

Interim Review of Polling Districts and Places – Kirklees Council

Returning Officer Submission

May 2025

In accordance with Section 18c (sub section 1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Kirklees Council is conducting a review of all polling districts and places.

The Council determines the polling district boundaries within wards. The Council has delegated decision making on polling district boundary changes to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

Polling station locations are determined by the Returning Officer.

The closing date for submissions and comments in connection with the review was Tuesday 29 April. Comments were put forward for consideration and the Returning Officer has made several decisions and proposals resulting from the responses received.

All submissions and comments received during the consultation are published at appendix 1. A summary of the submissions and comments received, and the Returning Officers response is detailed in ward order below. Revised maps for each ward have been published on the Councils website to represent the final proposals that will be taken to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for approval in September.

Polling districts alpha and numerical identifiers will be changed following approval of the final proposals.

ASHBROW WARD

The Returning Officer (RO) received comments from Councillor James Homewood relating to the initial proposals.

Councillor Homewood was supportive of redrawing the boundaries of AB01 and AB03 polling districts and splitting them between the Chestnut Centre and Northfield Hall to allow for a more balanced number of electors at the locations and better access for voters.

The initial proposal also looked at abolishing the current AB02 polling district and distributing the properties in this area amongst the surrounding polling districts due to the lack of suitable buildings in this polling district. Councillor Homewood flagged that Fartown Village Hall has been purchased by a local community group and is located centrally to the current polling district in AB02.

The Councillor also raised the issue of negative voter feedback for the polling station in AB06 currently located at Bradley Park Golf Club (located at the boundary of the polling district, at some distance from residential areas). The Returning Officer is

aware of the negative feedback received at the last election and will consider alternative options as and when they are identified and/or become available.

The RO has determined that AB01 polling district's polling station will be located at Northfield Hall which is centrally placed within the polling district. AB02 and AB03 will remain as separate polling districts, the polling station for both areas will be the Chestnut Centre which will operate as a double station due to the uncertainty of the buildings suggested by Councillor Homewood.

However, the RO agrees that Fartown Village Hall would be a more central and suitable option, should it become available in the future polling district AB02 will be relocated to Fartown Village Hall.

The RO can change polling station locations within any existing polling district as and when required so this will remain under review.

ALMONDBURY WARD

The Returning Officer received comments from Councillor Alison Munro regarding the initial proposals. Councillor Munro expressed her concern regarding the uncertainty of the Pop-In Centre and flagged that during the consultation process with ward Councillors they had suggested Almondbury Cricket Club as an alternative. A site visit was undertaken to the Cricket Club and it was determined that the access road/track to the club has some potholes and limited lighting.

The access to the club also has steps which would present a problem for disabled voters. The Councillor also suggested Hill View Academy as an alternative location to the Pop-In. The Electoral Services team spoke with a representative of the school who expressed concerns regarding disruption to the school day, potentially needing to close if a suitable room could not be agreed and if the school did remain open the safeguarding issues with having children on site with a working polling station.

Councillor Munro also highlighted her support for proposed boundary changes in AL06 and AL07 to alleviate pressure on the polling station due to the high volume of voters and to consider the developments in AL07.

The RO has determined that the polling station for AL02 will remain at the Pop-In Centre whilst it is still available and will remain under review should the position change in the future.

The RO recommends that the polling district boundaries of AL06 and AL07 are amended as per the initial proposals.

BATLEY EAST WARD

The Returning Officer received comments regarding the initial proposals from Councillor Aziz Daji. Councillor Daji supported the majority of the proposals however expressed his concerns regarding the merger of polling districts BE04 and BE09 and moving the polling station from Warwick Road School's Community Building to The Trinity Centre at Holy Trinity Church on Upper Road. Councillor Daji stated that the

parking at the Church is more difficult than it is at Warwick Road. Councillor Habiban Zaman agreed with Councillor Daji's comments.

The Returning Officer also received responses from the Headteachers at Park Road J and I and Warwick Road Primary Schools, both supporting the move away from the use of their school's as polling stations.

The headteacher at Field Lane Junior and Infants School confirmed that they are happy to continue being used as a polling station as they implement home learning whilst the school is closed for use as a polling station.

The RO proposes that BE04 and BE09 polling districts are merged and that the polling station is located at The Trinity Centre at Holy Trinity Church. At the last elections in May and July 2024, the Electoral Services team received complaints from a disabled voter who struggled to turn into the room in use at Warwick Road as it was a tight turning in a wheelchair and was not suitably accessible.

Where possible, the RO is committed to avoiding using Schools as polling stations to prevent disruption to the school day and safeguarding issues. The parking outside of Warwick Road is problematic at school drop off and collection times, the room is very small and is difficult to access in a powered wheelchair and the school loses the use of the community building on the day of the election. The Trinity Centre is a seven-minute walk or a two-minute drive from Warwick Road and provides better facilities for staff and voters.

The RO determines that the polling station for district BE02 will be located at the Pakistan Muslim Welfare Society building rather than at Field Lane School as the building provides good facilities and moving out of the school will prevent disruption to learning.

BATLEY WEST WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO determines that the polling stations will remain as initially proposed. The polling stations at BW03 will accommodate the areas taken in from Heckmondwike ward as it is a small number of electors. The polling district boundaries will remain for administrative reasons as separate polling districts as these areas remain part of the Spen Valley constituency so cannot be merged with this district as it is in the Dewsbury and Batley constituency.

