

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Chief Executive
<u>Contact:</u>	Fiona Cotter
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	Yes
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	Statutory requirement to complete review by 31 December 2011
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Schedule of Polling Places
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	Review documentation previously circulated to all councillors and available on Council's website.  Map 6a (area recommendations for Epsom and Ewell) on the Local Government Boundary Commission's website.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report sets out the findings of the statutory review of polling districts and places which the authority is required to undertake by the end of the year and makes recommendations in respect of Polling District boundaries and the location of Polling Places.

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

*Notes*

That the Council be recommended to agree that:

- (1) the polling place for polling district E(A) be designated as West Ewell Evangelical Church;
- (2) the Chief Executive be authorised to redraw the polling district boundary between polling district F(A) and F(B) if this is necessitated by the outcome of the Electoral Review of Surrey by the Local Boundary Commission;
- (3) the Chief Executive be authorised to create a new polling district J(C) if this is necessitated by the outcome of the Electoral Review of Surrey by the Local Boundary Commission;
- (4) if created, the polling place for polling district J(C) be designated as Glyn School;
- (5) should the Local Boundary Commission's recommendations which affect polling district J(B1) not be adopted, the polling district J(B1) be merged with J(B) and the polling place be designated as Glyn School;

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| <p><b>(6) the polling place for K(A) be designated as St. John's Ambulance Hall.</b></p> |  |
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**1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 There are no direct implications.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Under section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council is required to divide each parliamentary constituency in the area into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts and to keep these under review. Electors must be given "such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances".
- 2.2 The Act, as amended, specifies how frequently reviews should be undertaken and made it a requirement for relevant authorities (i.e. this Council) for this review to do so every four years. The Council was required to conclude the first review by 31 December 2007 and therefore the Council is required to have completed a further review by December 2011.
- 2.3 A polling district is a geographical area which is a sub-division of a ward or constituency and, for each polling district, there must be designated a "polling place". The term is not defined in legislation but could for example, be a public building.
- 2.4 The responsibility to designate a polling place is a matter for the Council. If no polling place is designated, the polling district becomes the polling place. It has been the Council's approach (and recommended best practice) to designate various buildings - Bourne Hall, for example - as polling places. Decisions about polling stations within the polling place are for the (Acting) Returning Officer to make.
- 2.5 The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 prescribe the manner in which representations made by returning officers about the location of polling places are to be published. The regulations also prescribe the information that is to be published upon the completion of a polling place review.

**3 Consultation**

- 3.1 On 27 June 2011 notice of the review was published on the Council's website. A Consultation document was published on 1 July 2011 and the consultation period closed on 12 August 2011. Any elector in the Constituency was invited to make representations on the designation of polling districts or places. In addition, the Council notified the following groups/individuals about the review:

3.1.1 The Member of Parliament for Epsom and Ewell, Chris Grayling

3.1.2 Epsom and Ewell Access Group

- 3.1.3 Surrey Disabled People's Partnership
- 3.1.4 Members of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
- 3.1.5 Surrey County Councillors representing divisions within the Epsom area
- 3.1.6 Election agents who acted at the 2011 elections
- 3.1.7 Candidates who stood in the 2011 elections
- 3.1.8 Residents Associations
- 3.1.9 Registered political parties who regularly field candidates in local and parliamentary elections in the Borough

#### **4 Results of Consultation**

- 4.1 Annexe 1 includes all the comments made in response to the consultation and by whom they were made. All the ideas put forward have been investigated. Not all of the ideas have been adopted, either because they were not practical, failed to meet the needs of the disabled or because the premises were not available. Some ideas may be used for future elections.

#### **5 Proposals**

- 5.1 The polling districts and polling places proposed for each ward are set out in Annexe 1, together with the reasons why they have been chosen, accompanied by a map illustrating the various locations in Annexe 2.
- 5.2 Three schools remain listed as proposed polling places that intend to close on polling day.
- 5.3 There are several matters on which the views of the Committee are sought. These are:

##### **Court Ward**

- 5.4 If the Local Government Boundary Commission accepts submissions made in relation to the County Division Boundaries in the Court Ward area, it will be necessary to redraw the polling district boundary between F(A) and F(B) and it is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to redraw the boundaries as necessary.

