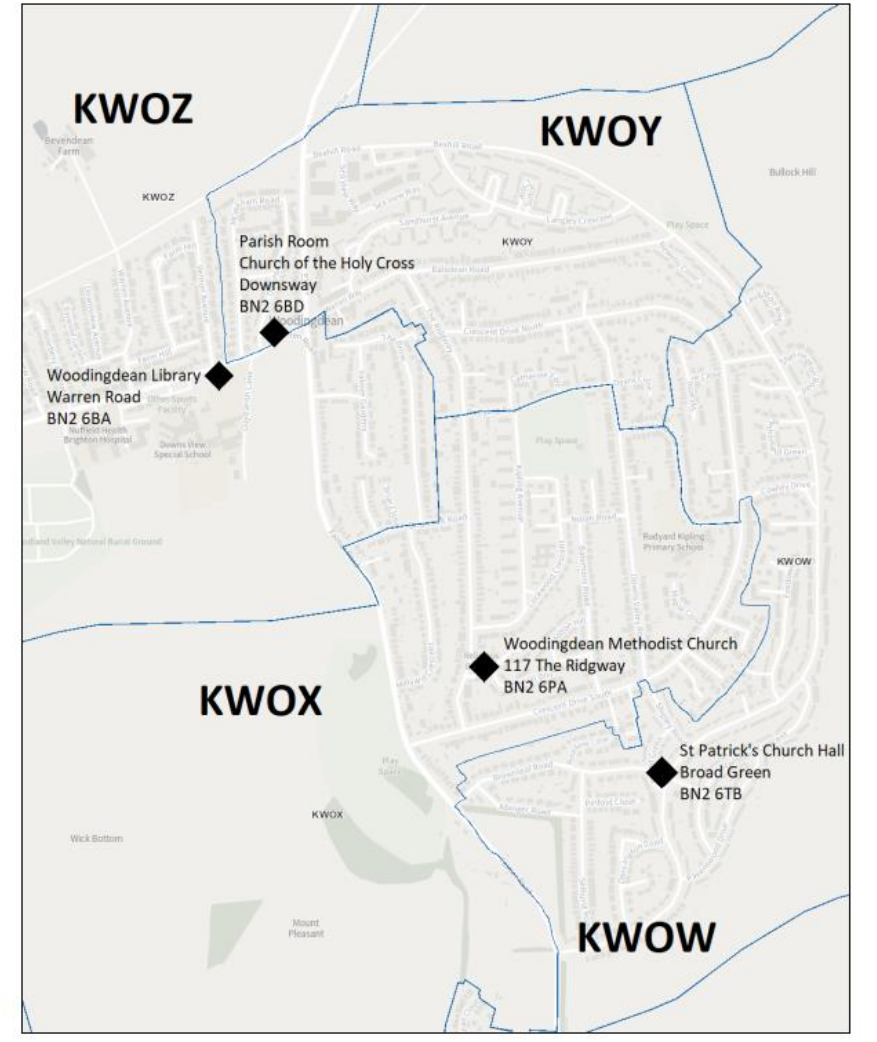


Appendix 2:

Responses to the Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
1	Agree with the proposals for the Bevendean area	Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	No reply necessary
2	good	All	No reply necessary
3	I approve the proposals for the Bevendean area.	Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	No reply necessary
4	<p>I would like to officially respond to this consultation in relation to polling districts in Woodingdean ward.</p> <p>The allocation of polling stations is incoherent and confusing for many voters. Many went to the wrong place and had to make a secondary trip to the correct polling place on election day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall, the Library is fine as a polling station for KWOZ. 2. The Holy Cross Church polling station has some issues. Residents of Downsway found it especially confusing that they could not vote at the polling station which is on their street. 3. St Patricks serves KWOW well generally, however Brownleaf Road, Abinger Road, Donnington Road, Selhurst Road and the closes that abut them would sit more coherently in this polling district. 4. KWOX works well as a central polling district, but could be enhanced by including all closes that join Crescent Drive South being included. <p>More broadly, the distribution of electors is unequal, with the</p>	Woodingdean	<p>The Returning Officer welcomes this constructive feedback and has devised the following redesign of polling districts in Woodingdean:</p>

two polling districts in the south of the ward having hundreds more voters than the two polling districts in the north. An equal distribution between the four would be welcomed.