The RO determines that the polling station for BW01 will accommodate the area taken in from Birstall and Birkenshaw ward. The polling district boundaries will remain for administrative reasons as separate polling districts as this area remains part of the Spen Valley constituency so cannot be merged with this polling district as it is in the Dewsbury and Batley constituency.

BIRSTALL AND BIRKENSHAW WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from Councillor Liz Smaje regarding the initial proposals. Councillor Smaje objected to the merging of polling districts BB06 and BB07 with the polling station located at Birkenshaw 1st Spen Valley Scout Hut. Councillor Smaje stated that residents in Birkenshaw Bottoms who do not drive would have to walk uphill and the distance equates to a twenty-minute walk and there is no frequent bus service to support them.

Councillor Smaje suggested using a portacabin as a temporary polling station to avoid voters being disenfranchised due to the distance.

The Returning Officer also received a response from a staff member at BBG Academy regarding the proposals supporting the move from the school to the Scout Hut.

The Returning Officer also received a response from a resident currently residing in the Birstall and Birkenshaw ward area that is due to be moved to the Batley West ward objecting to the ward boundary change.

The RO proposes that BB06 and BB07 remain as separate polling stations and voters will continue to use BBG Academy Library Building as a polling station.

Where possible, the RO supports moving away from using schools where there is a suitable alternative however given the distance for voters located in BB06 to the Scout Hut it is not suitable to merge the districts.

The school remains open for the day and has a separate entrance to the library room used and there is a large car park available so there is minimal disruption to the school day.

Temporary units are not considered to provide adequate accessibility for disabled voters and do not allow for adequate privacy to deliver voter ID requirements so the units are not an option that can be considered (unless there is an unavoidable emergency situation on the day of poll).

The Council and the Returning Officer have no power to amend ward boundaries, the decision to move a section of BB04 to Batley West ward was made by the Local Government Boundary Commission and cannot be amended as part of this review.

CLECKHEATON WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from Councillor Andrew Pinnock on behalf of all ward Councillors for Cleckheaton. Councillor Pinnock supported the merge of CL10 and CL05 polling districts, however, expressed concerns over the distance for some voters.

Councillor Pinnock advised that he and his fellow ward Councillors would oppose the merging of CL09 and CL07 and the merging of CL08 and CL02 polling districts. For

both objections, Councillor Pinnock advised there is a limited bus service in both areas and is a greater walking distance. The Councillor also advised there are two moderately sized housing developments in CL02 which will increase the electorate in this area. Councillor Pinnock also advised that residents living in CL09 would have to walk up-hill a great distance to get to the polling station in CL07.

The RO recommends that CL10 and CL05 districts are merged as supported by Councillors.

The RO recommends that CL09 and CL07 remain as separate polling districts and are not merged due to the up-hill walking distance of 20 minutes up hill for the majority of residents within this district.

The RO recommends that CL08 and CL02 are merged into a single polling district with the polling station located at Cleckheaton Library. The Library offers suitable facilities and is located 0.5 miles away from Turnsteads Community Hall. The electorate at CL08 in-person voters is 810 so is a small station and given the short distance to Cleckheaton Library the venue offers a suitable alternative with minimal impact to the electorate.

COLNE VALLEY EAST WARD (GOLCAR)

The Returning Officer received a representation from a resident of Golcar ward and official on behalf of the Labour Party Golcar Branch. The submission recommended amended polling district boundaries to ensure local connections between areas and polling stations were maintained and ensured that there was a more equitable number of voters allocated to each polling district.

The resident also detailed an objection to the proposed merger of GC03 and GC04 as they felt the distance to the new polling station would impact on turnout. They also objected to the merger of GC08 and GC09 due to the distance of travel to the polling station and provided historic information relating to previous polling district arrangements to support the objection. The resident recommended that residents located in GC09 could be allocated to the polling station at GH04 but maintained the polling district boundary to consider the different constituency areas.

The resident and Golcar Labour Party supported the move away from Crow Lane School to avoid disruption to the school where possible.

The RO recommends that the polling districts for GC03 and GC04 are merged as the polling station is accessible and in the direction of travel to the Town Centre. The polling station currently located at GC03 causes congestion on Cowlersley Lane at busy periods.

The RO considered the residents proposed polling district boundary changes between GC02, GC06 and GC05 and agreed that the amendments allow for a more equitable balance and improved accessibility to polling stations. The RO recommends that the polling district boundaries are amended in GC02, GC06 and GC05 to match the proposal made by the resident.

The RO determines that GC09 polling district boundary will not be amended as per the initial proposals and that the polling station for GC09 will be located at GH04 polling premise. This will be on a trial basis for 2026 to ensure that the premises at GH04 can suitably accommodate the increased electorate and will be reviewed in summer 2026.

COLNE VALLEY WEST WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from two residents within the current Colne Valley ward boundary objecting to the polling station at CV08 located in Outlane being sent to Slaithwaite Civic Hall to vote. Electoral Services responded to the representation as this was not accurate, the proposals outlined that due to the area of Outlane moving from Colne Valley ward to Lindley ward due to the Boundary Review, the area of Outlane included on the Lindley ward map was being merged with an existing polling district in Lindley and electors would vote at Mount Methodist Church.

The RO recommends that the area of Outlane moved from Colne Valley ward to Lindley ward is merged with LD05 polling district and the residents living in the small section of Outlane affected will now attend Mount Methodist Church to vote.

The RO recommends that the remaining area of CV08 and CV09 districts retained in Colne Valley West are merged into a single polling district with the polling station being located at Slaithwaite Civic Hall.

