

Pre-Consultation - 2021 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Name	Date	Polling Place	Representation
Cllr Malcolm Clark	16/06/2020	<p>SUA Hitherfield Childrens Centre, Hitherfield Road, SW16 2JQ</p>	<p>I'm getting in early on this one. And I know there may still be Covid considerations to factor in, even next year. But I wanted to start the ball rolling on exploring changing the location of SUA's polling station from Hitherfield Children's Centre.</p> <p>There is nothing wrong with the building. It is the location that is wrong. It is at the far end of that polling district, and at the furthest distance possible from the Council housing estate (Mountearl and Adare aka Streatham Hill Estate). Even the route to get there is somewhat convoluted, and completely lacking in public transport options too.</p> <p>I believe that the current location disadvantages residents of that Estate (there are 300-odd households, so a not insignificant number of electors). Moreover it adds further obstacles to voting for the many black and ethnic minority residents of the estate. Where as some of the streets closest to the polling station - Hitherfield Road, Stockfield Road, Romeyn Road, Rosedene Road - are generally much more middle class and white; a demographic more likely to vote anyway.</p> <p>I have tried once to change the location, but the suggested venue of Dunraven Primary School (Mt Nod Road) received pushback from the headteacher, who didn't want his school closed for the day [where as Hitherfield Primary can remain open]. Though always possible to revisit, and would be the most central location.</p> <p>My preferred alternative is:</p> <p>Woodlawns community centre, 16 Leigham Court Road - technically in SUB, but opposite the entrance to the Estate, and prime location for people from across SUA passing it on their way to/from Streatham Hill station / the High Road. It is also served by 417 bus. The venue itself has a decent sized downstairs hall, as well as an atrium and a side room and kitchen. There is also a small car park area for anyone to be dropped off who is mobility impaired.</p> <p>Other options, but less good, include: the Estate community flat on Adare Walk (by entrance to Livity School) and Dunraven School itself.</p>

			<p>I recognise this isn't an issue you will likely be able to progress currently, but please do file and come back to it in the Autumn, as I am keen that we do seriously explore a different polling location.</p>
S Palin Resident	22/03/20	SWC Woodmansterne School, Woodmansterne Road, SW16 5UQ	<p>Following on from my phone call on Friday, school governors have made contact with the Holy Redeemer Church who have advised that they are willing to be considered as a future polling station - all contact details are listed below. Please let us know if you run into any issues contacting anyone at the church so we can support.</p> <p>As I advised, me and Councillor Brathwaite made an initial visit to the church back in 2019. I was informed by Cllr Jim Dickson on 13th February 2020 (email attached), that you had agreed a member of the Electoral services team would inspect Holy Redeemer Church as a potential polling station for this part of the borough as soon as possible. I understand this didn't happen, no doubt due to the pandemic, so request that you please update us on when it is scheduled and from that whether the church meets the key criteria on accessibility referred to.</p> <p>I have written to Woodmansterne families today advising of another day of remote learning but have given assurance that Electoral Services will be looking at possible alternatives to using Woodmansterne in the future. Next September we will have over 1,500 pupils on roll which is a significant number of pupils and families impacted by closure.</p>
Mrs L Laverick Resident	05/09/2019	NNC Park campus Academy Gipsy Rd, London, SE27 9NP	<p>Park Campus is a school for vulnerable and at risk teenagers who need to be at school to receive the therapeutic support needed. Also, given the safeguarding risks that closing the PRU poses for its pupils, moving the polling station a few years away would minimise the risk.</p> <p>Previously, Park Campus site was 'Norwood Primary School' which is was closed and divided into 2 separate school; a school for infants (3-7 year olds) and a secondary pupil referral unit. The infant school is at the back of the park campus site, a matter of 2 minutes' walk.</p> <p>Kingswood Lower Site, 55 Gipsy Rd</p> <p>As Kingswood junior school; (Polling District Code: NNB), up the road is already a polling station, it would be logical to move the polling station a few hundred yards from Park campus site to Kingswood lower site. It would also support the parents of Kingswood school who have children at Kingswood upper/ lower sites (we have had many request from the local community to put their case forward).</p>