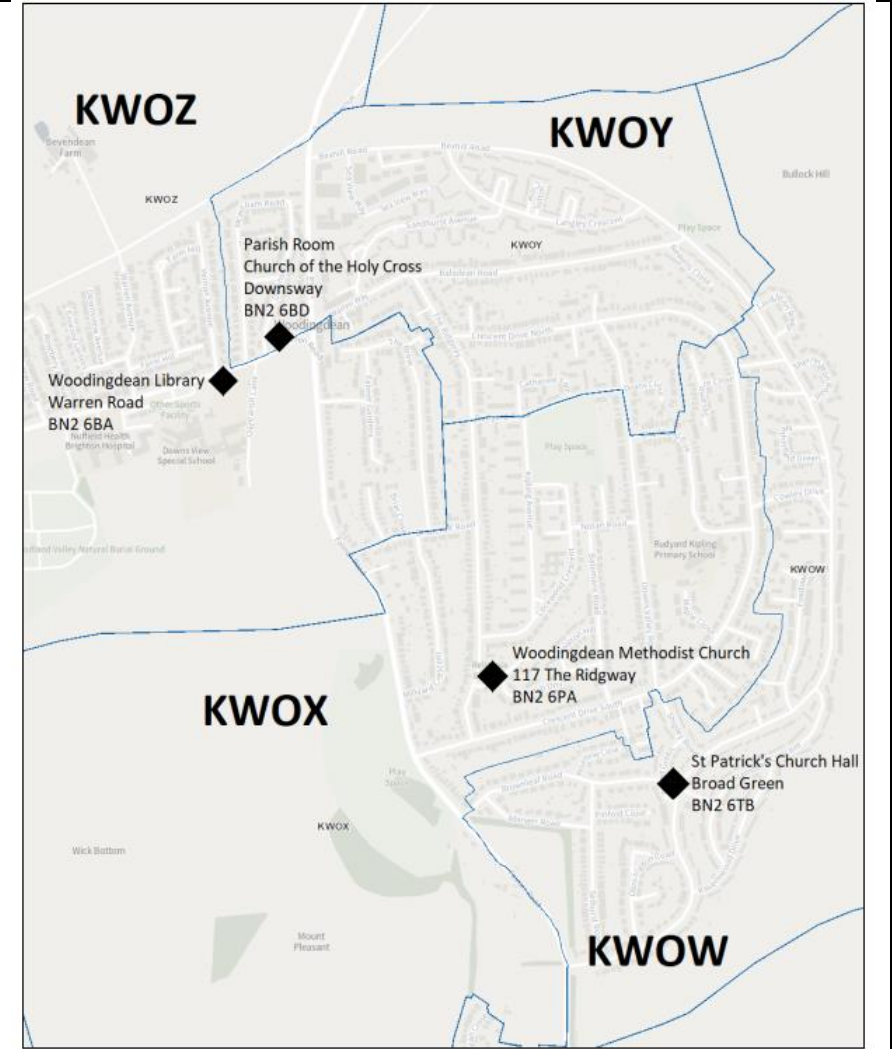


Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
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In terms of the unequal distribution of electors between the four polling districts – uneven electorate numbers is common across the city. We have to think about distances to venues and attempts to equalise them will lead to a more incoherent scheme. We try to

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
			keep within ranges that are good for administration. Both our original proposal and those above keep within our usual ranges.
