

2022 Interim Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

Consultation Responses

Response from the Parish Clerk for Newenden Parish Council: The new village hall in Newenden is still under construction. The project has exhausted all of its funding and the Parish Council is exploring ways to rescue the situation but a not inconsiderable sum is required to complete it. There is probably little chance of it being complete by the time of elections in May next year. This therefore means that you should plan on using St Peter's church as a polling station.

Response from Councillor for Beaver Ward: Thank you for consulting with me over this matter. I am concerned that reducing the number of polling stations would have a negative impact on the turn out to the election. Therefore I would oppose the reduction of polling stations and would ask that we continue to use Beaver Green School. However it may be that we need a Portacabin or temporary booth in the grounds. We do need to minimise the problems for the school.

Response from Councillor for Ashford South: I note the comments made by Cllr Lyn Suddards and would welcome an update from Ashford Borough Council. We had elections in Beaver in 2019 as planned for full ABC elections. 2021 was KCC elections and a by election in Beaver ward.

- What was the polling booth tally and listing of venues for those years?
- What is the proposed polling booth remit for 2023 as the next planned ABC elections?

I can then make a judgement and look with our borough councillors to ensure we have adequate facilities across the area to vote. I would welcome information to know the proposed outcomes.

Response from Electoral Services: The voting figures for Beaver Ward in 2019 and 2021 were as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Polling Station Voters 2021	Turnout 2021	Polling Station Voters 2019	Turnout 2019
BE1	Beaver Green School	1279	241	1297	244
BE2	South Ashford Baptist Church	1799	288	1660	274
BE3/BE3X	St Francis Church Cryol Road	1072	188	1092	216

The provision of polling stations for 2023 will depend on the outcome of this review process. Our preferred option would be to use the school

Response from Councillor for Downs North: I note in the introduction to the above review that comments are welcome that relate to the naming of Districts or Parishes. A small comment to make concerns polling area DN1. This area is named "Dane Street and Shottenden". In fact about 85% of the built up area would comprise of the only small town in Downs North, i.e. Chilham, and the Parish is named Chilham Parish Council. A name change is recommended for DN1. I would suggest "Chilham and Shottenden". Dane Street is just a very small cluster of houses.

Response from Acting Returning Officer for Folkestone & Hythe Parliamentary Constituency: The Acting Returning Officer for Folkestone & Hythe District Council has no comments on the review.

Response from Kennington Community Council: With the development of new housing at Conningbrook Lakes, the eastern part of Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm Ward is poorly served. I suggest that a Polling Station is provided to serve this estate, possibly at the Julie Rose stadium.

Response from Chair of Kennington Community Council: I am writing to comment on the interim review as it affects two wards falling within the area of the Kennington Community Council, of which I am Chair, though I make these comments in a personal capacity.

Comment on Conningbrook and Little Burton Ward:

The map of this ward is out of date as it does not show the substantial number of new housing units which have been constructed or are under construction on land adjacent to the Julie Rose Stadium. Further construction is planned in the area between those houses and the railway line. On grounds of both growth in the number of electors (risking over-crowding at the sole polling station during peak voting hours) and of carbon consumption, a second polling station should be planned, if practical, at the Stadium, which would be within walking distance for many electors and on the route home from work for others.

Comment on Bybrook Ward

It is unfortunate that the polling station at St Mary's Community Centre is situated far away from the most economically disadvantaged electors in the polling district. I believe that it is policy not to make use of school halls as polling stations these days but the Borough Council should actively explore other options in the vicinity of the Phoenix School, pending construction of a new community facility on the site at the junction of Bybrook Road and Belmont Road.

Response from Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council: A quick note to let you know that Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council is content with the existing polling places for the Parish.