

Polling District and Places Review 2019

Responses to consultation

Polling District	Ward	Consultee	Comment	Response
CLA and CLB	Bandley Hill	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We have no objections to the review's recommendations.	No comments other than to thank the consultee.
CJA, CJB, CJC and CJD	Bedwell	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We have no objection to the use of Daneshill House as a Polling Station for Polling District CJD. This will make it easier for residents living in the Town Centre to access their Polling Station in many cases without the need to drive or attempt to cross St George's Way.</p> <p>With the future planned development of residential units within the Town Centre, as the 2nd largest ward in the town already, it is likely that the ward boundaries will need to be seriously looked at within the next ward boundary review.</p>	No comments other than to thank the consultee.
CHA, CHB, CHC and CHD	Chells	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We welcome the Council's decision to stop the use of the sailing centre as a Polling Station for CHC Polling District. Historically usage of this Polling Station has been extremely low for many years. This is partly due to voter turnout on the day of elections but also on the siting of the Polling Station itself and lack of visibility. Whilst further away, with limited suitable spaces within CHC, we have no objection to the usage of Camps Hill Primary School as the Polling Station for CHC. It is highly visible, well known and has sufficient parking on Polling Days. Camps Hill Primary School has also successfully operated as a Polling Station for three Polling Districts for many years and we are confident that this could continue.</p> <p>As a means to improve voter turnout as part of these changes, we would however strongly urge the Council to undertake a marketing</p>	No comments other than to thank the consultee and advise that absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an election.

			<p>drive within CHC to increase the take-up of postal voters.</p> <p>We have no objections to the usage of St Hugh and St John's Church as a Polling Station for CHA. St Hugh and St John's Church has been a successful polling station for many years for Manor Ward. For many voters in CHA it will also be closer if not equidistant to their former Polling Station at Camps Hill Primary School.</p>	
CHB and CHD	Chells	Ref: SBC001	<p>I do think it's unfair that Campshill is used every year especially this year as there has been 2 occasions of voting in May. Working parents like myself also suffer as have to take time off and some of it unpaid. I think the school has enough time off with inset days etc. Also parents get in trouble for taking kids out of school for a day but it's ok for the school to close</p> <p>I'm against schools closing for voting</p>	Response advises that Hertfordshire County Council, working with Election Teams across the County, are proactive in contacting schools in advance of an election to work through how best to accommodate arrangements on Polling Day, including encouraging schools to allocate Polling Day as a staff training day.
CHB and CHD	Chells	Ref: SBC002	<p>I am writing as part of the review that you are currently undertaking regarding polling places for the Borough of Stevenage.</p> <p>This is specifically with regards to the Chells district and polling place of Camps Hill School.</p> <p>I am not supportive of the school being used as a polling place. When this takes place my children are required to miss a day of their education and this year they were required to miss two days of their education.</p> <p>Whilst this may not seem significant there is also the impact that it has for us as parents that are in employment as we are required to take annual leave in order to care for our children. There is no</p>	Response advises that Hertfordshire County Council, working with Election Teams across the County, are proactive in contacting schools in advance of an election to work through how best to accommodate arrangements on Polling Day, including encouraging schools to allocate Polling Day as a staff training day.

