

**EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO
CONSULTATION STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING
DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2011**

The following representations will be taken into account in the report presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 15 November 2011.

CUDDINGTON WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS AA AND AB)

Mr. Neil Bevan, election agent, Cuddington Residents' Association Chairman and Registered Party Leader of Residents' Association of Epsom and Ewell (received 5 July 2010):

I will answer on behalf of CUDDINGTON WARD that we have no problem with the present set up and we believe that after so many years our residents know where to go to vote and we would be against any changes

With regard to RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF EPSOM AND EWELL, we had a meeting last night with 8 Chairman of the Association and everyone was in favour of keeping the status quo except a small problem with Ewell Village. Both Keith Lugton and Brian Angus will be advising you on this, but Nonsuch, College, Ewell Court, Cuddington, Auriol, Stoneleigh, Ruxley and West Ewell together with Town Ward where all in favour of keeping the same polling stations.

My best regards

RUXLEY WARD (POLLING DISTRICT D)

Mr. Stephen Pontin, election candidate (received 12 August 2010)

Thank you for notifying me of the Polling District & Polling Places Review. As a recent candidate for Ruxley Ward (D) I would like to submit the following comments:

- 1 Unlike other wards with similar numbers of electors, Ruxley Ward has only one Polling Station. This makes voting more difficult for residents who live up to 1.8 miles from the polling station located at Epsom & Ewell High School. A second polling station would enable more electors equal access to cast their vote.
- 2 The overall turnout for Ruxley Ward is low compared with other wards, not only in Epsom & Ewell, but across Surrey. This is in part due to the inadequate polling facilities provided for a considerable number of Ruxley residents.

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- 3 It is in the interest of all groups who represent residents and support candidates in elections, to engage potential voters in the democratic process. No resident should feel disinclined to vote for practical reasons. Therefore, the council has a duty to provide convenient polling facilities for all residents.

There are many cost effective solutions to providing additional polling facilities for Ruxley. These solutions have already been proven by other local councils. It is up to the council to find the best and most cost effective solutions to meet this demand, just as other councils have done.

I trust that these comments will be considered in the review.

Many thanks

COURT WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS FA AND FB)

Borough and County Councillor Colin Taylor (extract from response received 4 July 2011):

I noticed from the version I received as a borough councillor that the scope excludes changes to ward boundaries and is limited to boundaries of polling districts and locations of polling places.

So although there are two obvious changes that ought logically to be made, neither would meet the criteria for the present review.....

.....That does, however, still leave the adjustment of the boundary between Court FA and FB to be aligned with the changes proposed for the E&E SW and E&E West boundary (or rather the changes, if any, actually made by the Boundary Commission) in the area from the county boundary near Clarendon Park down through Longmead to the railway line. If the proposals are accepted this would affect St Ebbas Farm, Briane Road, Harvester Road, Gainsborough Road, a bit of one side of Hook Road and possibly (but probably not) Horton Farm and Chantilly Way. It was suggested at least partly to eliminate the nonsense of people from Hook Road going to vote in FB passing people from Tonstall Road etc going to vote in FA and passing each other in opposite directions in Briane Road.

We don't know what was decided yet, so all I can suggest is, whatever it is, do the same – otherwise the registers will be ridiculously complicated.

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STAMFORD WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS GA, GB AND GC)

Mrs. Nina Kaye, election agent (received 5 July 2010):

The polling points in our ward were Freedom Hall, Wells Centre and Christchurch Hall. These were fine from our point of view.

STONELEIGH WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS HA AND HB)

Mr. Jim Dapre, election agent (extract from response received 16 July 2010):

The previous suggested merger of HA and HB polling districts came from me. This 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), plus making life easier for the tellers - my main consideration!

NONSUCH WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS IA AND IB)

Borough (Nonsuch Ward) and County Councillor David Wood (received 30 July 2010):

I have always been concerned that the residents of Ewell Downs have to go to Dorling Drive to vote when they could possibly use NESOCOT instead. On the other hand they are familiar with the present arrangements and the majority of those who walk to the polling station do not have to cross the Reigate Road. I will be interested to hear if you have any other comments on this particular polling station.