##### **Ewell Ward**

- 5.5 The (Acting) Returning Officer was satisfied with the proposal that polling district J(B1) be merged back with the rest of J(B) for administrative reasons. However, since publication of the review, the Council has received confirmation of the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations in respect of County Council Division boundaries in Surrey. If these draft recommendations are approved, it will be necessary to retain and expand J(B1) because it will be part of a different Division to the rest of Ewell Ward for County Council election purposes. In this scenario, the polling district would be renamed J(C). A map of the Boundary

Commission's proposals can be found on the Local Boundary Commission's website and is available on request to view.

- 5.6 Nevertheless, this does not change the fact that the current polling place (The Linton's Centre) is considered generally unsatisfactory and its location not ideal (although off-street parking and disabled access was considered acceptable). It is therefore proposed that the polling place's designation, whether it be for a merged J(B) and J(B1) or newly created J(C), be changed to Glyn School.

### **Town Ward**

- 5.7 The Linton's Centre is also the designated polling place for polling district K(A). At the time of the consultation of the review, it was understood that it was the intention to hold elections for Police Commissioners in May 2012 and the availability of St. John's Ambulance Hall for a May 2012 election was confirmed. However, since then, it has been announced that these elections will not now take place until November 2012. Nevertheless, on balance, it is considered that St. John's Ambulance Hall is a more suitable option as a polling place for voters in K(A). The Linton's Centre is run down and not a very pleasant place to be in the evening. It is therefore proposed that the polling place for K(A) be designated as the St. John's Ambulance Hall although this may have to be reviewed in the light of availability.
- 5.8 The Hall is used for training courses and therefore an early booking is essential. If St. John's Ambulance Hall were not available for an election, in particular one called at short notice, the location of the polling place may be to be revisited.

## **6 Financial and Manpower Implications**

- 6.1 The payments for the use of school or other public premises are limited by law to the cost of heating, lighting and any additional caretaking outside normal school hours. This normally falls within the range of £50 - £158.
- 6.2 Private premises may charge a hire fee for the day and this is usually in the region of £200 to £400 depending on the standard of the facilities. A switch away from school premises therefore has cost implications for the Council in Borough Council election years.
- 6.3 The Council also uses Council owned premises but real cost is only incurred if an alternative booking is displaced.

## **7 Equalities and Other Legal Implications**

- 7.1 In considering the suitability of buildings as polling places, a key requirement has always been that, as far as reasonably practicable, voters with a disability should be able to participate in elections in the same way as the rest of the electorate if they wish to do so. While postal voting is available, it should be as an option and not because voting in person is too difficult.

## **8 Sustainability Policy, Partnerships and Community Safety Implications**

- 8.1 Not applicable for the purposes of this report.

**9 Risk Assessment**

- 9.1 Some authorities decide not to define the polling place in case a particular building becomes unavailable in the run up to an election. However, if a building became unavailable before an election and there is no time to conduct a review to choose a new polling place, the polling place can be changed by the authority immediately. This can be done by a simple declaration or notice that a polling place has been changed. Any change could be made by the proper officer of the council by notice published at their office. A review into the polling place can then be made when time allows.

**10 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 10.1 The Council regularly reviews its polling places so it is not surprising that there were relatively few suggestions for change this time.
- 10.2 The issues relating to the Linton's Centre have been ongoing and it is recognised that the proposals will not be to everyone's satisfaction. This problem may have been, in part, addressed by a Ward Boundary review but it is difficult to see how the problem could be addressed by this means if the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposals in respect of County Division boundaries are adopted.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: All in particular Court, Ewell and Town and West Ewell Wards**

SCHEDULE OF POLLING PLACES

Cuddington Ward	Polling Place <i>Current</i>	Polling Place <i>Proposed</i>	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>A(A)</b>	Scout Hut (Rowe Hall) Salisbury Road Worcester Park  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  Chairman of the Residents' Associations of Epsom and Ewell and Cuddington Residents' Association (also an election agent) supported status quo.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.
<b>A(B)</b>	St Mary's Church Hall The Avenue Worcester Park  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	As above	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.

Auriol Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
B	Stoneleigh Methodist Church Hall Stoneleigh Crescent Ewell  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No Change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – limited off-street parking available on site. On-street parking also available around venue.

