

## Polling District and Polling Places Review

### Consultation Comments

Consultee	Comment
<p>Interim Headteacher Alderman Jacobs School</p>	<p>Alderman Jacobs Feel it is unsuitable as access for visitors creates parking issues and endangers children because they can leave the building through open access doors (which are only open on polling days) and encounter moving vehicles. This is a school and the polling station poses safeguarding risk from the point of view of unknown adults having access to the school and its site as well as leaving the school site unsecured throughout the school day so that children can leave the building. The building is used by approx. 670 pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 and its use as a polling station causes serious safeguarding issues. The location is at the back of the school down a long driveway and cars cannot enter here. Last year, voters complained about the length of the walk from their cars, which had to be parked on Drybread Road.</p> <p>The Straw Bear Public House would be a much better place for the polling station. It has none of the safeguarding for children or access issues for elderly or infirm voters that Alderman Jacobs School has. It also has a car park, which would avoid the public parking along Drybread Road, causing potential access issues, particularly at the start and end of the school day when traffic congestion is already a concern for many residents.</p>
<p>Councillor Brenda Barber</p>	<p>Leverington and Wisbech Rural The current polling stations in the area fulfill the needs of the area in my opinion. There is ample parking and room to fulfil obligations with ease. I do not see any need to change districts or polling places.</p>
<p>Councillor Chris Boden</p>	<p><b>POLLING DISTRICT WHNW1</b></p> <p>The proposal to move the polling station for this polling district will result in more electors being disenfranchised. This was vividly demonstrated in the recent Town Council by-election when on-the-day turnout from WHNW1 was little more than half of that from WHNW2.</p> <p>I would propose that a mobile polling station should be situated in the WHNW1 polling station at the Baptist Church car park.</p> <p><b>POLLING DISTRICT WHE4</b></p> <p>The proposed amalgamation of the existing WHE4 and WHE5 polling districts would require all of the electors in Turves to vote in Coates. This will undoubtedly reduce turnout on-the-day from residents in Turves.</p>

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	I would propose that the existing polling districts WHE4 and WHE5 be retained, and that a location be found in Turves for a polling station, mobile if necessary.
Doddington Village Hall	Doddington No amendments necessary
Councillor Michael Humphrey	Gorefield Community Centre Happy with Gorefield.
Leverington Village Hall	Leverington Happy with the current arrangements for polling
Wisbech St Mary Parish Council	The Parish Council considered their response for your review at their meeting on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.  Their recommendations are as follows: Wisbech St Mary – Wisbech St Mary Community Centre Guyhirn - Guyhirn Community Room (or Play2Day if accessibility is seen as an issue.) Murrow – Murrow Village Hall Thorney Toll – Thorney Toll Village Hall
Wisbech Town Council	Wisbech Town Council has no comments to make.

Consultation comments received after the deadline for responses:

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Whittlesey Town Council	<p>Cllr Boden advised it is a legal requirement to have polling place reviews and one has been started by FDC. As far as WTC are concerned, there are two proposed changes, neither of which are acceptable. Polling District WHNW1, mostly to the East of Orchard Street and East Delph, in the recent by election both polling districts had to vote at St John's Ambulance which was unsatisfactory as the turnout on the day from WHNW2 was 80% greater than turnout from WHNW1. The only location that is satisfactory would be a mobile unit in the Baptist Church car park for NW1, the Baptist church are unable to accommodate the polling station within the building due to existing commitments. Cllr Boden proposed in light of the comparatively poor turnout in WHNW1 ward in comparison with the turn out in WHNW2 ward, there should be separate locations for these wards.</p> <p>The second issue is with polling district WHEVE5, FDC are not planning to abolish the polling district, but anyone living in Turves would need to go to Coates to vote. Cllr Boden proposed that in no circumstances should the polling place be in Coates for Turves residents, it must be in Turves.</p> <p>The above proposals were seconded by Cllr Wainwright with a unanimous vote in favour.</p>