			<p>option for them to attend a holiday club as obviously these are not available during the school term.</p> <p>And whilst two days may not seem significant add these to the 13 weeks of school holidays and the five inset days per year it does have a financial impact for the families whose children attend Camps Hill.</p> <p>And as a parent who has 24 days annual leave and who has no other option for childcare besides paying for my 3 children to attend a holiday club, I begrudge having to use a day of my annual leave in order for my children's school to be used as a polling place.</p> <p>There must be other options that do not impact on my children's education or parents finances especially in Chells where the impact is only on the children and parents of those children that attend Camps Hill.</p>	
CNA and CNB	Longmeadow	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We have no objections to the review's recommendations.	No comments other than to thank the consultee.
CFA and CFB	Manor	Councillor Andy McGuinness	<p>I believe that the need for changing the Polling Station in CFB comes from seeking to adhere strictly to regulations rather than using commonsense and putting the needs of residents first.</p> <p>St Hugh and St John's is an excellent polling station which works well. I have no doubt that Timebridge Community Centre would also work well as a Polling Station for CFB. It is in the ward and well located for local people to get to with sufficient parking.</p> <p>However, I would question the need and expense of altering current arrangements as well as using two separate and very proximate Polling Stations when one would do both for CFB in Manor and CHA</p>	Response will advise that, in respect of Polling District CFB, the response advises that allocating St Hugh & St John Shared Church (which is outside of the Ward) as the polling station for voters in both CFB and CHA Polling Districts would mean allocating the Polling Place as both Polling Districts CFB and CHA. Administering two different Borough Ward elections at a polling venue would present significant

			<p>in Chells. Economies of scale could be had by using the Church to serve both ward's needs. Whilst I believe that this is much more viable option and believe the current proposals to be suboptimal, I wouldn't absolutely object to Timebridge Community Centre being used as a Polling Station for Manor Ward.</p> <p>On the other hand, I am extremely disappointed and angry at the proposals to change the Polling Station serving my residents in CFA. This is no way serves the best interests of local people and I object to the proposals in the most strongest of terms.</p> <p>The Chells Park Pavilion is at the absolute Southern end of the Ward and far away from most residents. In fact if you tried to get further away you couldn't. The transport links are poor and it means people having to travel much further than they already have to. Chells Manor Community is almost at the centre of the ward and is a perfect location to serve the needs of my local residents. It is near for the majority of local people to get to by walking and reducing unnecessary car journeys. This is simply not true with Chells Park which can only really be accessed by car. This goes against the Councils Green Travel Strategy.</p> <p>I would understand if this decision was forced onto us if the current building (Chells Manor Community Centre) was unfit to use. But it is not – the proposed changes are just to adhere to some silly diktat which obviously previous officers in the Council were happy to ignore for the best interests of local people.</p> <p>The proposed changes would be very unpopular with local residents and the Council would not be putting the needs of local residents first.</p> <p>There are very real and suitable exceptional circumstances why</p>	<p>administrative problems for the Returning Officer. It would create logistical problems for the staff, create confusion for the electorate, and also have significant legal implications around attendance at the polling station. Timebridge Community Centre adheres to the guidance as it is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, amongst other requirements) .</p> <p>In respect of Polling District CFA, the use of Chells Park Pavilion as a polling station adheres to the guidance that the polling station is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient</p>
--	--	--	--	---

			Chells Manor Community Centre should continue to be used as a Polling Station for CFA and I would strongly urge the Council to reconsider their proposals and keep previous arrangements in place.	lighting, amongst other requirements).
CFA and CFB	Manor	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>Whilst we view it as an unnecessary change which will cause some disruption to local residents, we have no absolute objection to the use of Timebridge Community Centre as a Polling Station for CFB. It is a little closer for most residents to access on foot compared to St Hugh and St John's Church and there is suitable parking close by. To ensure the efficient use of budget and resources, we see no reason and would therefore like to explore the possibility of using St Hugh and St John's as a polling station for both CFB in Manor and CHA in Chells wards.</p> <p>However, we have very grave concerns regarding the proposed usage of Chells Park Pavilion as a Polling Station for CFA. The rationale for the proposed changes has absolutely nothing to do with the wants or needs of local residents but about simply adhering to practice about Polling Stations being sited in ward boundaries. All three ward Councillors strongly object to the changes and believe they will be highly unpopular and absolutely unnecessary.</p> <p>For many years, Chells Manor Community Centre has been a very successful polling station for people in CFA in Manor Ward. It is centrally placed for the ward, located between the roads off Valerian Way and the roads located around The White Way. The Community Centre serves the Manor residents and the local shops form an intrinsic part of the facilities that serves the local area. It is only through erroneously sited ward boundaries that the area is not formally part of Manor Ward.</p> <p>The area is highly visible and receives high footfall locally from</p>	Response will advise that, in respect of Polling District CFB, the response advises that allocating St Hugh & St John Shared Church (which is outside of the Ward) as the polling station for voters in both CFB and CHA Polling Districts would mean allocating the Polling Place as both Polling Districts CFB and CHA. Administering two different Borough Ward elections at a polling venue would present significant administrative problems for the Returning Officer. It would create logistical problems for the staff, create confusion for the electorate, and also have significant legal implications around attendance at the polling station. Timebridge Community Centre adheres to the guidance as it is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled

			<p>Manor Ward residents. A large percentage of local residents can walk to the polling station whilst also accessing other services. It has a bus service that serves the area and has excellent parking.</p> <p>Chells Park Pavilion is located at the absolute southern end of the ward and it is not served by any bus routes nor does it ensure high footfall from other businesses surrounding the building. It is very far from most residents and would be an extremely long way for residents to travel from Valerian Way at the North end of the ward. In a radius of 500m, there is just under 500 residents that live near Chells Park Pavilion. For Chells Manor Community Centre, most of the 3312 electors live within a 500m radius of the Community Centre. This just demonstrates the impact of the proposed changes and the current suitability of the current arrangements which do not need to change at all.</p> <p>The proposed changes would be very unpopular with local residents and the Council would not be putting the needs of local residents first.</p> <p>There are very real and suitable exceptional circumstances why Chells Manor Community Centre should continue to be used as a Polling Station for CFA and we would strongly urge the Council to reconsider their proposals.</p>	<p>access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, amongst other requirements).</p> <p>In respect of Polling District CFA, the use of Chells Park Pavilion as a polling station adheres to the guidance that the polling station is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, amongst other requirements). A separate room will be used at the venue for voters and allocated parking and disabled parking (including off road parking) is available on site.</p>
CFA and CFB	Manor	Councillor Robin Parker	<p>I wish to comment on the proposals for polling places in Manor Ward.</p> <p>1. I am very opposed to the proposal to use Chells Park Pavilion instead of Chells Manor Community Centre for CFA. (a) The fact is that Chells Park Pavilion is right at the extreme southern end of the ward and is therefore a long way from most of the voters.</p>	<p>Response will advise that, in respect of Polling District CFA, the use of Chells Park Pavilion as a polling station adheres to the guidance that the polling station is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Also, it has no bus stop near and is not accessible to many voters. c. In addition, it is totally unsuitable for disabled or elderly voters because there is a long exterior staircase to negotiate to get to the building. d. Vehicle access is not easy from Gresley Way, especially in the evening rush hour (when many people choose to vote) because Gresley Way is extremely busy (and likely to get busier when/if the Gresley Park development is built) making turning into and out of the entrance to Chells Park Pavilion from/to Gresley Way very difficult. e. Chells Park Pavilion is not near any local services or shops, so people who vote when they also visit the local shops will not be able to do so. f. The fact that the present polling place, Chells Manor Community Centre, is just outside the Manor Ward boundary is of no consequence, because it is only a few metres outside, and most voters would not know this fact anyway. <p>2. I am also opposed to the proposal to use Timebridge rather than The Church of St. Hugh and St. John for CFB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Timebridge is a very busy building, with lots of other activities in progress both during the day and particularly during the evening (when many people choose to vote). The atmosphere is not suitable for a polling station, with noise and disturbance and a bar. b. By contrast, the church is fairly isolated and certainly quiet and dignified and otherwise unused during polling hours. c. Timebridge also suffers from large groups of students around it, particularly at lunchtime, but also before and after school. These are a disincentive and a possible intimidation to voters. This is certainly not the case for the 	<p>practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, toilet facilities, amongst other requirements). There is disabled access to the side of the building.</p> <p>In respect of Polling District CFB, Timebridge Community Centre adheres to the guidance as it is within the Polling District and the Ward. It also ensures that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstance, and ensures so far as is reasonable and practicable is accessible to electors who are disabled (i.e. has disabled access, adequate room size, sufficient lighting, toilet facilities, amongst other requirements). A separate room will be used at the venue for voters and allocated parking and disabled parking (including off road parking) is available on site. In respect of the comments raised concerning issues at and surrounding the venue, they are not reflective of our understanding. The building is a functioning community centre which</p>
--	--	--	--	--