Ewell Court Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
C(A)	<p>West Ewell Infants School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell.</p> <p><i>(Two stations)</i></p>	No change	No change	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered adequate (additional ramp provided)</p> <p>Parking – off-street parking available on site.</p> <p>School closes on polling day.</p> <p>During the 2007 review, it was reported that there were plans to redevelop the site on which the premises used at that time, (the Bradbury Centre owned by St Francis of Assisi Church in Ruxley Lane), stood. It was intended that a new Community Hall was to be built as part of the redevelopment. This development has yet to commence and for recent elections, in the absence of any suitable alternatives, the polling place reverted to West Ewell Infant School which had been used in the past.</p> <p>Proposed development of the site formerly occupied by the Bradbury Centre is likely to result in an increase of an estimated 48 voters.</p>

Ewell Court Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
C(B)	Ewell Court House, Lakehurst Road, Ewell.  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received	Council owned premises  Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking - off-street parking available

Ruxley Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
D	<p>North Annexe (Sixth Form Common Room), Epsom &amp; Ewell High School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell.</p> <p><i>(Two stations)</i></p>	No change	No change	<p>In the absence of any alternatives, the (Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.</p> <p>Former Councillor Stephen Pontin responded that, unlike other wards with similar numbers of electors, Ruxley Ward has only one Polling Place, making it more difficult for residents who live up to 1.8 miles away to get to. He considered that the overall turnout for Ruxley Ward was low compared with other wards, not only in Epsom &amp; Ewell, but across Surrey and that this was in part due to the inadequate polling facilities provided for a considerable number of Ruxley residents and that there were many cost effective solutions to providing additional polling facilities for Ruxley which had already been proven by other local councils.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered good</p> <p>Parking – off-street parking available</p> <p>School remains open polling day (separate building used for polling).</p> <p>It is recognised that the location of the current polling place is not entirely satisfactory but the turnout figures do not necessarily support the view that voters in the southern half of the Ward, notably Clarendon Park, are disadvantaged compared with the rest of Ruxley Ward.</p> <p>In 2007, a separate polling station was created at Epsom and Ewell High School for the purposes of collating statistical information on turnout from the southern half of the Ward. The turnout for Clarendon Park was 35.98% compared with 28.98% for the Ward as a whole.</p> <p>In December 2007, the Council considered the matter and resolved that the polling place in Ruxley Ward should continue to be designated as Epsom &amp;</p>

Ruxley Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
					<p>Ewell High School and that further investigation should be undertaken, with full consultation with Ward Councillors, to establish the feasibility of creating a new polling district and polling place in the southern half of the Ward. The results of this investigation were reported back to the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee in April 2008.</p> <p>These further investigations failed to identify any premises suitable for designation as a polling place in the southern half of the Ward and there would be a significant cost implication in providing temporary accommodation.</p>

West Ewell Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>E(A)</b>	Danetree School, Danetree Road, West Ewell.  <i>(One station)</i>	West Ewell Evangelical Church  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district suitable and, subject to further investigation, in the absence of any alternatives, considered the polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  No other responses received.	Danetree School has been a designated polling place for many years. In the past, the School has shut on polling day but chose to remain open on 5 May 2011. Although there were no reported problems, this is not ideal.  The School is keen that alternative premises are found and suggested premises in Lansdowne Road (belonging to the West Ewell Evangelical Church). This has been investigated and the premises are considered suitable, providing a ramp is supplied. The Council has been given special permission by the church leaders to use the Church Hall for this purpose.
<b>E(B)</b>	All Saints Church, Community Centre, Fulford Road, West Ewell.  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – limited off-street parking available on site otherwise on-street parking in residential road.  Proposed development in this District is likely to result in an increase of an estimated 28 voters (The site of the former Plough pub=16 and Richards Fields=12)

Court Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
F(A)	<p>Southfields Park Primary School, Long Grove Road, Epsom</p> <p><i>(Two stations)</i></p>	No change	<p>If County Council electoral boundary review changes accepted, this would affect Briane Road and St Ebbas Farm Cottage and it is suggested that delegated authority be given to the Returning Officer to redraw polling district boundaries as necessary.</p>	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>Councillor Colin Taylor highlighted the on-going County Council electoral boundary review which might require the adjustment of the polling district boundary between F(A) and F(B).</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered good</p> <p>Parking – off-street parking available on school premises.</p> <p>2007 was the first time this school was used as a polling place as it was considered to be in a more central location for voters in this polling district than the previous polling place (Epsom County Primary School, Pound Lane), particularly bearing mind the redevelopment which was well underway at the time on Livingstone Park (the Horton Hospital redevelopment). The number of polling stations was increased from one to two.</p> <p>School closes on election day.</p> <p>Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, it is considered that there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day.</p>