CROSLAND MOOR WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from Councillors Jo Lawson and Alex Vickers supporting the initial proposals.

Representations were received from the Head Teacher at Mount Pleasant School and Spring Grove School who both fully supported the proposal to move out of the school to avoid disruption to learning.

The RO determines that the polling stations in NE07 which is an area taken on from the Newsome ward will be located at the Sikh Leisure Centre.

The RO recommends that the polling district boundaries are amended in CN03, CN04, CN05, CN06, CN07 and NE04 are amended as initially proposed to allow for the electorate to be more equitable between the polling stations to accommodate the changes due to the amended ward boundary.

DALTON WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from the Head Teacher at Netherhall Learning Campus supporting the merge of DA01, DA05 and DA08 to

allow the polling station to be located solely at the United Reformed Church on Old Wakefield Road as this would avoid disruption to the school.

The RO recommends the polling district boundaries are amended as initially proposed to ensure that the area of NE08 taken from Newsome ward and moved to Dalton by the Local Government Boundary Commission can be facilitated at the polling station in DA07.

The RO recommends that the polling districts of DA05 and DA08 (part of) and DA01 and DA08 (part of) are merged to allow the school to be vacated and the polling stations to be hosted at the United Reformed Church and St James Church and Parish Centre.

DENBY DALE WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO recommends that the polling districts of DD08 and DD07 remain as separate polling districts rather than merging them as initially proposed. Due to the geographical distance, rurality of this ward, limited public transport and suitable walking routes, the RO's view is that it would not be appropriate to merge the polling districts.

The RO recommends the polling districts of DD03, DD02 and DD06 are merged with a polling station located at St Nicholas Church due to the extremely small electorates located in this area can be hosted by a single polling station.

DEWSBURY EAST WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

DEWSBURY SOUTH WARD

A representation was received from the Head Teacher at Savile Town and Thornhill Lees school. The Head Teacher advised that the use of both schools requires the schools to close for the day and that there are alternative options at both sites.

At Saville Town the nursery which is located across the road, is a separate building from the school and has it's own car park. At Thornhill Lees, the Head Teacher has offered the Nursery room, which can be isolated from the main school as an alternative location at the same site.

A site visit was conducted to both alternative suggestions and it has been deemed that they are suitable alternatives, provide adequate facilities, are disabled access compliant and there is adequate parking.

A representation was received from Councillor Masood Ahmed suggesting the use of the Taleem Centre as an alternative. The Electoral Services team have attempted to

make contact with the Taleem Centre and were initially advised it could not be made available for use as a polling station. The Electoral Services team have had no further contact from the Taleem Centre.

A representation was received from the business manager at Overthorpe Church of England Academy supporting the relocation of the polling station from their school to Thornhill Social Club.

The RO determines that both new alternative buildings as suggested by the Head Teacher will be trialled at the elections in May 2026.

The RO determines the polling station at Overthorpe School will be located at Thornhill Social Club.

DEWSBURY WEST WARD

A representation was received from a member of the public who is appointed as the polling station inspector at the election supporting the proposed changes as they will better facilitate the electorate.

A representation was received from the Head Teacher at St Paulinus School fully supporting the move from their school building to St Paulinus Parochial Hall to avoid the school closing for polling day.

The Returning Officer recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals to allow the boundaries to be amended to ensure a more equitable split of voters and vacate school premises where possible to avoid disruption.

GREENHEAD WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from Councillor Carole Pattison on behalf of all ward Councillors for Greenhead supporting the initial proposals.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

HECKMONDWIKE WARD

The Returning Officer received a representation from the booking agent at Brighton Street Working Men's Club supporting the continued use of the club.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

HOLME VALLEY NORTH WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

HOLME VALLEY SOUTH WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

KIRKBURTON WARD

A number of representations were received from residents living in the DS07 (Lower Whitley area) objecting to the proposed change of polling station from the Community Centre to St Mary and St Michael Church. Residents stated that there are no parking facilities at the Church and due to the narrow road, there would be access issues on Howroyd Lane.

Residents also cited concerns with the uneven pathway to the church building. The residents overwhelmingly objected to the move from the Community Centre to the Church. In addition to residents, the treasurer of the Community Centre contacted the Electoral Services team to offer the polling station at a reduced rate so that they could continue to facilitate the polling station and support the residents locally.

Representations were received from all three Councillors for the Kirkburton ward supporting the initial proposals, however, Councillor John Taylor did flag community concern regarding the move from the Community Centre.

The RO determines that the polling station for DS07 will remain at the Community Centre for future elections.

The RO supports all other initial proposals as published for Kirkburton ward.

LINDLEY WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

LIVERSEEDGE AND GOMERSAL WARD

A representation was received from the Head Teacher at Gomersal St Mary's Primary School supporting the polling station being moved from their school to St Mary's Church.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

MIRFIELD WARD

No representations were received regarding the initial proposals published in March. The proposals offered two alternative locations to Hopton Junior and Infants School to avoid disruption to the school day. A site visit was undertaken to Lower Hopton Working Men's Club and Royds Mill to assess both venues suitability.

Both venues provide adequate facilities to host a polling station, however, the Lower Hopton Working Men's Club provided more parking facilities.

The RO determines that the polling station will be located at Lower Hopton Working Men's club.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals to ensure the small area of Spring Place Gardens that is taken in from Dewsbury will vote at Mirfield Evangelical Church. However, this area is not located within the Mirfield Town Council boundary.