			<p>church.</p> <p>d. Timebridge is further from The Glebe shops than the church, so that voters who combine a visit to the shops with voting will be inconvenienced.</p> <p>e. Parking does not exist for visitors to Timebridge (the space to the left of the building, as viewed from the front, between Timebridge and Nobel School, is not, as is widely and wrongly believed, a parking area; in fact parking is expressly forbidden there [see signs on the ground]). By contrast, the church has parking available both at The Glebe and also on both The Glebe service roads.</p> <p>f. The fact that the present polling place, the church, is just outside the Manor Ward boundary is of no consequence, because it is only a few metres outside, and most voters would not know this fact anyway.</p>	<p>serves the community in its area. Many community centres are used in the Borough as they are well established buildings that residents are aware of and frequent regularly.</p>
CEA, CEB and CEC	Martins Wood	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We object to the changes proposed by the Council and believe the current Polling Station arrangements currently work and should continue.</p> <p>We believe that the proposed changes to the Polling Station for CEC will be of little added benefit for most local residents. Those residents in CEC that would benefit from the new proposed Polling Station at Chells Manor Community Centre are equally balanced by those that would lose out under these new proposals and would rather benefit from keeping the previous arrangements by voting at Martins Wood Primary School. Because of this, we so no real over-riding rationale as to why previously successful arrangements should be changed.</p>	<p>Response will advise that the basis of the proposals are that they adhere to the guidance on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places, which includes the polling places and polling stations being within the Polling District and Ward. Chells Manor Community Centre is within Polling District CEC and Manor Ward.</p>
CBC	Old Town	Ref: SBC003	<p>As bookings Secretary at High Street Methodist Church Stevenage I was responsible for the smooth running of the recent local and European Polls on behave of High street.</p>	<p>No comments other than to thank the consultee</p>

			<p>There was from our point of view no negative feedback from any of our staff or users regarding the use of the building during the polling.</p> <p>High Streets acceptance of storing the polling booth between the two polls seemed to work well and may be used again if there is a need when we host two polls in a short space of time.</p> <p>Another positive is that we have a new disabled toilet.</p>	
CBA, CBB, CBC, CBD and CBE	Old Town	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We have no objections to the review's recommendations.	No comments other than to thank the consultee
CGA, CGB and CGC	Pin Green	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We have no objections to the review's recommendations.</p> <p>We have received positive comments from residents about the recent change in the Polling Station for CGB Polling District and believe that Hampson Park Community Centre is highly visible and works well as a Polling Station with excellent parking facilities.</p>	No comments other than to thank the consultee
CMA and CMB	Roebuck	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We have no objections to the review's recommendations.	No comments other than to thank the consultee
CKA, CKB and CKC	Shephall	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We welcome the addition of a new Polling District CKC with the new Polling Station at Grace Church Community Hall. This will give residents living in the new Polling District an option of a Station that is located closer to their homes.	No comments other than to thank the consultee