Court Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
F(B)	<p>Longmead Centre Hall, Sefton Road, Epsom</p> <p><i>(One station)</i></p>	No change	<p>If County Council electoral boundary review changes accepted, this would affect Briane Road and St Ebbas Farm Cottage and it is suggested that delegated authority be given to the Returning Officer to redraw polling district boundaries as necessary.</p>	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>Councillor Colin Taylor highlighted the on-going County Council electoral boundary review which might require the adjustment of the boundary between F(A) and F(B).</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Council-owned premises</p> <p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered good</p> <p>Parking – off-street parking available on site.</p> <p>The polling station is located in the main hall.</p> <p>In 2007 it was noted that proposed redevelopment in this Polling District was likely to result in an increase of an estimated 560 voters (the St. Ebba's redevelopment). This estimate has been revised to an estimated increase of 644. This means a potential increase in the total electorate in this District to 2472. However, taking into account postal voting trends, it is considered that the size of this Polling District is still within acceptable tolerances and there is scope to create another polling station at the polling place, if necessary. The location of the St. Ebba's redevelopment means that the polling place is reasonably accessible to new residents.</p>

Stamford Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>G(A)</b>	The Fellowship Hall West Hill Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  Residents' Association election agent also supported status quo.  No other comments received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered adequate  Parking – small public car park opposite, no on-street parking available close to venue.
<b>G(B)</b>	Church Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Rd Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  Residents' Association election agent also supported status quo.  No other comments received.	Premises considered satisfactory.  Location - see below  Disabled access – adequate  Parking – car park available on site but not immediately adjacent to building.  2007 was the first time this hall was used as a polling place. Although the building is on the edge of the Polling District boundary, it is considered overall to be a more 'central' location for voters than Stamford Green School. There are two pedestrian crossings on the main road either side of Christ Church Hall.

Stamford Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
					<p>In 2007 it was reported that proposed redevelopment in this Polling District was likely to result in an increase of an estimated 720 voters (West Park Hospital) from 2086 to 2806. This estimate has now been revised to a likely increase of an estimated 900 voters. However, taking into account postal voting trends, it is considered that the size of this polling district is still within acceptable tolerances and there is scope to create another polling station at the polling place, if necessary.</p>
<p><b>G(C)</b></p>	<p>Spalding Hall, The Wells Social Centre, Spa Drive, Epsom  <i>(One station)</i></p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo</p> <p>Residents' Association election agent also supported status quo.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Council-owned premises</p> <p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – Good during Centre opening hours (otherwise adequate)</p> <p>Parking – good – car park on site.</p>

Stoneleigh Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
H(A)	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall The Glade Stoneleigh <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  One election agent again suggested the merger of HA and HB polling districts on the grounds that would simplify the organisation at the polling station (one desk for roads beginning with "A" to "M" and the other for "N" to "Z") instead of a list of roads for each desk), making life easier for the tellers.  No other responses received.	The Council rejected merger in December 2007. Since the merger would have no affect on the number of polling places, it is still considered that this would be an administrative exercise of no direct benefit to the electorate in the Ward.
H(B)	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall The Glade Stoneleigh <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	See above.	See above.

Nonsuch Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>I(A)</b>	St Paul's Church Centre 15 Northey Ave Cheam  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No change	Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.
<b>I(B)</b>	Wallace Fields Junior School Dorling Drive Ewell  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  Councillor David Wood expressed continued concern regarding residents of Ewell Downs having to go to Dorling Drive to vote when they could possibly use NESOT instead but recognized that they are familiar with the present arrangements and the problems associated with crossing the Reigate Road.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – good  Parking – off street parking available on school premises and on-street parking available close to venue.  The Polling Place is not actually located within the Nonsuch Ward boundaries, it is immediately adjacent to the Ward and it has worked very well for many years.  This school closes on election day.  Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, it is considered that there are no

Nonsuch Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
					<p>other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day.</p> <p>NESCOT has been approached in the past but responded at the time, that, because of the intensity of use of its site, it could not make any accommodation available unless an election fell in a half term or vacation period (which is unlikely). However, a recent site visit established that there was in fact no accommodation available considered suitable for the purposes of polling. In any event, NESCOT is not an ideal site, being relatively distant from most of the area and across the busy Reigate Road.</p>