Name	Date	Polling Place	Representation
<p>A C E Shaw Resident</p>	<p>22/09/21</p>	<p>VHC Macauley CE Primary School, Victoria Rise, London, SW4 0NJ</p>	<p>In my opinion using schools is not acceptable use of resources. Triggering childcare issues and stress for hundreds of parents in every school closed. This is not acceptable but lazy use of available resources. Wandsworth has a policy of never closing schools as polling stations and this should be enshrined in law for other boroughs.</p> <p>Instead of Macaulay School Other options include churches, there is a church at the far south end of Victoria rise which could be used instead of Macaulay school (in the middle of Victoria rise). Or the omnibus theatre on Clapham Common Northside. There is the Royal British legion on Victoria rise. Is there a room in royal trinity hospice, on Clapham Common Northside round the corner from Battersea rise that could be used? I'm sure they have function rooms. The Holy trinity church could host a polling station too. There are many options. I am currently away so have no access to a printer of laptop with which to complete your forms.</p> <p>I sincerely hope Lambeth reforms its practice of using schools, it upsets parents and causes a significant issue for our employers too, has anyone ever thought to find of the finically impact on residents of this policy?</p> <p>Update 22/09: As I have voiced for many years I think it is absolutely outrageous that our children's school Macaulay primary in Lambeth is closed as a polling station every time there is an election. The repetitions including lost schooling and childcare, loss of income and stews caused for parents, often at late notice or fate our shifts have been settled should not be underestimated. I have campaigned tirelessly for you to find alternative arrangement. Please please do so.</p>
<p>Dr F Wedgwood Resident</p>	<p>22/09/21</p>	<p>SQA (Old Ward: Brixton Hill) Sudbourne School, Hayter Road/Sudbourne Road, SW2 5AP</p> <p>New Ward: Brixton Acre Lane.</p>	<p>I would like to congratulate the returning officer for coordinating the recent general election in Lambeth. But I would also like to discuss the possibility of having a different polling station in my ward.</p> <p>In the last 2 years there have been 4 polling days (2 general elections and the mayoral election and the EU referendum) and each has resulted in the closure of my children's primary school, Sudbourne School. With the current uncertainty following the recent result, it is entirely possible there may be yet another general election in the horizon as well as local elections.</p> <p>As I'm sure you are aware this results in considerable disruption for parents who need to take a day's leave to care for their children or pay for alternative child care. It is also disruptive for the children's education, and is hypocritical given that children's parents may be fined for unauthorised leave. Moreover it is inequitable as although several primary schools are</p>

			<p>affected, by no means all are. For example, in my ward of Brixton Hill there is a second primary school, Corpus Christi RC school, whose pupils have never been affected by polling days.</p> <p>Is it possible to consider moving polling stations to non education sites where possible? For example in my ward could the polling station be moved to the church hall? Or if using an education site is unavailable, tk chose a site where only a small portion of the school is involved so that the school does not need to be closed. For example, could just the staff room be used as a polling station? There is a separate entrance onto sudbourne road and it can be kept separate from the rest of the school.</p>
S Khan Resident	22/09/2021	VHC Macauley CE Primary School, Victoria Rise, London, SW4 0NJ	<p>As a Lambeth resident and a parent with two children at Macauley CE Primary School I wish as part of your pre-consultation stakeholder engagement to raise my objection to use of the school as a polling station. My reasons are as follows:</p> <p>(1) It causes unnecessary disruption my children's education as the school gets closed often and at short notice.</p> <p>(2) Disruption to myself and husband as we need to find alternative childcare for our children and / or take time off work (I'm a keyworker).</p> <p>(3) Disruption to staff at the school - they (like families) have no say on use of their premises for local Government business.</p> <p>There are alternative venues available in the area - such as church halls and community centres - that can adequately host polling stations with minimum disruption to the local community. Please can you consider using these types of venues instead.</p> <p>As part of your stakeholder engagement please can you provide feedback on whether you instead to hold focus groups with local groups (such as parents with school age children) and how you will weight individual responses versus responses from organisations. Do you intend for example to hold focus groups with PTA representatives from each school in the area? How long will the pre-consultation run and how long will the consultation itself run please plus how / when will the responses to both be published?</p>

