



Electoral Matters Committee

Wed 13 Dec
2023
6.30 pm

Council Chamber,
Redditch Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley-Hill / Darren Whitney**

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GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Please note that this is a public meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

Meeting attendees are encouraged not to attend the meeting if they have common cold symptoms or any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

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Notes:

Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded.



Electoral Matters

Wednesday, 13th December,
2023

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Matthew Dormer (Chair)	Luke Court Monica Stringfellow
	Peter Fleming (Vice- Chair)	
	Juliet Barker Smith	

1. Apologies for absence and named substitutes

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)

4. Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 (Pages 11 - 28)

5. To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

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Electoral Matters Committee

Tuesday, 26th September,
2023

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Peter Fleming (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Barker Smith, Luke Court and Monica Stringfellow

Officers:

Melissa Bassett, Sue Hanley and Darren Whitney

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor Barker Smith reported that Councillor Fardoe, who had been a member of the Local Polling Districts and Places Review Working Group was unable to attend to observe the meeting. However, it was requested that it be noted that Councillor Fardoe had enjoyed taking part in the Working Group.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on 11th July 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Chair

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9. LOCAL POLLING DISTRICT PLACES REVIEW

The Electoral Services Manager presented the report on the subject of Local Polling District Places Review. Members were advised that the report contained the findings of the Local Polling Districts and Places Review Working Group. During the meetings of the Working Group, Members had discussed individual Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. During the investigation a number of changes had been suggested and informal site visits had been carried out by Members of the Working Group.

It was explained that there had been detailed discussion regarding the Headless Cross and Oakenshaw ward, during the meetings of the Working Group, and whether an additional Polling District could be created for the Wirehill area. Councillor Court had provided Officers with 7 potential sites within this area that could house a portable building for use as a potential Polling Station. The Electoral Services Manager explained that he had undertaken site visits along with the Senior Electoral Services Officer and the Senior Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Officer who provided advice and expertise on the potential locations.

The sites were reported as follows:

- Location 1 - This location was deemed unsuitable as there was not enough room to locate a temporary building, a toilet and a generator. It was also deemed too close to nearby houses.
- Location 2 – This site was thought to be a possibility; however, it would need to be confirmed if a lorry could access the site to deliver a portable building. Permission from Homes England would also need to be sought in order to use the land.
- Location 3 - This site was deemed unsuitable as any portable buildings would need to be sited on the road.
- Location 4 – This location was deemed unsuitable as there was not enough room to locate a temporary building, a toilet and a generator. It was also noted how busy the road was in this location.

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- Location 5 – This was a potential site. However, concerns were raised as to whether the terrain was flat enough. Concerns were also raised regarding a mulch path that ran alongside the site and whether a lorry could access the site in order to deliver a portable building.
- Location 6 – This location was deemed unsuitable as it was in close proximity to a play area and there would not be enough room for a portable building, toilet and generator.
- Location 7 – This location was deemed unsuitable due to the close proximity to a balancing pond and there would be concerns regarding safety.

It was noted that should Members wish to progress with Locations 5-7 (as detailed above) permission would need to be sought from David Wilson Homes to use the land.

Members queried as to what the potential next steps would be and suggested that Officers contacted David Wilson Homes and Homes England to see if it would be possible, following consultation with residents to use these locations.

During consideration of the report, Members suggested an additional site that could be investigated. The site suggested was noted as Woodrow Drive, adjacent to the Alexandra Hospital. Some Members raised concerns about the terrain of this site and whether it would be too hilly. Furthermore, it was noted that the parking provision on this site may cause some issues although any potential Polling Station sited here would not need to be used by a large number of voters, there was no certainty that voters who attended would be pedestrians and that parking could still potentially be an issue.