This small area remains in Dewsbury and Batley constituency, for administrative reasons it will remain a separate polling district as the residents of Mirfield are included in the Spen Valley constituency.

NETHERTON AND NEWSOME WARD

The Returning Officer received representations from Councillor Andrew Cooper, Councillor Karen Allison and a resident of Newsome ward supporting the continued use of The Newsome Centre as the polling station for polling district NE02.

The Councillors confirmed that while they are involved with the Centre, they have taken measures to ensure that political surgeries or activities do not take place at this venue and it is solely a community building.

The resident raised concerns of using the Scout Hall as it is used for after school clubs for childcare for local parents and this may cause disruption. The resident also flagged that the existing polling station at The Newsome Centre offers better facilities and is well-known to the community.

The RO determines that the polling station will remain located at The Newsome Centre.

The RO recommends the changes as published in the initial proposals.

APPENDIX 1 – REPRESENTATION RECEIVED IN FULL DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

ASHBROW

Councillor James Homewood

Submission:

My comments on the polling district review, in relation to Ashbrow ward.

- I am supportive of the redrawing of the AB01 & AB03 boundaries and splitting those two current polling districts between polling stations at Chestnut Centre and Northfield Hall. There are a large number of voters in close proximity to Northfield Hall so it seems a good option to use this as a polling station and its more accessible for these voters.
- The proposal is to abolish the current AB02 and to split the voters across other polling districts. AB02 covers the area of Fartown which is a defined and distinct part of the ward and there is logic to this all being part of one polling district (as it is today). I'm concerned that the only reason for proposing these changes is due to a lack of suitable buildings, which has come about due to the Council disposing of or demolishing its own assets. I do agree that Town Café, is not a good option but I think that all efforts should be able to find an alternative to keep the AB02 polling district tact. The former polling station, Fartown Village Hall, has been sold by the council and I understand bought by a community group, so by 2026 this could be an option. In the meantime, perhaps a temporary station could be considered.
- AB06 – I would be in favour of moving the current polling station at Bradley Golf Club, back to St Francis Church Hall (Fixby Road). The building is currently in the process of being bought and opened by a community group and they are supportive of it being used as a polling station. There was negative voter feedback to the use of Bradley Golf Club, it is less central and less accessible than St Francis'.

ALMONDBURY

Councillor Alison Munro

Submission:

Please note my comments on your proposals as follows:

AL02 The Pop In

At our meeting with you, we were not happy about moving the polling station from Aldonley. We proposed you contact Almondbury Cricket Club on Fernside Avenue as an alternative. Has this been done and what was the outcome as it is simply not good enough to refer to the Pop In as its future remains uncertain. A firm proposal needs to be made for this and we have made one, but you do not appear to have taken this up? Please explain.

AL06 I note you have made a slight change to the boundary presumably to accommodate all the new housing on Penistone Rd and off Rowley Lane, but not for the reasons you have given.

AL7 I note you wish to add the lower right hand side of Rowley Lane AL7 as far as Hermitage Park to AL7 as you discussed with us. I think this will be acceptable as long as you clearly notify residents of the changes.

Follow up comments:

It is disappointing to note residents in AL2 will not be able to vote at the Pop-In in the future when the Council have an alternative use for it. It's also a shame that Almondbury Cricket Club was deemed unsuitable. I wondered if the Officer had considered Hill View.

Finally, yes we agreed to the removal of houses on the rhs of Rowley Lane from AL6 to ease the pressure on the Bungalow to become part of AL07.

Thank you

BATLEY EAST WARD

Councillor Aziz Daji

Submission:

Thank you for sharing the proposals for Batley East Ward with us.

Overall, the proposals seem ok, but I do not agree with moving BE09 Warwick Road Community Building to merge with BE04 Trinity Centre.

The residents will not be happy with this as the school building is the most appropriate location for this area. So, this is not a proposal I will agree with.

Also, this location does not affect the school as it is in the community building.

I hope my Councillor colleagues will agree with me to make no changes to this.

I don't agree with your proposals, re removing Warwick Road base for elections and I will fight this with the backing of the residents very strongly. I have been voting there for years and i don't agree there is any problem with the size of the room either.

These seem to me to be feeble excuses to try to remove this facility which is the best location for the local people.

For your information parking outside trinity centre is even worse as it's a very busy road and not convenient at all for parking.

Head Teacher Park Road Junior and Infant School

Submission:

We support the proposals as it vacates our premises.

Councillor Habiban Zaman

Submission:

I agree with Cllr Daji's comments.

Head Teacher Warwick Road Primary School

Submission:

Thanks for the email, we would be happy for the polling station to be merged and run from the Trinity Centre, who can offer more facilities.

Field Lane Business Manager on behalf of the Head Teacher

Submission:

Thank you for your email. I write to confirm that we are happy to continue as a polling site. Please can you confirm whether this arrangement will continue or whether you will move to the site mentioned in your email.

BIRSTALL AND BIRKENSHAW WARD

Councillor Liz Smaje

Submission:

In respect of the allocation of polling stations, I wish to object to the combination of polling stations for south and North Birkenshaw. This would mean that residents in Birkenshaw Bottoms, who do not have a car, would have to walk uphill, a walk of almost 20 minutes, to get to the polling station or alternatively get the bus and there is only one every half hour during the day with the frequency changing on an evening.

This is to me unacceptable and will disenfranchise many. Why can we not have a portacabin on the school car park for south Birkenshaw or on the land owned by the council in Birkenshaw Bottoms. Bradford use a portacabin over the road from our border, so why not Kirklees. Surely democracy and access to everyone's right to vote is the most important consideration.