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T Shaw Resident	23/09/2021	VHC Macauley CE Primary School, Victoria Rise, London, SW4 0NJ	<p>I would like to object please in the strongest possible way to your ongoing use of Macauley CofE Primary school as a public polling station.</p> <p>It is i think a disgrace that you are forcing this primary school to close for any and all public polling days. How many days education has the school lost over the years because of this policy? At least 3 a year I am guessing, for the 120plus children at the school, that is 360 days of education lost a year every year that you keep this policy going. As I say, I think it is an absolute disgrace.</p> <p>Please change the venue so that local children are not losing out on their education.</p>
D Plant Resident	23/09/2021	VHC Macauley CE Primary School, Victoria Rise, London, SW4 0NJ	<p>I'm writing concerning your review that is coming up.</p> <p>My children's school, Macauley Church of England Primary School, is frequently used as a polling station. I am writing to ask that it be removed from the list of venues.</p> <p>Closing school for a whole day each time a vote is taken is very disruptive to both the children's education as well as to working parents. Working parents then have to arrange and pay for childcare as their children are unable to go to school that day. The financial burden of this disproportionately impacts young families who have no other option but to arrange alternative childcare.</p> <p>Perhaps you could move the poling station to a nearby secondary school where a much greater proportion of the student population will not require childcare when a vote takes place.</p> <p>Other options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A marquee could be erected on the basketball courts on Clapham Common. • Is there is a nearby community hall that could be used instead such as at Holy Trinity Clapham or the Methodist church on Clapham High Street • Omnibus Theatre in Clapham Old Town • The leisure centre on Clapham Manor Road <p>I would be grateful please if you could acknowledge my input into your consultation.</p>

<p>P Barnes Resident</p>	<p>05/10/2021</p>	<p>VBE Durning Library 167 Kennington Lane London SE11 4HF</p>	<p>Main feedback regarding Durning library which is a current station in Princes ward (to be Kennington ward). There are a few concerns around this polling station: Currently this station is available by bus or walking only and not very accessible by car.</p> <p>Disability access at this polling station is not very good as the front entrance does not have a slope or lift so the only option is going around to the back of the building to use the disabled access. This involves going on Kennington Lane and crossing through an estate which has uneven concrete flooring making, as well as having to walk a considering distance around. It is often not very clear as this path is also blocked off by a gate.</p> <p>There was scheduled to have a lift built at the front of Durning library around 18 months ago but due to the pandemic this has not happened.</p> <p>Other polling stations have been suggested: Henry Fawcett Primary school was suggested however this is being used as a polling station already.</p> <p>St Anselms Church Hall across the road from Durning Library but this venue is also being used as a nursery currently so there may be availability issues.</p> <p>The Durning library is set in a good location central to voters and this should definitely be used going forward, the only issue is that accessibility within the building which can hopefully be addressed in a meeting with Susanna Barnes, head of libraries.</p>
<p>A Masey Resident</p>	<p>05/10/2021</p>	<p>NJB Loughborough Primary School, Minet Road, SW9 7UA</p>	<p>Wants us to consider alternative venues in the Herne Hill, Brixton North and Brixton Windrush area. Advocating for using Grove adventure Playground, 18 Gordon Grove as a polling station, which is located centrally and close to Loughborough school.</p> <p>Other suggested building is The Henry Caddick Centre on 63 Lilford Road, SE5 9HN. <u>Moorlands Community Centre, 50A Corry Crive.</u> Which is situated near Hill Mead Primary School in Brixton Windrush.</p> <p>Longfield Hall on Knatchbull road was suggested however this venue is steps only.</p>

Name	Date	Polling Place	Representation
P Barnes Resident	05/10/2021	VBE Durning Library 167 Kennington Lane London SE11 4HF	<p>Dear Susanna,</p> <p>This morning I went to a drop-in session with Electoral Services Officers who are doing the preliminaries about a formal consultation on the review of our ward boundaries and the location of polling stations. I went partly from curiosity but also because for our residents the Durning is a very good location for those (many fewer than there used to be) who want to vote in person, despite the currently totally inadequate disabled access. It was a good meeting and I was quite upfront about my personal agenda in relation to the disabled access.</p> <p>My personal message was that the Durning is well placed for our local residents as well as those in Cleaver Square and the other residents in the properties further north along Kennington Lane and Kennington Park Road. We agreed that there is probably no other suitably located council-owned property in the area.</p> <p>I also explained about the very long delays in getting the platform lift installed at the front entrance to the Durning and how far a wheelchair user has to go to get to the current entrance for disabled people at the back of the building. One of the Officers was concerned by what I told him because provision of adequate disabled access is one of the criteria polling stations are required to meet. He said he would have to look into it ahead of the formal public consultations which are due to start very soon.</p> <p>The position as I understand it is that the next elections are the London borough council ones on 5 May 2022. In my view, that ought to be seen as a formal deadline by which time the platform lift must be installed and fully operational. If it is not, then the Durning probably should not be used as a polling station. For all sorts of reasons, not least our residents' convenience and the lack of a suitable alternative in our area, that would be a very great pity.</p> <p>We were told at one point that installing the platform lift will take around four months and with winter approaching, covid- and Brexit-related delays still happening and Christmas gaps in the building trade, that does not leave a lot of time. I hope this deadline means that some progress can be made. It would be so nice to be able to write to you about something else!</p> <p>I am copying this to Councillor Davies, the officers. I am also blind-copying it to the committee members of the Durning Friends and the Heart of Kennington Residents' Association so that they know what I have been doing on their behalf without my scattering their email addresses too liberally.</p>