Ewell Ward	Polling Station Current	Polling Station Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>J(A)</b>	Rose Room, Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received.	Council-owned premises  Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – off-street parking available (public car park).
<b>J(B)</b>	Classroom X1, Glyn School, The Kingsway, Ewell  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – limited off-street parking available on school premises. On-street parking available close to venue.  The polling station is currently located in the sixth form block. The School remains open on polling day and other parts of the block are still used by the school.
<b>J(B1)</b>	Lintons Centre, Lintons Lane, Epsom  <i>(one station)</i>	Classroom X1, Glyn School, The Kingsway, Ewell  <i>(see above)</i>	If the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations in connection with the county review	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the current arrangements an unacceptable use of resources and the case for merger is further strengthened by the uncertainty surrounding the future availability of the Lintons Centre. The availability of an alternative suitable polling place could be a problem if this	The Polling District of J(B1) comprises approximately 325 properties on the south-east side of East Street, including Dirdene Gardens. It was created after the Ward Boundary changes made in 2002 and was intended as a temporary measure until the County Council elections in 2005 when the new County

			<p>are accepted, it will be necessary to retain and expand J(B1) because a part of JB and all of J(B1) will become part of a different County Council Division than the rest of Ewell ward and the polling district will be renamed J(C).</p>	<p>change were not made.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported Ewell Village Residents' Association's stance that they did not want residents around Dirdene Gardens to be further disenfranchised by distancing them from their polling station.</p> <p>One further submission was received from a resident of Dirdene Gardens who expressed a similar view and also citing parking as a problem. He suggested St. John's Chandler Hall or the café at Sainsbury's supermarket as possible alternatives.</p> <p>These alternatives were also muted by Councillor Humphrey Reynolds.</p> <p>An election agent suggested the renaming of J(B1) to JC.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Council Division boundaries came into force. The 2007 review retained J(B1) because the Ewell Ward Boundary did not seem to match community ties at that time with most of the residents in this area regarding themselves as part of Epsom rather than Ewell. However, it was also reported that, if an early boundary review was not forthcoming, it was the then Returning Officer's intention to propose the merger of JB and J(B1).</p> <p><u>St. John's Chandler Hall:</u> These are commercial premises and are not available for hire. The Council cannot require them to be made available. The Scout Hut behind the Hall is considered unsuitable owing to poor access and its location. An evening site visit was made. Lighting is poor, parking limited and access is down a single track with visibility on exit being poor.</p> <p><u>Supermarket</u> – This had been looked into previously in 2003 but with little success at the time. This was mainly due to limited suitable space on the ground floor that could be partitioned off from non-election customers. The store has since been expanded and there is no longer space on the ground floor. The café is located on the first floor so not very visible and access is by stairs or small lift only.</p>
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Town Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>K(A)</b>	Annexe Building Lintons Lane Centre Lintons Lane Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	St John Ambulance Hall, Hook Road, Epsom	No change	<p>The (Acting) Returning Officer recognises that the Lintons Centre is not very suitable as a polling place. However, if the decision to move back to St John's Ambulance Hall was made then availability could be an issue and, whilst adequate, the accommodation is not ideal and would not be capable of housing more than one polling station.</p> <p>Councillor Alison Kelly supported the use of the St. John's Ambulance Hall but stressed she was not familiar with the premises.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Current premises considered poor; location satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered adequate</p> <p>Parking – off-street parking on site</p> <p>There are plans to redevelop the Lintons Centre, but it is not clear if this will affect the use of the main building during the redevelopment. Situation to be kept under review.</p> <p>Since publication of the review, the availability of St. John's Ambulance Hall in principle as a polling place has been confirmed. However availability of premises maybe difficult at short notice.</p>
<b>K(B)</b>	Myers Hall Epsom Playhouse Ashley Avenue Epsom  <i>(Two stations)</i>	No change	No change	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling district and polling place appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>Councillor Neil Dallen expressed concern that Town Ward residents had to walk past a polling station on their way to Myers Hall and requested consideration being given to using The</p>	<p>Council owned premises</p> <p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – good</p> <p>Parking - Multi storey public car park adjacent to Playhouse. No on-street parking close to venue.</p>