5	no issues - keep as is	All	No reply necessary
6	<p>Also, just a heads up that all parents/carers are receiving a survey via Ping about the proposed closure of the school as a polling station for the next elections.</p> <p>Please fill out the survey if you would like to object to the children missing another day of school, and parents being un</p> <p>You are choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. My child have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents like me cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis</p> <p>Of course you can put what you like, you may be for, against or have no opinion. But if you do share the above opinion please make your voice heard, it only takes one minute!</p> <p>Thanks! 🙏 x</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	<p>The Returning Officer notes the campaign led by Elm Grove Primary School to reject the use of the school as a polling place. Across the responses several alternative sites are suggested - these are not suitable for a range of reasons including: being unavailable, converted into flats, already at the maximum capacity of electors or in an unsuitable and inaccessible location.</p> <p>The Returning Officer has significantly limited the use of schools as polling places in recent years with schools only used when a suitable alternative in unavailable. Due to the scale of responses - an alternative space in Wellington House will be used. This will require Families, Children & Learning staff to be relocated for several days. Wellington House has a significant slope into the access that is being used. However, due to the opposition to the use of Elm Grove Primary School – this issue must be overlooked.</p> <p>The Returning Officer would like to reiterate that electoral legislation is explicit about schools being available for use as polling places free of charge and that at an unscheduled election - schools will have to be used at short notice if other venues are not available. The Council must also be mindful that at national elections Returning Officer expenses are retrospectively reimbursed by the Election Claims Unit of DLUHC. Returning Officers must seek best value and a failure to use available public buildings, such as schools, that are already funded from the Consolidated Fund. may result in the Council having to cover costs incurred by using alternative venues.</p>
7	After all of the teacher strikes and lost education, I couldn't believe it when I heard that the council would propose declining hundreds of children and therefore hours of education for a day in order to use Elm Grove school as a polling station. Parents will all have to fund or find alternative childcare for the day	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	<p>putting additional strain and stress on already tight finances and work pressures for covering covid and strike days. Already pressured teachers will also feel added strain to lose another day to achieve their educational goals and targets. Please can you find an alternative site to avoid the impact to so many families in the local area, your voters!</p>		
8	<p>As a parent of children at Elm Grove School I am firmly against the school being used as a polling station. The school would be closed to pupils on polling day which would result in further disruption to the children's education as well as loss of pay for parents such as ourselves who cannot work from home and would have to take time off work.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
9	<p>At the current time while schools are so important to supporting children to be in school and learning, no school should be forced to close to allow polling.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
10	<p>Careful consideration should be given to which council building are used as polling stations. Schools are not appropriate for safeguarding reasons - use of school sites as polling stations also impact on pupil learning and could result in school closures. This would have a significant negative impact for pupils and parent and carers work commitments.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
11	<p>Choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School will effectively force it to close to its pupils on polling day. These children have already lost too many days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents will yet again be forced to take the day off to look after their children when they should be at work.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	<p>For many families, this will be unpaid leave, which is not only inconvenient but also unaffordable.</p> <p>Please find an alternative site that is not the school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>		
12	<p>Closing elm grove school to over 400 pupils and potentially forcing parents to take time off work, possibly unpaid cannot be justified in order to provide step free access to a limited number of voters. Policy states step free where feasible and thus is not feasible. The hall could be used and the rest of the school open for pupils. The council need to make other arrangements for voters unable to manage steps.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
13	<p>Could you please find other venue than school ? Don't you think kids lose enough days from school during Covid and strike teachers last year. Children don't need unnecessary additional days off from school. Parents need also to arrange childcare etc .. surely they are other options to consider.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
14	<p>Dear B&H,</p> <p>We as a family are very surprised about this proposal You are choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost many days of learning through covid and teacher strikes. Plus also not all parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education in this</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	<p>way and also adds stress and financial pressures to parents which is absolute avoidable and unnecessary.</p> <p>Many thanks</p>		
15	<p>Despite your principles listed above, you are proposing to use Elm Grove Primary School as a polling station. Our children have missed an extortionate amount of school already with the pandemic and the teachers strikes. I think it is outrageous that you are now proposing to continue to affect our children's education by implementing yet more forced days off of school. There are plenty of other buildings in the surrounding area that could be used instead of the school. For example; St Joseph's Church on Elm Grove</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
16	<p>Don't use elm grove school as I can't afford to take the day off to look after my son.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
17	<p>Don't hold them in schools when this results in the school having to close and children miss out on education</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