			Best wishes, P Barnes
L Irving Resident	06/10/21	NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR	I saw you are reviewing polling stations. Please take this opportunity to move the polling station out of Elmwood primary school . Over the past 7 years the school has been closed at least once and up to 3 days per year. This adds up to a great deal of missed schooling. Instead, why not use Clive Road community centre which is right next to the school and empty most of the time?
B Payne Resident	06/10/2021	N/A	Don't forget to use churches.
C Dilliway Resident	07/10/2021	NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR	Good morning, Further to your consultation named above, I would like to register my feedback. My two children attend Elm Wood Primary school which is currently used as a polling station. Myself and my husband both work and so additional days with the children at home and no childcare options (clubs etc.) or local family makes it difficult for us to work and get out to vote ourselves. Additionally, given the disruption to children's education since March 2020, it would certainly be preferable to minimise school closures. In terms of local alternatives, there is a community centre as part of the Emmanuel Church on Clive Road which is around 100m from Elm Wood school which would be suitable, low cost and would not cause disruption to hundreds of parents and children.
S Couch Resident	07/10/2021	NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR	I strongly object to Elmwood Primary school being used as a polling station resulting in the closure of the school. I am a parent of two children which attend this school. Children have missed enough school due to the pandemic. It is also very unfair on working parents. Emanuel Community hall situated a 30 second walk from the school situated on Clive Road would be a great alternative.

Name	Date	Polling Place	Representation
A Crosby Resident	07/10/2021	NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Following your consultation period and asking for input for other polling stations, please can I suggest the Emmanuel Centre on Clive Road instead of Elm Wood Primary School.</p> <p>The Emmanuel Centre is super close to Elm Wood and would save unnecessary school closures for polling days. Due to Covid, Lambeth pupils have already missed HUGE amounts of schooling and to close for additional days when an alternative venue is so close by seems foolish.</p> <p>If you require anything else please do let me know,</p> <p>I hope you can see sense with this,</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>A Crosby</p>
A Jackson Resident	07/10/2021	N/A	<p>Please don't close schools for polling, we've missed so much already. Why not use Clive Hall community space instead? Or the staff teaching space at Kingswood? Just please don't close the schools anymore!</p> <p>Thanks A Jackson</p>
A Shindler Resident	07/10/2021	NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR	<p>As a parent of a child at the above, I would really appreciate it if you could rethink using the school as a polling station. It is incredibly disruptive to close the whole school down every time a vote is held. And in the current climate, every school day is precious.</p> <p>If I have not sent this to the correct place, would you please be so kind as to forward it on.</p> <p>Many thanks</p>

<p>A Vaal Resident</p>	<p>07/10/2021</p>	<p>NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR</p>	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>We understand that Elm Wood School (Gipsy Hill Federation School) is currently being used as a polling station which can mean school closures.</p> <p>We ask that Lambeth considers alternative locations such as the Clive Road Community Centre in order to prevent any impact on children's education.</p> <p>Many thanks for your consideration.</p>
<p>M Robertson Resident</p>	<p>07/10/2021</p>	<p>NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR</p>	<p>I would like you to consider moving the Elmwood polling station to an alternative location. There is a Church Hall within 100m.</p> <p>School children and their parents have been especially impacted by Covid and every day lost from education is significant. There may be multiple elections a year, causing the school to be closed and necessitating additional childcare costs or disruptions to parental employment. Wherever possible alternative polling station locations should be considered.</p> <p>Yours faithfully M Robertson</p>
<p>C Sobczynski Resident</p>	<p>08/10/2021</p>	<p>NNA Elmwood Primary School Carnac St, Norwood, London SE27 9RR</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am responding with regards to your consultation on alternate venues for polling stations. I would like to make it known that I feel hosting a polling station at the school needs to change. Given the disruption to children's education it should be imperative to find alternative locations in the area so that their education is not further disrupted potentially multiple times in a year. For example, the church hall at the end of Carnac Street would be a much better alternative and could be a suitable site for the local polling station instead</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>C Sobczynski</p>