Can you let me know please the guidelines that have been used to make this proposal.

Staff member at BBG Academy

Submission:

Please accept this email as confirmation that BBG Academy are happy with the proposed changes.

Resident of Birstall and Birkenshaw ward

Submission:

Myself and neighbours on our street (mill street, Birstall, wf17 9ax) would like to voice our concerns over being moved from our current Birstall and Birkenshaw ward over to Batley West ward. We feel we are part of the Birstall community, all our children attend Birstall schools, clubs and hobbies in the village and we contribute to the Birstall village community. We attend Birstall churches, support Birstall businesses and are proud to be part of our village. We feel that by being pushed into the Batley ward, our Birstall street will be forgotten being outside of Batley and right on the edge of the boundary.

I would like to propose that Mill Street is kept within the Birstall and Birkenshaw ward as it always has been. Please could your team consider reviewing the placing of our street in the ward areas in your proposal?

CLECKHEATON WARD

Councillor Andrew Pinnock on behalf of all Cleckheaton ward Councillors

Submission:

I have the following comments to offer.

CL10. On the whole **I think we could support** the change to merge this with CL05. Although it is a long way from the Calderdale boundary to the centre of Scholes local residents will find ways of getting there (there is not a regular bus service up Scholes Lane).

CL09. There is now no bus service down Hightown Road. The only alternative is the 200 service which travels from the top of Hightown Road to the town centre via Moorside and Westgate. **We would oppose this change.**

CL08. This polling district was established to enable residents of the Kenmore and Turnsteads estates to have access to a polling station without having to climb up the hill to the CL02 polling station. Is the reason for the change related to the future of the Turnsteads Community Centre? In addition, there are two moderately sized housing developments in the district. **We oppose this change also.**

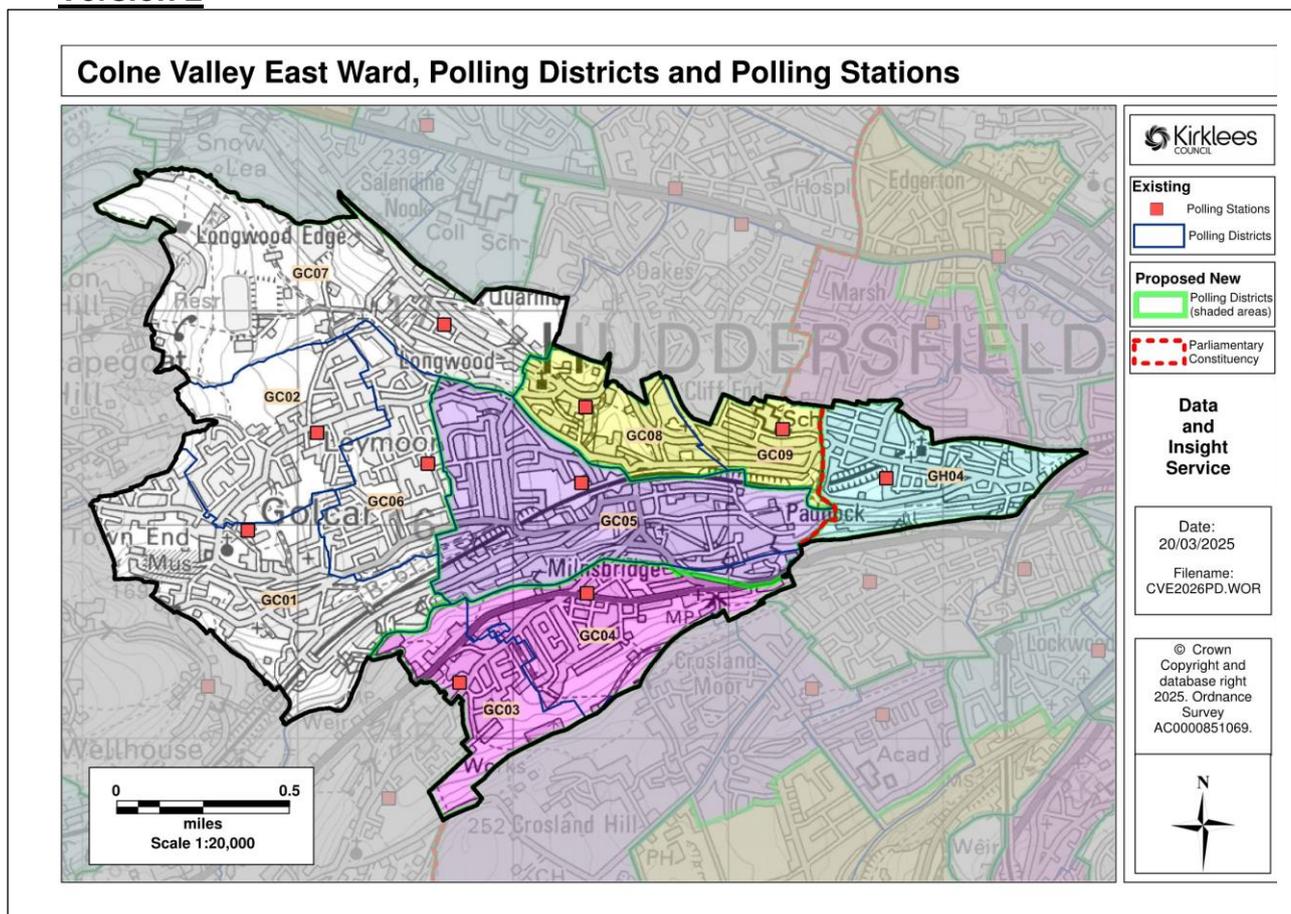
COLNE VALLEY EAST WARD

Resident of Golcar and representative for Golcar Labour Branch

Submitted by Councillor Graham Turner

Submission:

Proposed Polling Stations & Polling Districts for Colne Valley East Ward **Version 2**



The above map shows the proposed changes to the new ward by the LGBC. Kirklees officers have proposed some new polling district boundaries and new polling stations.