18	<p>Elm Grive primary school in Brughton is being considered. Usually it is done in the main hall so lessons cam continue, however due to accessibility issues the proposal is for more of the school which mean chdren will be missing school. With the closures during covid the children have missed a substantial amount of school time and are still catching up. To miss more school is unfair on the children and would urge the council to use more appropriate venues so that the school children can continue learning and developing by not missing more days off school.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
19	<p>Elm grove primary school is a proposed site a for polling station. Our children have lost numerous days of education and disruption due to covid, strikes and the proposal to have to use this school which would result in further closure is not acceptable.</p> <p>We as parents are carers are not only forced to take unpaid leave to look after our children but the disruption to their routine and education is not acceptable.</p> <p>Please find an alternative site.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
20	<p>Elm Grove School Hall is a functioning part of the school within the school. Using this space will interrupt their education and quite frankly I feel the safeguarding of the children is not being taken into consideration by the council. It causes problematic pick up and drop offs as children have to go different ways to their normal day. I feel there are ample halls church halls and community centres in the area that should allow the schools to be unused and for Elm Grove to continue the childrens education in a safe environment.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
21	<p>Elm grove school should not be used, this is a safeguarding risk to students as although the inner doors can be locked the main gates are still open allowing anyone to venture the grounds. I also feel that students miss out on their after school activities that have to cancel due to the hall being used.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
22	<p>Hello, just a heads up that all parents/carers are receiving a survey via Ping about the proposed closure of the school as a polling station for the next elections.</p> <p>Please do not put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	<p>strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>		
23	<p>How on Earth can this even be considered closing elm grove school to allow voting. Kids have missed enough school with strikes and covid. There are enough halls and huge areas to open use for polling stations. Brighton Center Hanover community Center Phoenix Center Etc</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
24	<p>I agree that schools should not be used especially if it causes them to close, leading to lost learning time.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
25	<p>I am strongly against the proposed changes to the polling station at Elm grove primary school meaning the school would have to close to children. Our children have missed enough school due to covid, and parents having to find childcare which can be costly either paying for childcare or missing work and not being paid during the cost of living crisis.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
26	<p>I am very much AGAINST using Elm Grove school as a polling station. It is unfair and unjust to displace over 400 pupils to use the school as a polling station. Not only will it affect their education but it will cause parents to have to take time off work, potentially unpaid. It's absolutely absurd to do this rather than just use a church hall or something. Find somewhere else please.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
27	I am very unhappy to hear that Elm Grove primary school in Brighton may ne used as polling Station and that the school may have to close on these dates. The children have misses huge amounts of their learning due to covid and strikes. More time away from their education is totally unacceptable. It also puts a huge pressure on parents who need to work, especially during this cost of living crisis.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
28	I disagree with using schools as polling stations if it means the school has to close for the day. The children have had so much disruption and as a working single parent it is so hard to take time off work to cover all the closures from strikes etc	Hanover & Elm Grove	
29	I do not agree that Elm Grove school should be forced to close for polling day. This is totally unacceptable. The children at Elm Grove school have already lost countless days through Covid and teachers strikes. This will result in further lost learning which cannot be re-couped and working parents having to take time off. As a single self employed parent this results in significant loss of income for me which of course also impacts my child. Please find locations other than primary schools to hold the elections.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
30	I do not agree to the council using Elm Grove primary school as a polling station. This is extremely disruptive to children's learning and for working parents trying to find (and likely have to pay) for childcare. It is not fair to children or families. Alternative sites, not schools, should be used for polling stations and schools should not close.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
31	I do not agree with Elm grove primary school being used as a polling station. My understanding is that because of the need for disabled access, the whole school would need to be closed	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	<p>for the duration. This will further disrupt the education of a cohort whose education has already been severely impacted by the pandemic, with very little in the way of catch-up help or funding. Furthermore there are other venues that could be used, making this proposed disruption unnecessary. I don't know whose idea it was to suggest EGPS as a polling station, however it is clearly unsuitable given the disruption to education it will cause.</p>		
32	<p>I do not agree with Elm Grove Primary School being used unless it is the main hall only and the school day can continue on the polling day. I do not agree with other areas of the school being used as this means the school will be closed and children will lose more school days especially after Covid closures</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
33	<p>I do not agree with the use of a school that would have to be entirely closed for the use as a polling station. Specifically Elm Grove Primary School, as that is where my child attends but any school that would have to close for a whole day. I feel that is not an appropriate suggestion or choice.</p> <p>Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis. School is a safe haven for lots of children where they are heard, nurtured and in some cases the only time they are ensured a nutritious hot meal. Taking that away from vulnerable children in</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	particular, even for a day, is really not acceptable in any way shape or form.		