CDA, CDB, CDC, CDD and CDE	St Nicholas	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We object to the Council's proposed changes and believe serious consideration should be given to the usage of St Nicholas Recreation Centre as a Polling Station for both CCC in Woodfield and suitable Polling Districts in St Nicholas Ward such as CDC, CDE and CDD.</p> <p>For many in CDC, CDE and CDD, it is a considerable distance to travel to St Nicholas Community Centre and believe that it would be more convenient for residents and a better utilisation of resources at St Nicholas Recreation Centre to use it for multiple Polling Districts.</p> <p>Whilst not strictly within the ward boundaries, the proximity of St Nicholas Recreation Centre to St Nicholas ward has meant that it has been used very successfully as a Polling Station for many years. It seems illogical and arbitrary to amend this for the sake of a few meters. We will not be serving our residents properly if the Council's changes are to be implemented.</p>	<p>Response advises that allocating two different Borough Ward elections to a polling venue would present significant administrative problems for the Returning Officer at an election. It would create logistical problems for the staff, create confusion for the electorate, and also have significant legal implications around attendance at the polling station.</p> <p>The basis of the proposals is to ensure that the polling places and polling stations are within the Polling District and Ward, thus adhering to the guidance on the allocation of Polling District and Polling Places. St Nicholas Recreation Centre is within Polling District CCC which is within Woodfield Ward. For voters in Polling Districts CDC, CDD and CDE, St Nicholas Community Centre is a similar distance to travel to St Nicholas Recreation Centre and therefore these arrangements do not present any significant difference in respect of distance or travel.</p>
CAA, CAB and	Symonds Green	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	We have no objections to the review's recommendations.	No comments other than to thank the consultee

CAC				
CAC	Symonds Green	Ref: SBC004	<p>I read the article in the comet which encouraged people to raise any issues with polling stations.</p> <p>The only one I have is why Woolenwick Juniors School is used as one when there is another one barely 200 yards away at Symonds Green Community centre?</p> <p>It causes disruption to the school day and also any evening events going on there have to be cancelled.</p> <p>It would make more sense just to use the community centre alone.</p>	<p>Response advises that the buildings are almost a mile away in walking distance and that Woolenwick Junior School does not close on Polling Day. It further advises that the proposals adhere to the guidance on the allocation of Polling Districts and Polling Places, which includes the polling places and polling stations being within the Polling District and Ward. Woolenwick Junior School is within Polling District CAC.</p>
CCB	Woodfield	Councillor Sharon Taylor, Leader of Stevenage Borough Council	<p>I could not support the polling station at Weston Road cemetery. I know our residents felt very strongly that this was disrespectful</p>	<p>Response will advise that the allocation of polling stations is outside of the scope of this review and that it is the Returning Officer who is responsible for selecting polling stations.</p> <p>It will further explain that many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses, and that the polling station previously used for this polling district was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion, which has now closed. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent</p>

				<p>European Parliamentary election the Returning Officer did not receive any negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station.</p> <p>Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an election.</p> <p>In so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.</p>
CCB	Woodfield	Ref: SBC005	As per the review taking place of locations of voting locations I would like to object to the Weston Road cemetery being used for	Response will advise that the allocation of polling stations is

			<p>this purpose</p> <p>I do not feel the location is fitting for this and in the event public are there for a quiet time of contemplation after losing someone or even just a regular visit they should not be faced with this taking place</p>	<p>outside of the scope of this review and that it is the Returning Officer who is responsible for selecting polling stations.</p> <p>It will further explain that many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses, and that the polling station previously used for this polling district was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion, which has now closed. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent European Parliamentary election the Returning Officer did not receive any negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station.</p> <p>Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be</p>
--	--	--	---	--

				<p>included in materials sent prior to an election.</p> <p>In so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.</p>
CCB	Woodfield	Ref: SBC006	<p>I do not believe that the use of a cemetery (Woodfield Ward) is an appropriate venue for a polling station. It is a serene space for grieving families to say goodbye and to remember their loved ones and I find it quite disrespectful for it to be used as a political venue. Please reconsider.</p>	<p>Response will advise that the allocation of polling stations is outside of the scope of this review and that it is the Returning Officer who is responsible for selecting polling stations.</p> <p>It will further explain that many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses, and that the polling station previously used for this polling district was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion, which has now closed. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent European Parliamentary election the</p>

				<p>Returning Officer did not receive any negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station.</p> <p>Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an election.</p> <p>In so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.</p>
CCB	Woodfield	Ref: SBC007	I wish to object to the proposed inclusion of the Weston Road Cemetery as an Envisaged Polling Station for the next scheduled election in the Woodfield ward.	Response will advise that the allocation of polling stations is outside of the scope of this review

