

Summary of Responses to Polling Station Review

	Which Polling Station are you commenting about?	Comments Received	Response	Recommendation
1	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<p>Member of the Public - I consider only providing one polling station for Beacon Road Ward is unacceptable and discriminates against those who live in BSB who have no transport and/or cannot walk to Reading Street. It inconveniences those who work full-time or families with young children who time is limited. As the document says there is no parking for St. Andrew's Church further affecting those who have to drive and then walk some distance. There are buildings still in the ward beyond and including the Cabin Cafe down Dane Valley Road or even the cafe itself or perhaps a portable polling station on Westover Green. Not everyone wants to have a postal vote.</p>	<p>It is not correct to say that national government pay for all polling stations. This is only the case for nationwide polls. For all local elections the costs are borne by the relevant local authority and each local authority has the power to query their invoice regarding the cost of hiring polling stations. Electoral Services have extensively searched for alternative venues in the BSB polling district, without success.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the polling station does not have a dedicated car park, however that is the case for many stations. There is an ample amount of parking on the surrounding streets, as confirmed by the Parish administrator.</p> <p>The hall used for this polling station is of a large size and more than adequate for use as a double station. It was also, at its last inspection found to have satisfactory lighting.</p> <p>The new station is only 175 metres from the edge of the polling district and approximately 550 metres from the middle of the St Peters estate, this is not considered to be an excessive distance for people to travel. Alternatives to physically attending the polling station are also available in the form of postal or proxy votes.</p> <p>St Peters House has been contacted via Kent County Council about the possibility of using part of it as a polling venue. To date the Electoral Services team have had no response from St Peters House.</p> <p>Electoral Services have contacted the owners of the Cabin Cafe and they have confirmed that they are not willing to allow the use of their building as a polling station. Quotes for the cost of a temporary polling station have</p>	The existing polling station be retained.

			shown that such a setup would cost between £4000 and £5000. To put this in context only £12,000 was spent on all of the polling stations for the European Elections in May 2019. This is a figure that could easily be considered as unreasonable when we reclaim costs from the ECU and other Councils.	
2	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - It's fine but wont cope with all the people now we have lost a polling station on the estate	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
3	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Our polling station in Prince Charles Rd was closed as the church closed down. It is too far for infirm people without cars to walk to St Andrews. In a time of Climate Crisis TDC should not be forcing people who used to be able to walk to their polling station to have to use their cars, there not being a bus service that can be used	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
4	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - This was used as a double polling station earlier this year. Whilst perfectly ideal for one half of the ward, it is not easily accessible for the other half. Surely it must be possible to make some arrangements (eg St. Peter House or other property at the bottom of Northdown Hill) for one day.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
5	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -Reducing the Beacon road ward polling stations from 2 down to one at St. Andrews church is directly disadvataging the elderly, less mobile, and disabled, of this constituency, which will decrease the amount of those who vote in those categories due to them having to walk further than the old polling station at	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.

		Westover Free Church, have more challenging physical access, less places to park, and more dangerous access due to there being no pavement and limited areas to walk in that are not directly in the road to approach the church hall. Even if transport was offered/ arranged finding somewhere close that was safe for passengers to disembark is a real challenge, especially if you do not want to block the already narrow road. The decision to only have one polling station is consciously discriminatory to a variety of groups.		
6	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Polling Station - I note that your review suggests that there are no parking facilities. Please note that there is plenty of parking available in roads close by the church hall.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
7	BSC, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -Not suitable unless you are physically fit to get there due to no parking availability, narrow or no pathway to the church which means a long walk to the church. People are having to walk on the road and to give way to cars on occasion as the road narrows. I did not vote on the last occasion due entirely to the location and access.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
8	VSN, Thanet Villages - Village Hall (St Nicholas at Wade), The Street, St Nicholas-At-Wade, Birchington	Parish Council - Central to Village, suitable building to hold the polling station	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
9	VMK, Thanet Villages - Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton,	Parish Council - Central to village, only suitable building in location to hold the polling station	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.