34	I do not agree with the use of Elm Grove Primary School as a polling station. This either causes loss of learning for pupils and puts those already struggling in a difficult situation or it allows anyone to be in the school which is a safeguarding risk. There are plenty of other sites in and around the school such as Wagner Hall on Lewes Road, St Joseph's Hall, Brighton General Hospital or the Hanover Centre.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
35	I do not feel my child should loose out on another day of school, she is at Elm Grove school which have had closures for reasons including strikes in this last year. The building around the corner (Wellington house) was used in the last election and is far less disruptive as most of the staff from the offices can work from home. I work in the day centre end of that building and we were not disrupted. Many thanks.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
36	<p>I do not see the justification in using Elm Grove Primary School as the polling place for district PHEY. It is not easily accessible and will require either a partial or full closure of the school which will impact learning, and send the wrong message to parents and children that school is optional. This is not in alignment with the national focus on school attendance.</p> <p>I do not see why the current building in Milton Road which has been used successfully for many years does not continue in use, or alternative buildings such as Wellington House, or the dance studio on Whippingham Road are not used. These are all more accessible and will have no impact on children's education.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
37	<p>I do not support Elm Grove Primary school being used as a polling station. This will force the school to close to its pupils. This I do not support one but based on the large amount of days missed for our children already due to covid and strikes. We as parents are struggling and another day off work at such tight times is just not achievable. I for one - cannot afford to take another day off work. There must be other building across the city suitable to use as a polling station - treat her than to close the school! Not to mention the stress on the parents and caters to facilitate such a decision. Many thanks, Cat Gotts</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
38	<p>I do not understand why schools are required for polling stations when there are numerous churches, town halls as well as the Brighton Centre that could be put to better use. Closing schools when children are already catching up due to school closures in Lockdown is absolutely not necessary.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
39	<p>I don't agree with choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School (or any other schools) if it will force it to close on polling day.</p> <p>Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take time off work, which will be unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school.</p> <p>Please find an alternative site that does not require closing schools.</p> <p>Maybe in a pub???</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
40	<p>I don't like the sound of using Elm grove primary school as a polling station as we have been advised that it will now mean the school has to close on polling days. They have had enough time off school already with Covid and teacher strikes. While it was only in the hall and they could keep it open it was fine however if the changes mean the whole school has to close on polling days I think an alternative venue should be looked for. It is difficult for working families to have to cover school closures.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
41	<p>I don't understand why the council are forcing Elm Grove school to close on polling days. I am totally against this decision. It will have many negative effects and there must be other alternatives such as installing temporary ramps for disabled access??</p> <p>Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
42	<p>I don't want my child school to be closed on top of teacher strikes as we I am self employed and will lose money. The council cannot cause a primary school to close</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
43	<p>I don't think it's acceptable to close elm grove school to make it a pooling station. So the children miss out on learning and a day at school and also forcing parents to to take time of work to look after them as they can't go to school!</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
44	I don't want my child to miss her education and also I have to work.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
45	I feel the children have missed enough education throughout covid, and teacher strikes. If your going to go ahead with this proposal don't then have the audacity to charge parents for taking kids on holiday! Most parents can't afford to take holidays in the half terms, but it's ok to miss school when it suits teachers or the government?	Hanover & Elm Grove	
46	I oppose to having elm grove a school closed for another day in order to be used as a polling station. Children have already lost so much learning due to strikes etc, that this would be unfair to lose another day.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
47	I strongly disagree with the proposal to use elm grove school as a polling station, unless this can be done without disrupting the children's school day. Our children have undergone significant disruption to their schooling, and it has been difficult for parents to factor the additional childcare burden as well. In the past the school has been used as a polling station without closing the school.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