The following changes were highlighted by Members during consideration of the remainder of the report and it was requested that Officers make the following changes to the Polling Districts:

Astwood Bank and Feckenham Ward

1. AFA – Polling District Name change from St Peter's to Crabbs Cross

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2. AFC - Polling District Name change from St John's to Feckenham

Greenlands and Lakeside Ward

3. GLA – Polling District Name change from Riverside to Abbeydale
4. GLB - Polling District Name change from Holloway to Lakeside
5. GLC – Polling District Name change from Arrowcrest to Lodge Park
6. GLD - Polling District Name change from Throckmorton to Greenlands

Officers noted the amendments and undertook to make the changes as detailed above.

At the end of the discussion, Members thanked the Officers for their hard work during the Local Polling Districts and Places Review Working Group and further commented that it had been a thorough investigation and that all Members had worked successfully together.

RESOLVED that

1. Officers undertake further investigation of the following sites as potential future locations for a polling place, including landownership, permission to use the site and parking provision:
 1. Atworth Close
 2. Woodrow Drive
 3. Oakdale Close

and if one or more was feasible, that a polling district be created for the Wirehill area and named Wirehill otherwise the area to remain part of Oakenshaw South Polling District.

2. The above sites to be included in the statutory review public consultation due to commence on 2nd October 2023, along

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with the other ward information, as amended, included in the report.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.03 pm

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**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE
2023**

13 December

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillors Dormer, Leader, and Court, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Report Author	Job Title: Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Contact email: darren.whitney@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881650
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Part of consultation
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 that the final proposals in respect of Polling Districts and Polling Places, as contained in Appendix 1 (as amended), be approved; and**
- 1.2 that the decisions of the Committee in respect of 1.1 above take effect from the date of poll any election/referendum held or on publication of the revised Register of Electors.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee held on the 11 July 2023 it was agreed that the statutory review would formally commence on 2 October 2023.
- 2.2 The statutory review covers, Polling Districts (a geographical area, which tend not to cross Ward or Parish Boundaries), Polling Place (a building or area where Polling Stations are located) and Polling Stations (the room or area where polling takes place, the decision on location of the polling station is decided by the (Acting) Returning Officer).
- 2.3 The review consists of four stages:
- Stage 1 – Notification

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- Stage 2 – Consultation
- Stage 3 – Concluding the Review
- Stage 4 – Publication

- 2.4 The (Acting) Returning Officer must make a submission regarding current and any proposed polling stations.
- 2.5 The report sets out the results of the consultation and the findings of the Electoral Services team to the formal review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.
- 2.6 The consultation ran from 2 October to 13 November all submissions and summaries are recorded in the various appendices below. All of the recommend polling stations were considered as part of the Local Review held earlier in the year. Members of the Committee are asked to consider any further proposals and finalise the review.
- 2.7 Communications were sent out to Councillors, stakeholder groups, Parishes and through Council communications including press releases and social media.
- 2.8 A full review document will be published at the end of December giving all the polling districts and places agreed by the committee. This will also record any further and outstanding work required on polling districts and places. Any changes made will be incorporated into the revised electoral register which will be published early in 2024.
- 2.9 Once complete certain people or organisations may appeal to the Electoral Commission to have changes made if they feel the Local Authority hasn't met reasonable expectations of the electorate or taken into account the needs for accessible polling stations.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Subject to the Committee's final decisions, there may be some minor financial implications for the Council which arise directly from this review, but which can be contained within existing budgets.
- 3.2 Depending on the outcome of the review there may be additional costs or savings regarding polling stations that are to be used in future elections.

