

Watford Borough Polling District and Polling Station Review 2019

Callowland Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations EA – Parkgate Youth and Community Centre
 EB – Grace Baptist Church Hall
 EC – Christchurch Hall
 ED – Parkgate Youth and Community Centre

No responses received

Central Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations HB – Watford Christian Spiritualist Church
 HC – Central Primary School
 HD – Holy Rood Premises
 HE – The Wellspring Church Centre

No responses received

Holywell Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations KA – Chessbrook Education Support Centre
 KB – Holywell Primary School
 KC – Chessbrook Education Support Centre

Responses received as follows -

Date of response	From	Polling district / station	Details of response	Officer's comments
15 August 2019	Councillor Nigel Bell	KB/KC - Chessbrook Education Support Centre	"There are 2-main Polling stations for Holywell Ward for ALL elections at Chessbrook Education support centre with 4126 and Holywell school with 2354.	<i>Officers acknowledged Councillor Bell's comments about the location of the polling station. The Electoral Services Manager</i>

Date of response	From	Polling district / station	Details of response	Officer's comments
13 August 2019	Head Teacher Cherry Tree School	DC - Cherry Tree School	<p>“Our school, Cherry Tree has been a polling station for many, many years. I am writing to ask you, as part of your polling station review, to seriously consider moving the polling station to another venue, the new Everret Rover's Club House on the adjacent playing fields. I have set out the reasons for this below.</p> <p>Previously, before our school expanded to two forms of entry, we were able to section off the hall and enable members of the public to enter the school site, vote and leave without coming into contact with any children.</p> <p>However, we are now two forms of entry, and it is proving more and more difficult to arrange things to keep children separated from the public when they come to vote. We feel that our normally tight security systems are compromised on this day. We have a comprehensive risk assessment in place for polling days and the subsequent actions impact significantly on the pupils and staff. One of the main issues is that we have to remove two classes of children from their classrooms for the day to use these for voting, as we need to use the hall. Parents and staff are both nervous about having people coming onto our school site during the day, particularly with the current terrorist concerns. A member of staff is deployed all day to 'patrol' the voters. I have received a number of letters</p>	<p>Officers acknowledge the Head Teacher's comments, however they do have some concerns about the suggested alternative venue.</p> <p>Officers' comments about the potential change are shown in Appendix 2</p>

			<p>from parents expressing their concerns about the school being used as a polling station.</p> <p>The governors have agreed that we must keep the school open as we feel that it is an excellent way of educating the children about our democratic rights. The children should not miss out on a days education just because we have a right to vote; this gives the message to the community that the children's education is not important. In addition there are many other ways it would impact negatively on the school e.g. we would have to rearrange our calendar dates to arrange for this day to be an INSET day and we are one of three schools in a Multi Academy Trust so this is not easy, it would inconvenience working parents, and our attendance figures would be hit as some families would not send their child/ren into school on the Friday either.</p> <p>Please consider moving the polling station from Cherry Tree School to the new Everret Rover's Club House which has recently been built on the playing fields next to the school. This venue is very close to the school, would have somewhere for voters to park throughout the day and would not impact on the school in any way.”</p>	
Date of response	From	Polling district / station	Details of response	Officer's comments
19 August 2019	Executive Head Teacher Orchard School	DA/DD - Orchard Primary School	“The school understands the need for polling stations and how they play a part in the	Officers acknowledge the Executive Head Teacher's comments.

			<p>democratic system of this country. We also teach the children about this.</p> <p>The issue the school has is because of the nature of the school building layout and design we have to close the school to children on polling days and are not able to keep the school open for parents and pupils. This is to comply with safeguarding issues etc.</p> <p>There is St Marks church next to the school and could this be an alternative site for the polling station needed in the area? They have car parking and disabled access into the building. This would allow the school to stay open to pupils and parents and for pupils not to lose an education day.”</p>	<p>Officers’ comments about the suggested alternative venue are shown in Appendix 2.</p>
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Meriden Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations CA – Coates Way JMI and Nursery School
 CB – Garston Community Church
 CC – Meriden Community Centre

No responses received

Nascot Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations GA – Holy Rood Catholic Primary School
 GB – St Andrews Church
 GC – Holy Rood Catholic Primary School

No responses received

Oxhey Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations LA – Eastbury Court

LB – Bushey and Oxhey Infants School *

No written responses received

*Previous contact from Bushey and Oxhey Infants School with regard to desire for the polling place to be relocated, was followed up with notification at start and reminders towards the end of the 2019 Polling District/Polling Place Review consultation period. However, the Electoral Services Manager was reassured via telephone that continuation with the current designated location at Bushey and Oxhey Infants School for polling district LB was acceptable to continue for the foreseeable future.

Park Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations IA – St Lukes Church

IB – The Clarendon Muse – School of Music

IC – The Clarendon Muse – School of Music

ID – The Clarendon Muse – School of Music

No responses received

Stanborough Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations BA – Leavesden Green Community Centre

BB – Former Kingswood Baptist Church

BC – Stanborough Park Community Centre

BD – Stanborough Park Community Centre

No responses received

Tudor Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations FA – Parkgate Youth and Community Centre
FB – Knutsford Primary Academy
FC – Glen Rovers Hurling and Football Club *
FD – Glen Rovers Hurling and Football Club *
FE – Parkgate Youth and Community Centre

No responses received

*Further information about this venue is included in the report.

Vicarage Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations JA – Multi-Cultural Community Centre
JB – West Watford Community Centre
JC – St James Road Baptist Church (Hall)

No responses received

Woodside Ward

Polling Districts and Polling Stations AA – Woodside Church of the Nazarene
AB – The Crèche, Woodside Leisure Centre
AC – Orbital Community Centre
AD – Orbital Community Centre

No responses received