EWELL WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS JA, JB1 AND JB)

Borough and County Councillor Colin Taylor (extract from response received 4 July 2011):

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However so that you are aware, these would be...to bring polling district JB1 back from Ewell to Town as is likely to be proposed for County purposes.....

Mr. Brian Angus, election agent and Acting Chairman of Ewell Village Residents' Association:

(Received 4 July 2010)

I think the availability of Polling Stations was fine. The inclusion in our area of the peninsular of roads so near Epsom, remains a problem that leaves many residents there feeling disconnected from the local democratic process.

(Received 21 July 2010):

We...discussed this fully last night and so this now is Ewell Village Residents' Association's formal submission which is brief but clear: We do not want residents around Dirdene Gardens to be further disenfranchised by distancing them from their polling station.

Borough Councillor Humphrey Reynolds (Ward Councillor) (received 11 August 2010):

Can I make a few comments about the proposed change of Polling Station of Lintons Lane to Glyn School.

Moving the Station from Lintons Lane to Glyn School would probably result in a further reduction in voting numbers. There are at least 2 possible sites for a Polling Station within easy reach.

Firstly, St Johns Chandlers Hall in Church Road and secondly, perhaps a part of Sainsbury's cafe in Kiln Lane could be used. If the manager were willing, the section of the cafe immediately opposite the lift would be ideal as site.

The only other reason that might improve voting numbers would be to move the JB1 area back into Town Ward, as most of the voters feel they live in Epsom not Ewell.

In view of the suggestion by Surrey County Council that the area be incorporated into Epsom & Ewell South East, it would make even more sense.

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Mr. Jim Dapre, election agent (extract from response received 16 July 2010):

...If I remember correctly, I also suggested renaming JB1 to JC for consistency. It's just a name change, isn't it? The old JC polling district became IB many years ago.

Mr. M E Thompson, local Resident (received 14 August 2010):

Dear Sur or Madam

Last Tuesday 9th August I was inadvertently given the consultation paper about alterations to the positioning of Polling Stations, while asking for the documents about residential developments at the Town Hall desk. I am glad I did because the public consultation was finishing on the 12th although commencing back in June.

Very disappointed as I have seen no notice of this anywhere (I am NOT on Internet). I discussed this while there with a member of your department, agreed that I could submit a late letter by Tuesday 16th, as I could not get to the Town Hall on Friday, nor till Tuesday.

I notice your proposal is to move the Ewell Ward station to Glyn School, despite this current site meeting your 3 main criteria, namely – convenience, parking and disabled access. Although as a rider, you did not like its ambience.

I forgot to note where the Town Ward station would move to.

I know that not a lot of people bother to vote, but if moving to Glyn School, even less would bother to try and find their way to Glyn School from our area, and parking would be out of the question, unless the school was closed for the day.

There is another way without closing the school.

A local Councillor had suggested to me about using the "John Chandler Hall" in Church Road. Yes, I agree that it would be nearer, but again users during the day (Nursery/Day Care) and evening (Brownies/Cubs) would have to have a day off.

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My suggestion, to avoid this is to use the Café at Sainsbury's Kiln Lane. The location would be in the area opposite the exit of the lift. I have had a word with the café manager, who had a quick word with a store manager, and the reply was it could go ahead.

Therefore, the current Town Ward users could also transfer to there, especially when Lintons Lane ceases to be available.

In any case, it might work out cheaper at Sainsburys, there is no caretaker to worry about, and the premises already cover the opening times of 7 – 10pm.

TOWN WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS KA, KB AND KC)

Borough Councillor Alison Kelly (extract from response received 1 July 2010):

I would like to make the following comments on the document.

Town:

Lintons lane: (difficult for people on other side of east street to find & some feel it is a long way). I like the St Johns idea but haven't seen it.

Playhouse: people resent paying in the Ashley Centre, covers a wide area. I like the Methodist Church Option.....

Mr. Andrew Hewlett, election candidate (received 13 July 2010):

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to yourself and your team for all the work you put in to the 2011 local elections. Everything went smoothly, and (even though I was not elected!) it was good to see the democratic process working so efficiently.

Secondly, I have some comments on the Playhouse polling station for Town Ward:

1. We had feedback that this was not as easy to get to as you might think for elderly people who are not used to walking or driving far, or on a tight budget.