	Ramsgate			
10	RL, Cliffsend and Pegwell - Cliffsend Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate	it has disabled access,ladies and gents toilets. can hold up to 100 people including staff	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
11	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Whilst I would not have issues accessing this venue it is very inaccessible for car users with any mobility issues	There are excellent public transport links to this polling station as well as excellent disabled access to the station itself. There is on street parking in the locality and a public pay and display car park within 50 metres of the station.	The existing polling station be retained.
12	VMK, Thanet Villages - Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate	Member of the Public -Always had a good reception from obviously happy staff in a bright and clean environment. There is good access, for disabled including a disabled toilet, toilets, warmth on cold days and water if thirsty. More than happy with this venue.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
13	MJ1, Cliftonville West - Cliftonville Community Centre, St Pauls Road, Margate	Member of the Public -This serves a very densely populated deprived area and is in easy walking distance for most , This is itself is an incentive to vote.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
14	BSC, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -That two polling stations were this year located in the same church hall was a breach of good faith and an offence to the many elderly and disabled people who no longer had a polling station with good access and in their own neighbourhood. Half of the residents of the Beacon Road Ward in Broadstairs were disadvantaged by access which was not comparable to that in other wards. It did not go unnoticed that the poorer end of the ward was the badly serviced end. In addition, St. Andrews church is not	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.

		easily accessible, with poor wheelchair access and no immediate parking. To double it's duties was an incomprehensible decision. The council had no practical reason to do this. A polling station can be set up in any public building and in the last resort a temporary polling station can be easily built. The cost of this comes from the national, not the local government because it is a citizens right in national law and the local council has no right to decide against its citizens interests in this way. We are left wondering whether the decision of the council lay in frank incompetence or political bias.		
15	MC, Westbrook - Westbrook Bowls Pavilion, Westcliff Gardens, Margate	Polling Station - I can that Westbrook Bowls Club is fully accessible to the disabled as we have the appropriate ramps etc. in place and also have a disabled toilet.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
16	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Political Party - We write to you to request that you review polling station services in Beacon Road Ward. In the TDC elections, only one polling station was provided, which caused difficulties for residents in part of the ward, many of whom are infirm and unable to travel very far. We request that you consider requisitioning Westover Free Church or alternative venue in that part of the ward.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
17	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens	Member of the Public - Viking Ward current and proposed is poorly served	The number of polling stations within a polling district is determined by the number of electors within the polling	The existing polling station be retained.

	Road, Broadstairs	<p>- joint second worst in terms of number of electors verses number of polling stations!!! Look at the provision in Cliftonville East and West in comparison.</p> <p>Also there is no parking, walking there for some residents is more than 20mins - a very big ask for elderly or disabled residents or parents who have to bring small children with them. You should be making voting easier - please come up with new proposals that increase the polling stations and where adjacent parking is available for the reasons listed above.</p>	<p>district, a polling station should not accommodate more than 3000 electors. BSH currently has 2960 electors of which 513 are absent voters thereby making the ratio of polling stations within the ward correct. Therefore there is no need for additional polling stations in the polling district.</p> <p>There are excellent public transport links to this polling station as well as excellent disabled access to the station itself. There is on street parking in the locality and a public pay and display car park within 50 metres of the station.</p>	
18	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs	<p>Parish Council - The Town Council objects to the permanent change of the Viking Ward polling station from Pierremont Hall to the Queens Road Baptist Church. Pierremont Hall is currently being refurbished and the facilities that will be available will be of a higher standard to those offered at the Queen's Road Baptist Church. Historically Pierremont Hall has always been the Viking Ward polling station and the change in May 2019 was only seen as temporary whilst the refurbishment works were undertaken. Pierremont Hall can offer parking and is seen as the civic hub of the town.</p>	<p>Currently Pierremont Hall remains under refurbishment and not available for use. It is therefore, not possible to use the premises as a polling station. This would not rule the premises out from being a polling station in the future, but any change would be subject to an objective inspection against a range of criteria.</p>	<p>The existing polling station be retained.</p>
19	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<p>Parish Council - The St Andrews Church Hall is not considered suitable as it is located a substantial distance away for some residents, specifically those living on the St Peter's estate. The venue is also deemed too dark inside, which means it can be difficult</p>	<p>Please see the response to comment 1.</p>	<p>The existing polling station be retained.</p>

		to review the polling cards. It is also considered that polling station itself is confusing due to the split nature of the site.		
20	BSA, Kingsgate - Botant Bay Hotel, Marine Drive, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Very convenient for residents, dog friendly and a bar in the next room - what more could you ask for?	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.