Alternative arrangements are proposed in this document for both the polling district boundaries and polling stations.

1. Combination of Cowlersley Polling Districts GC03 and GC04

The polling station chosen would certainly be 88 New Street (previously the YMCA and UCHM building) as this is more central to the proposed combined polling district than the Cowlersley Community Centre. It is currently the polling station for GH04. An area is at the east end of GC04 is proposed to transfer from GC04 to GC05 to keep the combined size of the proposed new GC03/GC04 polling district to within the limit of 2250 electors. This change in GC04 would be sensible as these electors live closer to the proposed new polling station for GC05 than that for GC04. The transfer of 89 electors is proposed. This transfer area could be made bigger, if the proposed changes to GC05 shown below are adopted.

The main disadvantage of the GC03/GC04 combination is that the voters from GC03 will have to walk further to vote. The turnout of voters from the more deprived areas is already low and this would reduce it further. It is an anti-democratic proposal and is opposed. The significant reduction in voter turnout in 2004 on the Royds Estate is a local example of what happens when polling districts are combined.

It is also worth adding that neither the GC03 nor the GC04 polling stations are schools.

2. New Polling Station for Milnsbridge GC05

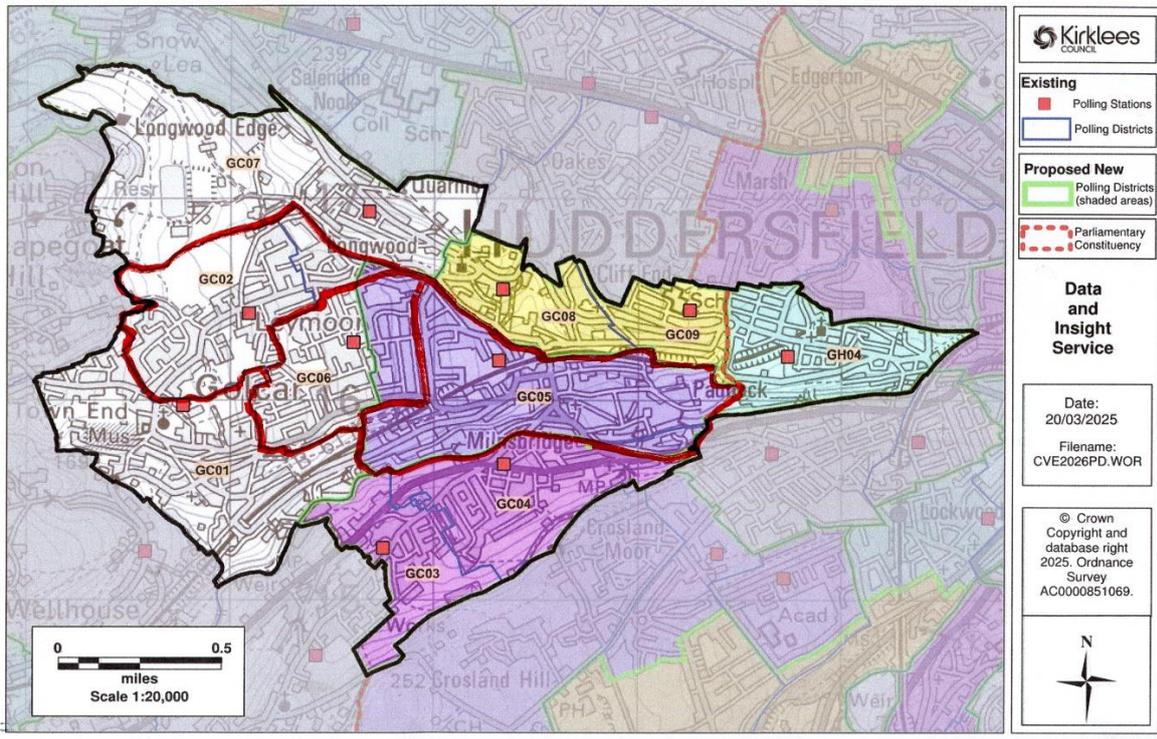
The current polling station is Crow Lane School. This is in the middle of the polling district and easily accessible from both ends. Because Kirklees officers are trying to remove polling stations from schools, they are looking for a new location for the GC05 polling station. However, this can be resisted if the alternatives are not suitable.

The obvious alternative, Milnsbridge Village Hall, is not suitable because of the steep climb required to enter the building. Milnsbridge Baptist Church is within the GC05 boundary and has a flat entrance. Parking availability for the church is poor, but this is true for many polling stations. The church has been asked whether they would be prepared to be a polling station and they have agreed.

The existing GC05 polling district together with 89 extra electors from GC04 gives a total size for the polling district of about 2370. This is significantly over the 2250 limit.

The other problem is that the church is at the east end of the polling district. It is a long way from the Leymoor Road homes within GC05. A way around both these problems would be to rearrange the polling districts for GC05, GC06 and GC02. The revised polling district boundaries are shown on the map below. The boundaries are chosen to keep these 3 polling districts within the limit of 2250 electors. It is also a principle that the distance to each polling station for any elector should not be further than the distance currently travelled, as far as possible.