Name	Date	Polling Place	Representation
Cllr Malcolm Clark Cllr Marianna Masters	30/09/2021	Streatham Wells Ward	<p>Notes from pre-consultation drop-in session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it need to be exactly within the boundary? Cllr Clark has asked if stations can be on the edge of the ward / if the boundary can be adjusted. • Hitherfield Childrens Centre requires voters from Mountearl Gardens to take a long way around as there is no through path. • Julians primary school is situated in a small polling district and is not used by many voters can this be changed? <p>Suggested venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunraven Primary School • Woodlawne community centre. Very accessible used by older people and has a car park. Easily accessible from the public road. • Livity School – However confirmed this would not be able to be used due to special needs children. • Uplands Care Home – Due to covid this wouldn't be possible. • Streatham youth and community trust building on wellfield road. • Coventry Hall in Streatham, Polworth Road. • Residents hall on Etherstone road/Fawcett close.
Cllr Jackie Meldrum Cllr Jane Pickard	07/10/2021	Knight's Hill Ward	<p>As there are lots of residential properties within Knight's Hill there aren't many changes we can make. Julians primary would be a good venue but it is already one we are currently using.</p> <p>Suggested venues for polling stations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brethren Meeting Room (Church Hall) • Fern Lodge Estate TRA • Park Campus Academy (Current polling station) • St Matthews Church nearby to St Lukes church is a good location with lot of parking space.

Cllr Pete Elliott	14/10/2021	Gipsy Hill Ward	<p>Cllr Elliott highlighted that Paxton Primary School is on the edge of the existing NNE polling district and therefore not ideal for voters living on Central Hill Estate.</p> <p>Feels the polling stations for current NNB and NND polling districts are appropriate (Kingswood Primary Upper School and Berridge Road Estate Community Resource Ctr).</p> <p>NNC Kingswood Primary Lower School may now be in the neighbouring ward – will need to double check.</p> <p>Existing NNE polling district is largest in ward by electorate size. Cllr Elliott suggested may need to split existing area into two polling districts with different polling stations.</p> <p><u>Suggestions given for new polling stations are:</u> Day Centre on Central Hill Estate. This was previously the community centre and now used for Alzheimer’s sufferers during the day. Cllr Elliott thinks could be closed for a day when elections take place.</p> <p>Old housing office on Central Hill estate, currently in use by Rathbone Society. It is next door to day centre.</p> <p>Christchurch Gipsy Hill may also be an option.</p>
The Norwood Forum	15/10/2021	Gipsy Hill Ward Knight’s Hill Ward Thurlow Park Ward	<p>This pre-consultation, and the publicity given to it, is welcomed and could usefully have been expanded by direct communication with all members of the Lambeth Forum Network. This pre-consultation stage was not part of the 2019 review.</p> <p>It is expected that the forthcoming statutory review will set out Lambeth Council’s aspirations for this review, and a list of requirements for venues. Perhaps publishing this information now would have helped in attracting nominations for new polling stations. Also, it is not clear to what degree consideration is being given to practical measures already taken or planned by other authorities.</p> <p>We suggest that fundamentally a decision is taken on whether or not, as a general rule, school premises will be used on polling day. There are arguments against the use of school premises because of the disruption caused to the education of the school’s pupils, and their parents, with the closure of the school for polling day. We have received representations against the use of school premises.</p>

			<p>With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the impact may be greater given the degree of disruption that has already occurred. This disruption may be more severe for secondary school pupils than primary. What steps are routinely taken by Lambeth Education to mitigate the impact of the one day closure? What are the views of Lambeth Education on the continued use of school premises on polling day?</p> <p>On the other hand, using school premises for polling could be the fulcrum for promotion of the importance of democracy (see also our final point below).</p> <p>If it is decided schools will be used, we would still favour the use of other premises in the community where suitable premises are available. Community organisations are likely to welcome the increased use of and publication about their building, and the additional income - especially given enforced closure earlier in the pandemic. This would also apply to pubs, a sector that perhaps has suffered the worst from the pandemic. Are pubs specifically excluded from consideration?</p> <p>Norwood Forum recommends the following criteria should be applied in establishing both redrawn polling districts and the location of polling stations within those new districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every polling station should be within a 10 minute walk for all its electors. This may increase the number of polling stations. • Polling stations should be on, or in the immediate vicinity of, public transport stations and bus routes. • Polling stations should have cycle racks. • Polling stations should be in prominent positions wherever possible in order to increase elector awareness of the Poll. • It is stated that a review of the suitability and continued availability of premises currently used is being undertaken. We recommend this is completed before the statutory review commences. If there has not been a recent inspection, the review should be followed up with an inspection of the premises to ensure each meet the necessary criteria. Also the opportunity should be taken to establish if any improvements to the premises are planned. • The stated plan to identify premises not previously used should include a review of any reasons why known other premises are not currently used. • The use of temporary portacabins etc to be installed in areas without suitable premises.
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