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4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Review will be undertaken as required under the Representation of the People Act 1983 and Electoral Administration Act 2013, and in accordance with relevant Electoral Commission Guidance.
- 4.2 a) Authority to set Polling District boundaries and to designate polling places rests with the Council (Statutory elements of the Council's Constitution under the Local Government Act 2000). Redditch Borough Council has delegated full relevant powers to this Electoral Matters Committee.
- b) Decisions about the situation of Polling Stations within designated Polling Places are for the (Acting) Returning Officer. Arrangements must comply with relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Acts and Regulations, the Equality Act 2010 and the Elections Act 2022.
- 4.3 "Relevant authorities" (such as Redditch Borough Council) must
- "a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances"; and
- "b) seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled and, when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons. If it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal, then every reasonable adjustment must be undertaken to provide access for all electors."
- 4.4 The Elections Act 2022 has placed new considerations for Local Authorities in regard to polling places. Key considerations are accessibility and checking voter's ID to ensure polling stations have suitable space to allow polling station staff to check documents and provide a privacy screen or separate area for confidential conversations.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

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- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 It is preferable that choice of polling place location can help minimise unnecessary additional journeys by motorised vehicles.
- 5.3 Emissions and carbon footprint should be reduced as far as possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 Accessibility for members of minority or disadvantaged groups is a key issue in the selection of suitable Polling Stations. The (Acting) Returning Officer will have a general responsibility to provide equipment to support people with a range of disabilities in the polling station.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Officer time was necessary in dealing with consultation, producing statistics, maps and reporting back to this Committee.
- 6.3 The review used the work completed on the review of local polling districts and polling places arising from the Redditch (Electoral Changes) Order 2023 (SI 2023/654).

Key Issues**A. Proposed Polling District Boundaries and Polling Places.**

- 6.4 Appendix 1 to the report details Polling Districts and associated electoral areas, and the proposals arising from the consultation, together with consultee comments and responses to those comments arising from the recommendations of the last meeting of this Committee.
- 6.5 There are four polling districts where the current County Division boundary passes through them. Officers have split these into two sections and will have the suffix 2 added after the second section. This

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allows for administration of a County Division by-election if one is called in the near future.

- 6.6 The affected polling districts are HOC, NRB, NRC and WCD. These polling districts can be reviewed once the proposals for the County Division are published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

B. Issues arising from consultation on recommendations

- 6.7 Polling District CEA St Stephen's – A suggestion was made to change the polling district name to 'Town Centre District'.
- 6.8 Potential Polling District HOD Wirehill – The Committee asked Officers to look at the feasibility of a polling place at one of three locations.

The contractor that provides temporary polling stations to the Council made the following comments regarding the specified locations:

- **Woodrow Drive (B98 7UB) just after the entrance to nine days lane:**

'The driver advised due to this being a busy road he would be unable to set up the crane to offload the unit. The legs of the unit would be fully on the grass and there are risks of the unit sinking if the grass/soil is soft due to weather conditions and there are also electric pylons on the other side.'

- **Land next to 23 Atworth Close B98 7NX:**

'There is a phone wire but this can be worked around, the ground is uneven so packing would be required and the kerbside would need to be kept clear.'

- **Land at the end of Oakdale Close B98 7UW:**

'This site has no issues in regards to the delivery of the unit, as long as residents are happy as the generators are built within the units this will make noise while running.'

- 6.9 The owners of the land have been contacted for permission to use the land for polling if required. There has been no reply from the owners of Oakdale Close land; for Atworth Close land, discussions are ongoing, they have replied to the request with the following: "My Team are looking into your request and are currently reviewing the relevant legal documentation in order to respond..... It may be that this is best dealt with via a temporary licence, however this depends on your requirements."

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- 6.10 It should be noted that if HOD is chosen to be a polling district it is the same area as HOC2 mentioned in paragraph 6.6 above.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Any changes agreed must be likely to be sustainable for a reasonable number of years, as frequent changes of Polling Station are not helpful for electors and undermine their knowledge of, and confidence in, electoral systems.
- 7.2 Choice of Polling Place / Polling Station should not give rise to significant grounds of complaint which might put election results at risk of challenge.
- 7.3 The (Acting) Returning Officer must provide adequate levels and standards of staffing to secure proper polling arrangements. The Electoral Commission has changed it's guidance in that no more than 2,250 electors should be allocated to a single polling station with at least 1 Presiding Officer and 3 Poll Clerks.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Polling District and Places Spreadsheet

Appendix 2 – Submissions Received

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Guidance
Relevant statutory provisions

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE
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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder		
Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		

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Redditch Statutory Polling District & Polling Place Review 2023

Note: Due to the Local Boundary Commission for England has carried out a Ward Boundary Review many Wards in the Borough have changed and will come into force at elections in May 2024.

