school site will be a risk (people will still drive regardless of how close it is). Ridiculous to change it to the school when a community centre will be built imminently - keep at hotel until then.
- 5) Stupid idea. Plenty of parking at the hotel and why should kids lose a day of their education when it could be avoided? What about all the parents without childcare who would have to take time off work? Poor suggestion
- 6) It is not clear from the proposal if the school would be closed during elections - if so then this doesn't seem a sensible suggestion. Would turnout really be increased enough to justify this. I believe Ashby fields school is already used for voting - why not use this for Monksmoor too?
- 7) More appropriate distance for those voters
- 8) It doesn't affect me as I'm not a Monksmoor resident. The hotel is a great location as a Lang Farm resident, however.
- 9) However you try to safe guard young children you are putting an additional burden onto a school setting. Increased traffic and footfall. If the school then takes the decision to close you deprive the pupils of their education
- 10) Would require school closure which is not appropriate. Head teachers are under enough pressure to ensure attendance and attainment are as high a possible and every minute counts.
- 11) Schools should not be used as polling stations as the disruption to education and parents is unacceptable. Parents who work incur costs, either through paying for childcare or having to take leave. Until there's a community centre on the estate, then leave it where it is. Some years there could be more than one election in the year

Returning Officer Comments

Location/Suitability	Suitable transport links.
Car Parking	Disabled parking available, plenty of parking for voters.
Access	Level access throughout. Disabled access.
Staff Facilities	No kitchen, canteen available, adequate heating and lighting.

Alternative Locations

Comments

Middlemore pub	Not an ideal venue due to having to use the same entrance to the pub as the customers. The entrance must be separate for the voters. Thursday nights are normally busy at the pub with their quiz night therefore it would not be suitable to have a polling station open during this period. You cannot separate the room away from the rest of the pub and the room we would use does not have disabled access due to the steps going up to the room.
Monksmoor School	Good location for Monksmoor residents. Suitable venue with good disabled access. Safeguarding the children has been discussed and we have put a plan in place for this so that the children are not affected in any way.

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Returning Officer's Proposal	Reason
To keep Lang Farm residents polling station at Daventry Court Hotel	Central location for residents. No major issues with the hotel.
To keep Middlemore residents polling station at Daventry Court Hotel	We have looked into moving to the pub on the Middlemore estate but we feel it is not suitable for the requirements of the polling station. We have looked at alternative venues on the Heartlands estate with no success. There may be a community building being built in the future on Middlemore which we can look into at a later date.
To move Monksmoor estate residents from Daventry Court Hotel to Monksmoor Park CE Primary School	<p>More convenient location for the residents. With the new developments in Daventry taking place, we feel another polling station would be required. We have liaised with the Primary School and we have provisional plans in place for the safeguarding of the children should the proposal be approved. The school will remain open on polling day.</p> <p>There may be a community building being built in the future on the Monksmoor estate which we can look into at a later date.</p> <p>The change will bring about a new polling district and polling place as well as a new polling station. The electorate as at 28th June 2019 was approximately 870 and this is expected to rise as the new development is completed.</p>

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station address	Approx Electorate as at the information gathering stage
DB, AC	Spratton Ward	Harlestone Village Institute, Upper Harlestone, Northampton, NN7 4EH	698

Comments Received from Stakeholders

Parish Council - We are very happy with using the Harlestone Village Institute.

Polling station inspector 2018 – no direct disabled access in the bar area where the station is held (small room). Disabled access is through the kitchen which is far from ideal.

Presiding Officer 2018 - Disabled access is problematic due to rear door not able to remain open. Security issues. Main hall would be a better room to use as has direct access on the level for disabled users.

County Councillor Shephard - I have looked and over the years visited all the Polling Stations in my

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Division. I believe they are all the best locations for Polling Stations and I have no better alternatives to suggest.