48	I strongly object to you choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.		
49	<p>I strongly oppose Elm Grove school being used as a polling station. The children at this school have had their schooling severely impacted by recent school closures due to teacher strikes and for many covid closures.</p> <p>I think it is irresponsible to use a school for this purpose forcing children to miss vital education hours and unfair to expect parents to further provide additional childcare when their own careers have already been compromised from previous strikes. I believe that the area has many suitable alternatives that do not target a child's access to education.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
50	I strongly request Elm Grove Primary school in Hanover is not used as a polling station! The current student population has already lost a lot of school time due to Covid and teacher strikes and as a family with two working parents we struggle with covering childcare as it is.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
51	I support the use of elm grove school as a polling place, as long as a ramp can be provided for disabled access. Without this the school will need to close -which seems unreasonable.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
52	I think after the loss of learning through Covid, and via the teachers strikes, on top of the financial strain both the strikes and Covid has caused all families it seems totally unacceptable and unnecessary to hold any polling stations at schools. Why you cannot use the many empty churches, council buildings that haven't fully reopened since Covid, the Brighton centre and even universities where they have a much larger area that can be used, as well as town / church halls, and even the	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	shopping mall where Debenhams sat which lies empty are just a few places that could be used without cost or disruption to our children's learning and the families financial loss. Utter disgrace from the council yet again!		
53	I think closing the school is not the right approach especially when my son is in year 4 and from the beginning of the reception year, his learning has been disrupted by Covid for two years and he and his years are still recovering and are still behind with their learning. I believe closing the school for polling station is not enough to disturb kids learning and especially in this economy when people work because the life is so hard. Taking a day off or without pay or paying someone else for a day can affect families more than anyone can think about it.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
54	I think where possible, after so much time out of school/work, Elm Grove should not be used as a polling station and Hanover community centre be used instead. If not already! I cannot take more time off to have my son if the school has to close	Hanover & Elm Grove	
55	I would like to question your choice of Elm Grove primary school as polling station. Our children lost so many days of learning either due to covid or school strikes. Now we will be facing more days at home. When are our children or us the parents are taken into consideration? For some of us leave from work is unpaid and others have no family around to offer childcare. Is there any other building that can be used as a polling station in the area? Seems the easy solution to just lose more school for anyone not affected by this but it is incredibly unfair for pupils and parents of the school to deal with more school closures.	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
56	I would prefer that Elm Grove School isn't a polling station, it seems unnecessary to close a school for the day when there are less disruptive alternatives that won't negatively affect both pupils and parents.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
57	I'd like to strongly contest the proposal of using Elm Grove school as a polling station as it would require the school to close on those days. The children have already missed so much, so I think it would very sad to see them miss even more due to the school being used for voting.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
58	It's true to say the children have missed enough school with covid. I feel their presence in school as much as possible is essential	Hanover & Elm Grove	
59	It's really important for access to polling stations be ensured for all residents. However, if the use of a school means the school must close, I think this option should be the very last resort of even disregarded entirely to avoid further disruption to learning for children.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
60	My child attends elm grove which is proposed to be a polling station. I am not happy for the school to be closed to accommodate this. My child has missed enough school thanks to COVID's and teachers strikes and I cannot arrange ad hoc childcare. I think you need to find an alternative venue.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
61	My child goes to Elm Grove and I will be really unhappy if the school is closed. Whilst I appreciate how important it is to vote, I don't want him to miss more school after the strikes. It's not ok. Use the Hanover Centre or somewhere that's not a school. At Martins Church??	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
62	<p>My daughter attends Elm Grove Primary School. I strongly object to the use of the school for a polling station insofar as it means that the school will have to close for the day to accommodate this. I have been informed by the school that it is not possible to shut the main hall off from the rest of the school - and that because of safeguarding concerns the school must close. Surely it must be possible for the council, or the school, to supply staff who can monitor the entrances/exits. Has this been investigated? If it's not possible to do this, an alternative site should be found. There is a large church at the bottom of Elm Grove. Children's education should not be compromised.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