Colne Valley East Ward, Polling Districts and Polling Stations



GC02 (Thorpe Green Club)	GC05 (Milnsbridge Baptist Church)	GC06 (Drop By Centre)
Existing Roads 1694	Existing Roads 2278	Existing Roads 1810
Plus roads from GC06	Plus roads from GC04	Plus roads from GC05
Ayton Road 52	Bankwell Road 21	Broomroyd 34
Grange Road 21	Factory Lane 13	Coombe Road 30
Leafield Avenue 56	Fountain Grove 4	Glastonbury Drive 86
Leafield Bank 7	Navigation Rise 35	Greenway 27
Leymoor Road 108	Manchester Road 16	Hexham Green 31
Parkwood Road 24	Roads moved to GC02	Orchard Court 7
Stoney Lane 171	-64	Side Lane 55
Weavers Avenue 9	Roads moved to GC06	Sunnybank View 26
Weavers Grove 40	-423	Scar Lane 127
Plus roads from GC05	Total=2278+89-64-423=	Roads moved to GC02
Benn Lane 20	1880	-488

Leymoor Road 36		Total=1810+423- 488=1802
Stoney Lane 8		
Total=1694+488+64=2246		

These revisions to the polling district boundaries allow those closest to the Drop By polling station (GC06) to vote there rather than going to Milnsbridge Baptist church (GC05). The 64 voters living in Benn Lane, Leymoor Road and Stoney Lane in GC05 could either be moved to GC02 or GC06. The GC02 option is shown here, but it leaves GC02 very close to the maximum of 2250 electors.

3. Combination of Longwood GC08 with Paddock GC09

This proposed combination was tried in 2004 and 2006. It was very unsuccessful as the turnout in GC09 fell dramatically. It could be seen very clearly as the GC09 area was part of the Huddersfield constituency at that time and had a separate electoral register. The reason was, and is, the winding route from GC09 to the St Marks Parish Centre in GC08 and the significant change in elevation across the route. A separate polling station for GC09 was re-established in 2007 and has been maintained since.

In the past a mobile electoral van was used in the grounds of Royds Hall school for GC09. This is now no longer considered a reasonable option by Kirklees officers, even if a ramp is provided. More recently the Luck Lane primary school has been used as a polling station. This school has now requested that the polling station is removed. There is no other publicly accessible building for a polling station within GC09.

The answer is to have a single polling station for GC09 and GH04 at the Patricia Stoj Dance Academy on West View Rise. Separate electoral registers will need to be maintained for both polling districts as GH04 is still part of the Huddersfield constituency. That arrangement with two electoral registers was used for Salendine Nook (GC10) at the Baptist church from 2007.

There is not much parking space around the Dance Academy, but it is no worse than at many other polling stations in this ward and elsewhere. This should not be considered a blocker for its use as a polling station for GC09 and GH04 together. If necessary, permission could be sought to use the adjacent ample parking spaces at the Cricket, Bowling and Athletic Club.

The polling station for GH04 is much closer than the polling station for GC08 for almost all the electors in GC09. It is also much flatter. There may be a case for transferring the 'tail' of voters from 86 to 150 Quarmby Road (plus 201 Reinwood Road) to GC08 - joining the voters on the other side of the road in that polling district.

4. Modification of Boundary of Paddock GH04

The local Government Boundary Commissioners have reduced the area of GH04 by taking 109 electors in Heaton Gardens and 21 electors in Heaton Road from this polling district. It reduces the size from 1654 to 1524 electors. This is not seen to be a problem.

If past practice is followed, then the electors in GH04 will become part of the Colne Valley constituency at the next parliamentary boundary review. This is not expected to happen for about 15 years.

Conclusions

1. Keep GC03 and GC04 as separate polling districts.
2. Make Milnsbridge Baptist Church the polling station for GC05.
3. Transfer the Botham Hall estate and other roads to GC06 from GC05 to allow electors to vote locally.
4. Move about 500 electors from GC06 to GC02 to keep all polling stations within the maximum of 2250.
5. Do not combine GC08 with GC09. Rather share the GH04 polling station with GC09, using separate electoral registers.
6. Consider transferring those properties within GC09 on the east side of Quarmby Road from 86 to 150 to GC08.

Head Teacher Crow Lane Primary School

Submission:

I am writing to state that school fully supports the proposal to end the use of Crow Lane Primary as a polling station.

Vacating the building for the day not only impacts on the children for that day, but the disrupted routine also effects many, especially our youngest pupils, when they are back in for the following day.

COLNE VALLEY WEST

Resident of Outlane

Submission:

I am in Colne Valley and I strongly OPPOSE the idea of polling station in st Mary's church Outlane CV08, being moved to Slaithwaite civic hall cv09.

As a disabled person, this is ridiculous!

It's on the other side of Huddersfield!

Public transport would take 1 hour 40 mins to get there from Outlane!

Think of the local residents and disabled people such as myself

Polling station should stay in Outlane!

Further submission:

That is still too far away!

I am in HD3 3YT so assume you are saying I will be in Lindley now?

Are you saying Outlane is in the Lindley ward but votes in Slaithwaite??

I am even more confused!

Either way, living in Outlane, having to go to Lindley or even worse, Slaithwaite, isn't good as that is a long way away!

I am disabled and there are barely any post boxes so postal voting is hard too.

It was accessible to use the Church in Outlane.