Current Wards and relevant current Councillors are included for information.

Polling Districts with bracketed codes relate to those where the County Division boundary (not part of this review) divides it.

Current Ward	Current Ward Councillor (based on current Wards)	Ward Electorate	Electorate	Ward (from May 2024)	Polling District	Polling District Code	Parish	Proposed Polling Place	Local Review Comments endorsed by (Acting) Returning Officer and Electoral Matters Committee
Crabbs Cross	S. Akbar/C. Holz		2114	Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Crabbs Cross	AFA		Crabbs Cross Methodist Church	It is recommended that this be used as the polling place as it is within the polling district and electors have only used the Windmill Community Centre once before. Officers have visited Crabbs Cross Methodist Church and noted that it would be suitable as a polling place.
Astwood Bank & Feckenham	C. Warhurst/B. Clayton		1590	Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Hunt End	AFB		The Red Lion, Hunt End	It is recommended that the Red Lion be used as the polling place as it is at the centre of the polling district. This would replace the portable building at Banners Lane. Complaints have been received about the portable building and where it is sited and this option would be considerably cheaper. Officers have visited The Red Lion and noted that the marquee at the back would be suitable as a polling place.
Astwood Bank & Feckenham	C. Warhurst/B. Clayton		686	Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Feckenham	AFC	Feckenham	Feckenham Village Hall	No Change to the polling place as it is within the polling district. It was rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
Astwood Bank & Feckenham	C. Warhurst/B. Clayton	6826	2436	Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Astwood Bank	AFD		Astwood Bank Church Hall	Recommend that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place for Astwood Bank. Astwood Bank Church Hall is located centrally within Astwood Bank. Whilst having limited parking, the hall is well known as a polling place by the electorate and identified as the most suitable venue in the area. It was rated 4/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
Batchley & Brockhill	J. Baker/L. Harrison/K. Miles		2869	Batchley & Brockhill	Brockhill	BBA		Holyoakes Fields First School	The school is situated in the new residential area within the polling district. This would replace the portable building at Burrington Close. It was noted that the use of the school is not ideal especially as it is at the top of the hill, however it was thought that this would be preferable than using a portable building.

Batchley & Brockhill/Central	J. Baker/L. Harrison/K. Miles I. Altaf/S. Harvey		1605	Batchley & Brockhill	Batchley Brook	BBB		Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club	The premises have been visited and identified that the club is a suitable venue for a polling station with good accessibility and facilities, with enough space for multiple polling stations. It is recommended that this be used as the polling place as it is at the centre of the polling district. This would replace the portable building at Carthorse Lane.
Batchley & Brockhill/Central	J. Baker/L. Harrison/K. Miles I. Altaf/S. Harvey		1724	Batchley & Brockhill	Batchley	BBC		Batchley Community Centre	We recommend that the centre continues to be used as a polling place and have extended the polling district to the North. Batchley Community Centre is a large community building located within the polling district. No issues of concern were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Batchley & Brockhill	J. Baker/L. Harrison/K. Miles	7657	1459	Batchley & Brockhill	Foxlydiate	BBD		Gospel Hall Church	This is a new polling servicing the west of the ward. A new polling place has been suggested. The building has been visited and found that it is a suitable location and would make an ideal polling place. The use for polling purposes will need confirmation from the Trustees of the Hall.
Central/Lodge Park	I. Altaf/S. Harvey A. Fry/T.Pearman		2757	Central	St Stephen's	CEA		Redditch Baptist Church	Residents formally in the St George's polling district in the small area below the Coventry Highway are placed into the CEA polling district. Redditch Baptist Church is well known as a polling station for this polling district. No change to the polling place is proposed. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Central	I. Altaf/S. Harvey		1200	Central	Smallwood	CEB		REDI Centre	There has been a small boundary change to move those on the northern side of Parsons Road as well as those on Beaufort Street and Old Crest Avenue into the district for convenience of polling place. The REDI Centre is well known as a polling station for this polling district. No change to the polling place is proposed. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Central	I. Altaf/S. Harvey		1915	Central	Southcrest	CEC		Southcrest Evangelical Church	There is the small change of those moving into CEB above. As a polling place, Southcrest Evangelical Church is well known as a polling place by the electorate and therefore its continued use is recommended. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.