63	<p>My understanding is that Elm Grove school is to be proposed as a polling station. In the past the main hall was used as this wouldn't impact the rest of the school, however this is no longer possible due to disabled access. This means that the school would have to close certain areas during any elections, which would then impact the children's learning as well as the parents and carers. As a parent who's child attends Elm Grove I do not think this is acceptable, especially after the number of strike days that also impacted the children's learning and lead to parents like myself having to rearrange work and take leave in order to cater for the disruptions. I appreciate these 2 things are not linked but the end result is the same... the children and their adults are the ones who have to organise themselves around the disruption. Please find an alternate polling station.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
64	<p>No I do not agree The children have lost enough valuable schooling with strikes etc this should not be done in their time</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
65	<p>Please can Elm Grove ward use St. Joseph's church hall (Milton Road) for a polling station instead of Elm Grove school. If the school is used then the school has to close and this means the parents have to find alternative childcare or take the day off work, which comes at extra financial cost. If the church hall above is used this means the school does not have to close and parents can work as usual.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
66	<p>Please can you avoid using Elmgrove Primary School. The children have been impacted by teacher strikes, and obviously time off due to Covid further back. They need to be in school Learning I am concerned about them falling behind.</p> <p>In addition closing the school puts pressure on parents to find care for their children or take some off from work. It's very hard to manage. Please avoid using the school. Hanover Community Centre is near by and St Martins Church which could accommodate this.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
67	<p>Please could the Elm Grove polling station not cause the closure of the school.</p> <p>The effect is huge for all of the families involved. Please consider Hanover Centre or a local church as a venue instead.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
68	<p>Please do not necessitate closing Elm Grove primary school due to access requirements compromising the safeguarding of children. If the main hall is not wheelchair accessible, please consider funding adjustments so the hall can be accessed without needing to close the school. Your requirements above state you want to avoid schools where possible, and the idea of closing a school on polling days is really dreadful.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
69	Please do not use Elm Grove Primary School for a polling station. This will result in the school having to close for the duration and will result in hundreds of families incurring additional childcare costs. For a family with two children this could be £100 per day. This is deeply unfair when other venues could be used without this financial burden being passed onto families.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
70	Please do not use Elm Grove School - closure for pupils has a great effect - both the education of the pupils and loss of earnings for hard working parents. Since Covid. teachers strikes and the cost of living crisis it is vitally important no more destruction and unnecessary school closures when other empty community & leisure centres and church halls can be used in place.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
71	Please do not use Elm Grove School for a polling station if this results in school closure. Our kids have missed enough days of school with the strikes and it is unfair for them to give up more days because BHCC can't find a suitable location. It also puts pressure on the parents to provide childcare on these days and I personally would need to take unpaid leave to cover this. It doesn't feel right. Please do not use our school as a polling station.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
72	Please don't use elm grove primary school (or any other school) - it sends a terrible message about the importance of education. The pandemic has created a legacy where it's become acceptable to view school as optional and this would feed that view.	Hanover & Elm Grove	

Ref	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
	There is an unused church half way up Bentham road that could be an alternative.		
73	Please don't use Elm Grove Primary school as a venue	Hanover & Elm Grove	
74	Please don't use Elm Grove Primary. Our children have experienced enough disruption	Hanover & Elm Grove	
75	Please find an alternative polling station for Elm Grove School. I do not want any further disruption to our children's education.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
76	Please find an alternative to Elm Grove Primary School as I have no child care and my children will miss out on their education.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
77	Please find other places to have the polling station other than Elm Grove school if this means it will need to be closed resulting in loss of learning. There are plenty of other places that can be used in this area.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
78	Please reconsider the use of our school, Elm Grove Primary School as a polling station. Since Covid, and all the teacher strikes our children have already missed so much school. Parents cannot afford to take any more time off work. There are alternative spaces in the area, please please consider these instead of causing even more disruption to hundreds of families in the area.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
79	Previously Elm Grove school hall has been used as a polling station. However, we have heard from the school that now, due to various restrictions, areas of the school will need to be used also which mean that the school will need to be closed due to safe-guarding restrictions. Given the amount of time already	Hanover & Elm Grove	

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	lost to COVID restrictions, I don't agree with this. We also regularly receive information on how important it is that children attend school - so why are you now proposing to close the school for a day?...		