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2. For example, those on a small income did not relish the idea of paying to park in the Ashley Centre. And even from there, the station is by no means close to those unsteady on their feet.
3. The pedestrian access is not great due to the shortage of crossings over to South Street and a daunting crossing across the Ashley Centre entrance.
4. On the other hand, I am aware that you do not have a magic wand to correct these issues or conjure up alternative venues. However, your review mentioned that Epsom Methodist Church has been used in the past. I would suggest this has the benefits of free parking right by it, and better pedestrian access. You may like to weigh this up as part of your deliberations on Town Ward.

Borough and County Councillor Colin Taylor (extract from response received 4 July 2011):

I noticed from the version I received as a borough councillor that the scope excludes changes to ward boundaries and is limited to boundaries of polling districts and locations of polling places.

So although there are two obvious changes that ought logically to be made, neither would meet the criteria for the present review.

However so that you are aware, these would be to bring the Rosebery Heights (Dalmeny Way) development in Rosebank into Town ward rather than Woodcote ward.....

....Many thanks

Borough Councillor Neil Dallen (received 6 July 2011):

The polling station at St Martins church (LB), Church Street is in Town Ward.

This means that Town Ward residents walk past this polling station on their way to Myers Hall (KB).

I would like some thought given to the possibility of using LB as a polling station for some of KB voters who live in the area around LB polling station – Wimborne Close, Church Road, Church Street, Andrews Close, College Road, Grove Road, The Grove etc.

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WOODCOTE WARD (POLLING DISTRICTS MA, MB AND MC)

Borough Councillor Alison Kelly (extract from response received 1 July 2010):

I would like to make the following comments on the document.....

....*The new roads off Rosebank - Dalmeny Way:*

Could they be moved from Woodcote to Town?

Mrs. Jenny Richardson, election agent (received 10 August 2010):

Thank you for your emails to me both as election agent and secretary of Woodcote Residents Association, advising of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places which is currently being undertaken.

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to reply but I wanted to get feedback from as many people as possible before responding.

1. Langley Vale Village Hall:

Concern has been expressed about accessibility for disabled people at the village hall at Langley Vale 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.

2. St Martin's School:

There were also some issues about the hall at St Martins Church which may be outside the scope of this review, but I thought it might be helpful if I passed them on in any case, for future reference.

It has generally been the case in recent years that the large hall at St Martin's School has been used for polling but at the May 2011 elections, a much smaller hall was used instead. Apparently the change had been made at quite short notice at the request of the school's head, in order that the school should remain open as usual.

There were no obvious signs indicating where polling was taking place (these wouldn't have been necessary if the usual hall had been used, but it was very apparent that many people were confused when they arrived) and, although a

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'route' to the polling station had been marked out with tape 'barriers', it wasn't particularly straightforward or obvious and people were walking round it, under it and, in a few cases, trying to get over it!

The hall that was used for polling was accessed through an entrance hall and another room. There was a step from the hall to the first room and, despite council staff having put up notices, a lot of people stumbled on the step, either on the way in or out. I asked for more signs to be put up as I was concerned about a possible accident and this was done very readily by council staff on duty. Unfortunately though, signs could not be positioned to be really effective so we had to resort to asking tellers to warn people to mind the step. This of course was fine on the way in, but not as people came out (many didn't use the designated exit) and there were some trips!

The room where voting took place was actually quite small and the overall impression was that it was cramped. The polling booths were at one side of the room adjacent to the exit, which meant that anyone using the exit had to walk quite close to where people were casting their votes. In addition, people inevitably stopped to chat within the hall which again, because the hall was small, meant that they were quite close to the polling booths, which again, wasn't ideal and although it probably didn't compromise confidentiality, I could imagine that some people would not have felt sufficiently 'private' whilst putting their cross in the box!

3. Dorking Road Baptist Church:

No problems were raised about the polling station at the Baptist church in Dorking Road which was the other polling station in our ward.

I hope the above is helpful. Whilst emailing may I express, once again, our thanks to all the Town Hall staff during the weeks leading up to the election, on election day and at the count, for everything they did and for the support they gave.

Kind regards

---END OF SUBMISSIONS---