Town Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
				<p>Church House in Church Street (currently a polling station for College Ward) for some of the Town Ward voters who live in the area around that polling station – Wimborne Close, Church Road, Church Street, Andrews Close, College Road, Grove Road, The Grove etc.</p> <p>Councillor Alison Kelly commented on parking issues and suggested the Methodist Church might be approached regarding the availability of accommodation.</p> <p>These views were echoed by one of the 2011 election candidates, also citing that he considered pedestrian access poor and again supporting the suggestion that the Methodist Church be approached.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Current practice, apart from the anomaly in relation to J(B1), is to not locate polling stations from more than one Ward in the same building. This is to avoid confusion and delays at polling stations and the Count. Councillor Dallen’s suggestion, however, would involve the creation of a new polling district which is not considered an acceptable use of resources for the number of electors involved.</p> <p>Since publication of the consultation, a site visit has been made to the Methodist Church. Although the accommodation looked suitable, the church is located on a busy main road and off-street parking would be an issue. Parking is at a premium on the site. Building works are currently on-going and it is likely that only two parking spaces could be made available. It is not clear whether this position would be likely to change once the building works had finished. On balance, The Myers Hall is therefore considered much more suitable.</p>

Town Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
K(C)	St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom  (One Station)	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered good  Disabled access – considered good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. Limited on-street parking also available.  2007 was the first time this was used as Polling Place. The location is considered more central for voters in this district than St John Ambulance Hall which was previously used.

College Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
L(A)	The Pavilion, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  No other responses received.	Council owned premises  Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered adequate  Parking – close to pavilion for staff & disabled. In main car park for other voters.
L(B)	The Wisley Room, The Church House, Church Street, Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking probably difficult close to venue.  Although the Polling Place is not actually located within the College Ward boundaries, it is immediately adjacent to the Ward and it has worked very well for many years.  As far as the Council is aware, there are no other suitable premises (halls etc) within College Ward/Polling District boundaries.

Woodcote Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
<b>M(A)</b>	Grace Baptist Church, 32 Dorking Road, Epsom (formerly known as Dorking Road Baptist Church)  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society are content with the existing polling station.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – considered adequate  Parking – limited off-street parking on site although access is difficult.
<b>M(B)</b>	St. Martins C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom  <i>(One station)</i>	No change	No change	In the absence of any alternatives, (Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.  Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.  Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society and the Society's election agent highlighted problems regarding sign posting, access and layout of the station.  No other responses received.	Premises and location considered satisfactory  Disabled access – reasonable  Parking – off-street parking available on school premises  The only available vehicular access is via Ashley Road.  It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible but it is considered that there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year, to allow schools the option of setting an INSET

Woodcote Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
					<p>day. However the school remained open on 5 May 2011.</p> <p>During the 2010 elections problems of disabled access to the school hall were experienced due to the erection of a fence around the playground. Vehicular access was from the Ashley Road entrance but voters had to park and walk across the playground to the school hall. For the 2011 elections discussions with the new Headteacher resulted in the offer of the use of a separate classroom block close to the Ashley Road entrance which had the advantage of being self-contained and close to the car park for disabled voters. In addition, the accommodation could, and was used, without the rest of the school having to close. A ramp for the slight lip into the classroom would need to be provided for future elections. Issues regarding sign posting, access and layout had independently been picked up by the elections team and will be addressed at future elections.</p> <p>Other alternatives sites considered:- W.S. Atkins in Ashley Road has been approached. The firm has confirmed that they have no suitable accommodation available. University of Creative Arts in Ashley</p>

Woodcote Ward	Polling Place Current	Polling Place Proposed	Polling District Boundaries	Responses Received	Comments
					<p>Road has no suitable accommodation and access is considered unsuitable.</p> <p>Chalk Lane Hotel has been approached: suitable accommodation is available, however, access to the premises is difficult due to narrow roads and one-way system, on-street parking and there being no pedestrian access from Woodcote estate.</p>
<p><b>M(C)</b></p>	<p>Langley Vale, Village Hall, Rosebery Road</p> <p><i>(One station)</i></p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>(Acting) Returning Officer considers the polling district and polling place appropriate.</p> <p>Standing Committee of Residents' Associations supported status quo.</p> <p>Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society and the Society's election Agent highlighted concern about accessibility for disabled people due to the slope, and it was suggested that the adjacent Church Hall or the school at Langley Vale might be a more appropriate venue.</p> <p>No other responses received.</p>	<p>Premises and location considered satisfactory</p> <p>Disabled access – considered good</p> <p>Parking – on-street parking available around venue.</p> <p>It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible. The school is also less conveniently located than the current polling station.</p> <p>A site visit has been made to the Church Hall. Although the slope to the building is less than at the Village Hall, the layout of the building is considered unsuitable as a polling place and there would be no advantage in relocating there.</p>