Health & Safety Officer - This location could successfully be utilised to hold two polling stations for the relevant potential parishes. The large room had flat access from the car park for those with mobility issues. The kitchen facilities are more than adequate for a polling station. Separate male and female toilets are available for the polling station officers. The building has central heating and wall mounted heaters. Car parking facilities are more than adequate for the electorate.

Consultation comments on the proposed change:

The question was asked: Do you agree with this proposal?

1 responses was received for this question:

Yes – 1, 100%

Returning Officer Comments

Location/Suitability	No suitable transport links but it's a small geographic area, so no problem. Additional signage required.	
Car Parking	Disabled parking on site	
Access	Has a hand rail but no ramp. Have access via the kitchen door in the car park for wheelchair use, the floor area from the kitchen to the polling station is all on the flat.	
Staff Facilities	Toilets (upstairs), kitchen & heating (not coin operated)	
Alternative Locations	Comments	
Larger room in Harlestone Village Institute.	Direct flat disabled access from the car park.	
Returning Officer's Proposal	Reason	
Move to the Larger Room in Harlestone Village Institute	Larger room with direct disabled access from the car park.	

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Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station address	Approx Electorate as at the information gathering stage
GL1	Woodford Ward	Woodford Halse Social Club, 29 Hinton Road, Woodford Halse, Daventry, Northants, NN11 3TR	2154

Comments Received from Stakeholders

Polling station inspector 2018 – poor external lighting around the building due to light failure.
Councillor Griffin - I have no reason to object to any of the previously established Polling Stations as we did review them in the recent past. I am unable to offer alternatives and have not received any objections.

Voter - The current use of the Social Club is quite adequate. It is conveniently located, has adequate parking and is easily accessible. It is difficult to identify any more suitable available location. The Methodist Church opposite has been used in the past, is conveniently located but has no parking, so offers little advantage.

Voter - In my view this Polling Station is suitable.

Voter - Good access with a ramp also parking in the car park to the rear of the building is good. The only problem is people parking on the road outside right by a junction.

Voter - Very suitable. Easy parking and easy access.

Voter - Easy access and plenty of space both inside and for parking. Convenient location

Consultation comments on the proposed change:

The question was asked: Do you agree with this proposal?

7 responses were received for this question:

Yes – 1, 14.29%

No – 6, 85.71%

- 1) Definitely a negative move. I can only assume the social club was not available as there are no positives to this move.
- 2) The proposed site is a short distance from the other polling station in the village. The parking facilities are far less than those available in the current location. The current site is in a central position and closest to the most recent housing developments. To ensure a good turnout the stations should be easily accessible to all, the facilities at the social club are good and there is excellent disabled access. I have lived in the village for a number of years and there has never been an incident of the venue being unavailable for use (as cited above).
- 3) Parking will be a problem
- 4) Memorial Hall has inadequate parking and is on our main (busy) village road. As a parent of young children I will not park miles away and walk them down a busy road to get to a polling station! Please keep the Social Club as the polling venue as it has plenty of parking and has

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always been a perfect venue. Just because it was not available for the EU elections (due to the extremely short notice of them taking place!!) should not impact its future as a polling station. Thank you.

- 5) There is no parking and less central. Makes no sense and will put people off voting.
- 6) Too close to the other polling station, either use the social club or the Methodist hall, which would be more convenient for constituents in the Hinton area of the village.

Returning Officer Comments

Location/Suitability	Fairly central polling station.
Car Parking	Car park round the back of the building.
Access	Refurbished ramp and handrail going into the building. Level flooring in polling station.
Staff Facilities	Adequate heating and lighting. Kitchen facilities. No phone.

Alternative Locations

Comments

Woodford Memorial Hall	Used for European elections 2019.
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Any Other Relevant Information - Not available for 2019.

Returning Officer's Proposal

Reason

Continue using the Social Club for elections.

The proposed change for the consultation was to move the Social Club electorate to the Memorial Hall permanently for the elections due to limited availability at the Social Club. Since the consultation has taken place we have had further communication with the Social Club who has now offered availability for all elections.