Central	I. Altaf/S. Harvey	6902	1030	Central	Pitcheroak	CED		Bentley Close Communal Room	No changes are proposed to the CED district, although those previously in the district on the Bromsgrove road/Vicarage Crescent have now moved in to the Batchley and Brockhill ward. Bentley Close Communal Room is well known as a polling station for this polling district. No change to the polling place is proposed. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Abbey	S.Khan/M.Stringfellow		1638	Greenlands & Lakeside	Abbeydale	GLA		Abbeydale Community Club	Recommended that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place. The building is well known as a polling place by the electorate. Although there were some lighting issues at the elections in May 2023 it is still thought to be the best option as a polling place.
Lodge Park	A. Fry/T.Pearman		1471	Greenlands & Lakeside	Lakeside	GLB		Harry Taylor House	Recommended that the polling district boundary moves to the A4189. Harry Taylor House is well known as a polling place by the electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Lodge Park	A. Fry/T.Pearman		1763	Greenlands & Lakeside	Lodge Park	GLC		Lodge Park Social Club	Recommended no changes to the polling district boundary. Lodge Park Social Club is well known as a polling place by the electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Lodge Park/Greenlands	A. Fry/T.Pearman J.Begum/J.Kane/E.Marshall	7361	2489	Greenlands & Lakeside	Greenlands	GLD		St John's Church Hall	This is part of the GRA polling district of the current Greenlands Ward. It is proposed to keep this but move the northern boundary to the A4189. St John's Church Hall is well known as a polling place by the electorate. No major issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	J.Beecham/I.Woodall/J.Barker-Smith		3656	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	Headless Cross	HOA		Rocklands Social Club	The Vaynor and Birchfield polling districts have been combined as well as the inclusion of Ellerdene Close to create a Headless Cross polling district with Rocklands Social Club (the most suitable venue) proposed as the polling place. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 4/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.

Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	J.Beecham/I.Woodall/J.Barker-Smith		1470	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	Oakenshaw North	HOB		Oakenshaw Community Centre	Oakenshaw North is mostly unchanged except for the removal of Ellerdene Close, with no proposed change to the polling place. Oakenshaw Community Centre is a large community building located within the polling district. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
Headless Cross & Oakenshaw/Greenlands	J.Beecham/I.Woodall/J.Barker-Smith J.Begum/J.Kane/E.Marshall		2113	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	Oakenshaw South	HOC (HOC2)		Portable Building Grangers lane	Aware that portable buildings are not the most suitable polling places, Electoral Matters Committee have been unable to locate an alternative within the polling district. It is therefore recommended the continued use of the polling place. It was initially thought to include the part of the old GRP polling district in this polling district, however Electoral Matters Committee have requested officers look at creating an extra polling district with it's own polling place (see below). If something suitable cannot be found the Portable building in Grangers Lane is recommended.
Greenlands	J.Begum/J.Kane/E.Marshall	7239	0	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	Wirehill	HOD (HOC2)			The Electoral Matters Committee have asked officers to look at the feasibility of a polling place at one of the following locations: a) Atworth Close b) Woodrow Drive c) Oakdale Close The polling district is recommended to be named Wirehill.
Matchborough	A.Fogg/J.Spilsbury		2125	Matchborough & Woodrow	Matchborough East	MWA		Matchborough East Community Centre	Recommended that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place for Matchborough East. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
Matchborough	A.Fogg/J.Spilsbury		1813	Matchborough & Woodrow	Matchborough West	MWB		Matchborough Meeting Rooms	The Ipsley area is no longer included in the polling district. Recommended that no further changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place for Matchborough West. Matchborough Meeting Rooms is convenient for the local electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.

