

## Review of polling districts and polling places

### Summary of responses received during consultation period (4 October – 13 December)

#### **AU – Rottingdean Coastal Ward**

Four respondents are in favour of using Saltdean Library instead of Saltdean Primary School.

But seven respondents, including the three ward councillors are have raised concerns about the proposed redevelopment of the Saltdean Lido complex.

Five respondents have suggested that St Nicholas Church Hall be used as the polling place for AU as well as AT polling district.

One respondent was unsure, but suggested that the Library may not be big enough to accommodate a polling place.

One respondent suggested the Community Centre at Saltdean Tavern could be used.

#### **EY – Queens Park Ward**

Three respondents are in favour of using the Millwood Community Centre instead of Carlton Hill Primary School.

One respondent does not approve of the use of the Millwood Community Centre, and would rather we retain the School, using the Tilbury Place entrance. The Sussex Deaf Centre was put forward as an alternative.

#### **FW – Hanover & Elm Grove Ward**

Four respondents are in favour of using the Children's Centre instead of Fairlight Primary School.

One respondent asked the council to consider the use of Wellington Hall. Another asked to consider St Martin's Church, Lewes Road (*this is already used for St Peter's & North Laine ward*).

#### **HZ – Patcham Ward**

One ward councillor has suggested that three polling districts should be amalgamated into two polling districts, and to stop using the Gathering Place as a polling station. (*During the last review, the council carried out a specific consultation with residents in the top end of Ladies Mile Road. The result was that the majority of electors were happy with their existing polling arrangements.*)

#### **IY – Withdean Ward**

Four respondents are in favour of using the Cassidy Centre, St Mary's Church, instead of Dorothy Stringer High School.

Dorothy Stringer school have confirmed that they would be happy if a portacabin was situated close to the school gates. One ward councillor suggested that Preston Lawn Tennis Club could be an option.

One respondent was unsure.

### **KS – St Peter's & North Laine Ward**

During the review, Electoral Services were asked to consider whether the BMECP Centre could be used as a polling place, instead of the Clarendon Centre. The BMECP Centre would welcome being used for this purpose, and is a suitable venue. Ward councillors are in favour of using the BMECP Centre.

### **NV – Goldsmid Ward**

One ward councillor has responded that the Ajax Hall is not central, is not a well-known building, and supports the retention of Somerhill Junior School. One other respondent is against the use of the Ajax Hall, and two further respondents were unsure.

17 respondents approve of the use of Ajax Hall.

A few other suggestions were put forward, including Ralli Hall, St Ann's Wells Bowls, and Holland Road Baptist Church (which is already used for Brunswick & Adelaide ward).

### **NY – Goldsmid Ward and OZ – Hove Park Ward**

Two respondents agreed that Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary School be retained as the polling place.

Six respondents have argued that the school should not be used as a polling place, but no specific alternatives have been suggested.

The Older People's Council suggested Hove Rugby Club or the Church of the Good Shepherd, Dyke Road. *(The Hove Rugby Club was considered and discounted at a previous review, and the Church is in Withdean Ward).*

13 respondents were unsure.

### **SW – Wish Ward**

The ward councillors have acknowledged that there are no other suitable venues, and that it is a choice between hiring a portacabin on the Saxon Road entrance or using the Wish Road pavilion as a double station.

Three respondents are in favour of using the Wish Road pavilion as a double station.

### **General Comments**

Twenty respondents argued that wherever possible, schools should not have to close to accommodate a polling place. Other types of buildings were suggested, including empty shops, church halls, religious centres, community centres, council buildings.

The Older People's Council are keen to ensure that all polling stations have access for those of limited mobility, and would only support relocating from schools if suitable, accessible alternative premises are found.

One respondent suggested that polling places should be within walking distance of people's homes.

Another respondent said that polling places should be located where people can park and close to travel routes.

One respondent queried why polling places are often in religious buildings.

Another respondent asked the council to consider including maps on poll cards and having an easy facility to find polling places on our website.

Another respondent said that they had never had to walk more than 5 minutes to get to their polling station, and that they had never had to queue to vote, and is therefore happy with the current arrangements.