80	Schools should not be used. Children should not miss any more of their education due to politics.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
81	<p>Suggesting that schools, namely Elm Grove Primary school be used as a polling station in the future election makes a mockery of the stresses that families, children and teaching staff have suffered over the last 3 years.</p> <p>To suggest yet another day of school closure after a year of unprecedented strike action is narrow minded and cruel.</p> <p>Children thrive on consistency and for parents who would have to take yet another day off it is pushing them ever closer to breaking point.</p> <p>There are accessible churches, church halls and community centres from the General hospital all the way to Lewes road so there should be no need to use the school again. We live opposite the school and our polling station was up by the race course. Proof that there are many other places that can and should be used instead of schools.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
82	<p>The Elm Grove and Hannover district must not vote at Elm Grove School, as I understand that this will result in the closing of the school on polling days.</p> <p>This is simply unacceptable. It will result in significant disruption to my 2 children's schooling, in addition to my wife and my working days due to the need to provide Childcare. Across the ward, this will inevitably fall disproportionately on the female population. Ultimately this will also come at</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

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	<p>considerable cost to families which is not acceptable during a cost of living crisis.</p> <p>There are many other facilities capable of being used as polling locations in the Ward. Including Fairlight School which can be used as polling station without the need for the school to close.</p>		
83	<p>The proposal would result in school closures during elections, lost learning and inconvenience for parents/carers</p> <p>You are choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
84	<p>The proposed use of Elm Grove Primary school as a polling station does not comply with the stated principle of avoiding use of schools wherever possible. If essential to use the school, the school hall could be made completely accessible through use of a ramp from the car park area down the few steps directly into the hall. Closing the school for a whole day disrupts the education of hundreds of children, including deprived children, and the working lives of their parents, for the sake of ensuring full accessibility for a small handful of electors who do have the option of a postal vote. There is, by contrast, no alternative school option for the school community. If necessary I would suggest the principle of full accessibility</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

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	should be compromised before the principle of avoiding use of schools.		
85	The use of Elm Grove school will be disruptive to children's education due to the need to close the school as they are unable to provide suitable access to a large enough space without disrupting class rooms. A suggested alternative would be st Wilfrids Church.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
86	This proposal involves closing Elm Grove Primary School (Brighton) on polling days. At the moment the school accommodates a polling station using the main hall, allowing the school to safely stay open. Under this proposal different areas of the school will need to be used (to facilitate disabled access) and therefore the school must close. The idea that the school must close for various days in the voting calendar is an outrage. Schools, staff and pupils have lost SO much time in the last three years due to the pandemic, as well as the recent flurry of teacher strikes, to now also have to close for polling station responsibilities is absolutely a step too far. Source venues such as community centres, churches, pubs, libraries before coming for the schools. I absolutely oppose this idea.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
87	Would not support the closure of schools to enable polling stations	Hanover & Elm Grove	
88	You are choosing to put a polling station at elm grove primary school. This will require the school to be closed to its pupils, which is unacceptable and negligent to their needs as students.	Hanover & Elm Grove	
89	You are choosing to put a polling station in elm grove primary school forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have	Hanover & Elm Grove	

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	<p>already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>		
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99	You are choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost copious days of learning through covid and teacher	Hanover & Elm Grove	

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107	<p>You are choosing to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. Our children have already lost so many days of learning through covid and teacher strikes, and parents cannot afford to take the day off, for many unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	
108	<p>You have chosen to put a polling station in Elm Grove Primary School forcing it to close on polling day. This contradicts, in your own words, your intention to "limit the use of schools". Our children have recently lost many days of learning through covid and teacher strikes. Many parents cannot afford to take the day off, for some unpaid, to look after their children who cannot be in school. Please find an alternative site that is not our school. It's unacceptable to compromise our children's education even further and add to stress and financial pressures to parents during the cost of living crisis.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	