Greenlands	J.Begum/J.Kane/E.Marshall			Matchborough & Woodrow	Woodrow	MWC		Woodrow Community Centre	The polling district has been created by merging both parts of the previously Greenlands polling districts which are now contained within the Matchborough & Woodrow ward. Recommended that no changes are made to the polling place within the newly devised district. Woodrow Community centre is located centrally within the polling district and therefore convenient for the local electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 4/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
		7538	3600						
Abbey	S.Khan/M.Stringfellow			North	Bordesley	NRA		The Abbey Hotel	Polling district NRA is proposed for properties on Hither Green Lane as this residential area is totally separate to the rest of the ward which presents an obstacle for voting in person. It is proposed that the Abbey Hotel is used as a polling place for this polling district. Officers have visited the hotel and have found suitable rooms for polling.
			308						
Church Hill/Abbey	K.Ashley/J.Fardoe/B.Hartnett S.Khan/M.Stringfellow			North	Papermill	NRB (NRB2)		Marlfield Barn	Recommend that the polling district be extended to incorporate the Paper Mill Hill areas to negate the use of the portable building on Rush Lane. Marlfield Barn is in a suitable location which is accessible for all those in the suggested polling district. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
			2001						
Church Hill/Abbey	K.Ashley/J.Fardoe/B.Hartnett S.Khan/M.Stringfellow			North	Church Hill North	NRC (NRC2)		St Andrew's Methodist Church	Recommended that the polling district be extended to incorporate the Church Hill North area to negate the use of the portable building on Jersey Close. St Andrew's Church is in a suitable location which is accessible for all those in the suggested polling district. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
			2940						

Church Hill	K.Ashley/J.Fardoe/B.Hartnett			North	Moon's Moat	NRD		Church Hill Community Centre	Recommended that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district other than the incorporation of the commercial area which has no effect on the electorate. The Community Centre is a suitable venue and well-liked by staff and the electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
		7020	1771						
West	M.Dormer/G.Monaco			Webheath & Callow Hill	Upper Norgrove	WCA		St Philip's Church	It is proposed that the polling district of Webheath be split in to two polling districts with St Philip's Church proposed as the polling place for the western district and Webheath Village Hall for the eastern district. It is proposed that the boundary be placed from Callow Hill in the south along Green Lane, up to Heathfield Road, encompassing a row of dwellings on this road, then it would cut through to Springvale Road. Here the properties to the west of Springvale, Packwood, Neighbrook, Lordswood, Knightsford, Sydnal, Shaws, Hennals/Brotherton would be included whereas the opposite side of the road would remain in the Webheath polling district. This boundary would then encompass all of Brichfield Road northwest towards Bromsgrove. Officers have visited St Philip's Church and noted that it would be suitable as a polling station.
			2290						
West	M.Dormer/G.Monaco			Webheath & Callow Hill	Webheath	WCB		Webheath Village Hall	See WCA above. Webheath Village Hall is a large community building located centrally within the polling district. The hall is well known as a polling place by the electorate. No issues of concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 4/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
			2545						
Crabbs Cross	C.Holz/S.Akbar			Webheath & Callow Hill	Walkwood	WCC		Windmill Community Centre	The polling district remains the same minus a small change on the west of the polling district moving a small number of properties to WCD. Windmill Community is a large, accessible building within the polling district. The centre is known as a polling place by the electorate. No issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff apart from the external automatic door. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
			1444						