			<p>Having stood as the Labour candidate for Woodfield in the SBC elections in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2019 I have a close relationship with the electorate of this ward. Until this year, there were two polling stations used in Woodfield for elections; the Emergency Service Academy on Hitchin Road and the St Nicholas Recreation Centre on Pilgrims Way. In this year's local elections the latter polling station was replaced by Weston Road Cemetery. Whilst campaigning on the doorstep I received a number of complaints from residents who had been advised that they would need to cast their vote at the Cemetery. A number of reasons were given for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is felt that a cemetery is an inappropriate place for political activity • The use of a cemetery as a polling station was considered to be disrespectful, both to the dead and mourners • Many voters were concerned about arriving at the polling station at the same time as a funeral was taking place • Safety issues on accessing the site <p>The seriousness of this last point cannot be overemphasised. Not all voters have access to their own road transport. The Weston Road Cemetery is situated on a length of road which has no footpath. It is also one of the few stretches of road in Stevenage which is subject to the national speed limit. As a result, anyone wishing to access the site on foot has to walk along a narrow carriageway alongside traffic travelling at speeds of up to 60mph (although there are 20mph advisory signs at the blind bends, this limit is not mandatory).</p> <p>As a result of the above, a number of residents advised me that they would not be exercising their right to vote. This was a particular concern amongst the elderly and disabled. The Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates experienced similar conversations.</p>	<p>and that it is the Returning Officer who is responsible for selecting polling stations.</p> <p>It will further explain that many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses, and that the polling station previously used for this polling district was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion, which has now closed. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent European Parliamentary election the Returning Officer did not receive any negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station.</p> <p>Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an</p>
--	--	--	---	---

			<p>Democracy will be denied to a number of potential voters if Weston Road Cemetery continues to be used as a polling station. This cannot be allowed to happen.</p>	<p>election.</p> <p>In so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.</p>
CCA, CCB and CCC	Woodfield	Stevenage Liberal Democrats	<p>We welcome the addition of the new Polling District CCC and believe that this will be a better option for local residents within the area. However, this is subject to earlier comments that we believe that it is more than feasible for St Nicholas Recreation Centre to be used as a Polling Station for both CCC in Woodfield and suitable Polling Districts in St Nicholas Ward such as CDC, CDE and CDD.</p> <p>We have however received quite a few negative comments from local residents about the suitability of the Weston Road Cemetery as a Polling Station. These complaints can be split into two major objections; the appropriateness of using the Cemetery and lack of infrastructure.</p> <p>Many local people have said that they believe that the use of a cemetery as a Polling Station is not only disrespectful but also people feel uncomfortable visiting and using it as a Polling Station.</p> <p>The other objections relate to the transport infrastructure at the cemetery. The walking route to the cemetery is poor and needs to be improved if the building is to continue to be used as a Polling</p>	<p>Response will advise that the allocation of polling stations is outside of the scope of this review and that it is the Returning Officer who is responsible for selecting polling stations.</p> <p>It will further explain that many different types of buildings are used as polling stations across the UK, including churches, cemeteries, schools and public houses, and that the polling station previously used for this polling district was Canterbury Way Park Pavilion, which has now closed. The building has now been used for both a local and national poll, and at the most recent European Parliamentary election the Returning Officer did not receive any</p>

			<p>Station. Unless these objections are addressed, we feel that the cemetery remain an unsuitable Polling Station for local residents.</p>	<p>negative comments in respect of its use as a polling station.</p> <p>Through the review process none of the comments received have suggested an alternative venue that is available for use as a polling station, therefore the area is limited to the Cemetery building being the only viable polling station available. For those who do find accessing the polling station an issue, absent voting arrangements are available, such as a postal or proxy voting. Absent voting information will be included in materials sent prior to an election.</p> <p>In so far as the review is concerned the Polling Place will be designated as the Polling District. On this basis should an alternative venue be identified at any stage within the Polling District after this review and prior to any election, it would be possible to use this as a polling station should it be considered appropriate.</p>
--	--	--	--	--