West/Crabbs Cross	M.Dormer/G.Monaco C.Holz/S.Akbar			Webheath & Callow Hill	Callow Hill	WCD (WCD2)		Gazebo at Callow Hill	See WCC above, in addition the proposed polling district the boundary has been moved north to encompass the houses on Lower Grinsty Lane. The boundary has also been moved to cover the entirety of Redditch Golf Club's course for ease as well as the Walkwood Coppice. The Gazebo at Callow Hill is a smaller station with some accessibility issues. However, it is extremely convenient for the local electorate. No further issues or concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
		7095	816						
Winyates	L.Court/P.Flemming/A.Lovell			Winyates	Winyates East	WIA		Tenacres Childrens Centre	Recommended that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place for Winyates East. Tenacres is well known as a polling place by the electorate and was preferred as a venue compared to the Winyates Centre used in May 2022. No issues of concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff. It was Rated 5/5 for Staff 5/5 for Electors at elections in May 2023.
			2699						
Winyates	L.Court/P.Flemming/A.Lovell			Winyates	Winyates West	WIB		Arrow Valley First School	The changes made to the polling district (south of a number of closes off Lowlands Lane) decrease the electorate at the polling station which may assist with some concerns for parking at the polling place. Arrow Valley First School is well known as a polling place by the electorate and was preferred as a venue compared to the Winyates Centre used in May 2022. It is noted that the lighting issues will need to be addressed, particularly if the station is used during winter months. Whilst lighting and fencing may incur additional costs, it is felt that the cost is still reasonable and allows for the school to remain open.
			1469						
Winyates	L.Court/P.Flemming/A.Lovell			Winyates	Winyates Green	WIC		Winyates Green Community Centre	Recommend that no changes are made to either the boundaries of the polling district, or the polling place for Winyates Green. Winyates Green Community Centre is a community building located centrally within the polling district. The centre is well known as a polling place by the electorate. No issues of concerns were raised by any of the Returning Officer's staff.
			1642						
Winyates/Matchborough	L.Court/P.Flemming/A.Lovell A.Fogg/J.Spilsbury			Winyates	Ipsley	WID		The Old Rectory Hotel	The new recommended polling district is the area included from the review which was in the old Matchborough Ward and has been extended to include closes off Lowlands Lane to the north of the Warwick Highway. The suggested polling place for this revised district is The Old Rectory Hotel. Officers have visited the site and found it suitable to be a polling place. There are concerns about availability for unscheduled polls.
		6784	974						

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Appendix 2 – Submissions Received (redacted)

RR1 3/10/23 – St. Philip’s Church – polling place for WCA

“Happy. Im glad you are supporting church in Webheath..” Member of Public

RR2 6/10/23 – Crabbs Cross Methodist Church– polling place for AFA

“Didn't vote last time as too far and particularly too hilly. Suggest that the flat route to the Methodist Church would be more easily accessible for all on or near the top of the hill on Evesham Road, and it is on the bus route for those of us with passes.” Member of Public

RR3 6/10/23 – Central Ward – polling district CEA

“For Central Ward, I see the Polling stations for 'Smallwood', 'Pitcheroak', 'Southcrest' and 'St Stephen's'.

It is the last one in this list which I suggest a name change

While I understand the important Town Centre landmark of St Stephen's and the useful polling place at the Baptist Church nearby - this part of the new Central Ward could be named 'Town Centre District'. Of course I realise the Town Centre area is/was in Abbey Ward!” Member of Public

RR4 12/11/23 - St John’s Church Hall, Portable Building Grangers Lane and Woodrow Community Centre – polling places for GLD, HOC and MWC respectively

“I have no issues with the locations for the polling stations in Greenlands and Woodrow.” Borough Councillor

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