Can you clarify what area I am in now and where I vote?

Are you saying I will be in Lindley ward and have to vote in Slaithwaite civic hall?

That is absolutely ridiculous and that is what I was giving my feedback on as Slaithwaite is nowhere near Outlane nor Lindley!

But as for my feedback,

I thought this email address was to give feedback on the proposals?

My feedback is this is horrible.

Totally inaccessible and lots won't vote now.

There is no way we should have to vote in Slaithwaite!

That is MILES away and still over 1 hour 50 mins for people in Outlane to get to Slaithwaite civic hall by public transport!

And that is with multiple changes!

We should have LOCAL polling stations, not ones in a totally different area, miles from us!

It isn't even in our district and you would almost 2 hours by bus to get there from hd3 3yt and it isn't remotely accessible plus it isn't in our ward nor remotely close!

People will stop voting all together.

I strongly DISAGREE with the proposals.

Please pass my feedback on.

Further response after clarification provided that this area would be voting at Mount in Lindley ward:

Ok thank you for clarifying. Appreciate it.

Disappointing to hear this new ward has been already decided as I didn't hear anything about the ward changes and I normally try to give feedback on changes, but that one I missed.

Shame I would be now voting in Mount and not Outlane.

We don't have many post boxes in Outlane so a lot vote in person for that reason.

As a disabled person, I would not be able to get to Mount to vote.

Especially with the bus service in Outlane where we only have one single bus that comes once an hour.

This will affect how many people vote and lots won't bother.

Shame we can't leave the polling station in Outlane.

Very disappointing.

Thank you for clarifying though.

Resident of Outlane

Submission:

I am in Outlane in Colne Valley

I read the proposal and I disagree the plan to move the polling station currently in Outlane in St Mary's church Outlane to Slaithwaite civic hall which is a very long way away and has nothing to do with us

That is miles away from Outlane.

I know elderly and disabled people who cannot get that far away.

Not everyone has a car and it's just under 2 hours by bus from Outlane

The polling station should stay in Outlane in St Mary's.

Please do not move it so far away.

Further submission once clarity provided that this was not the proposal:

Thank you for clarifying.

My email with feedback is regarding the polling station for those in Outlane who are now in Lindley ward.

I am against these proposed changes to move the polling station to Slaithwaite Civic Hall.

It is not close and isn't in our district.

It should remain in Mount.

If you look at buses in Outlane and even in Lindley, it takes a long time to get to Slaithwaite Civic Hall.

People in Outlane, like myself, would have to take multiple buses to get there, taking a very long time.

With one bus an hour as well, it isn't really possible.

This is stop people voting as many won't postal vote as there isn't many post boxes either.

Please pass my feedback on as I am against these proposals.

Honestly, If I can be frank, this is a disgrace.

Moving a polling station to the other side of the town, miles from the district, is a abhorrent idea.

Even if you don't take into account public transport, which takes a long time and multiple buses, that would take around 3-4 hours to do a round trip with the one bus an hour;

There are disabled and elderly people too and they cannot get to Slaithwaite Civic Hall.

It is not accessible and it is not even close to us.

This is not even in the same ward or area. It is absolutely miles away.

This is a very strange proposal to move it so far away.

I am completely against this and I hope it doesn't happen

Just to follow up,

I asked my partner to read this and he reads it like me, but we are not 100% sure it reads very clear so we may be misunderstanding due to the wording.

If you are saying those in Outlane who are merged into Lindley should vote in Slaithwaite:

I am against this.

If you are saying those in Outlane who are merged into Lindley should vote in Mount, not slaithwaite:

I am for this.

I would prefer to use the church in Outlane still, but I think you are saying that isn't a choice anymore?

If we can suggest that the church in Outlane is still used, I would like to suggest that.

Very confusing wording though both on that form and from yourselves.

Not sure if this is in purpose, but it really isn't clear.

Councillor Harry McCarthy

Submission:

I am OK with the proposals for Colne Valley West ward.

CROSLAND MOOR

Councillor Alex Vickers

Submission:

I've had a look at the proposals and I'm glad to see you were able to use the leisure centre for a station. I don't really know what else needs commenting on - its looking pretty clear to me.

Councillor Jo Lawson

Submission:

I am happy with the proposals for CMN ward.

Head Teacher at Mount Pleasant Primary School

Submission:

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed changes to polling stations. I can confirm that the Head has said that the school is happy for you to go ahead with these proposals as it will avoid any disruption to the school day for us if we are no longer used as a Polling Station.

Head Teacher at Spring Grove Primary School

Submission:

We would support moving the polling station away from school. This would enable school to remain open on polling days for pupils and staff so would not be disruptive as is the case currently.

DALTON

Head Teacher at Netherhall Learning Campus

Submission:

I would agree with the proposal in relation to our school and the redrawing old a boundary line that will avoid school needing to be used as a polling station.

DEWSBURY SOUTH

Head Teacher at Saville Town and Thornhill Lees Primary School

Submission:

As headteacher of Savile Town and Thornhill Lees, I have read the information about Polling stations.

In the document it states that Thornhill Lees remains open. This is not the case as the dining hall is used as a Polling Station and therefore the school has to close.

There is a refurbished bungalow on site at Savile Town that could be a possibility for an alternative Polling station as it is separate to the school.

At Thornhill Lees, in the past the Nursery was used that is attached to school, but I believe there was an issue with using this but this was before my time so I'm not sure of the reason for this.

Site Visits; headteacher offered the nursery space at both schools:

Saville Town nursery on a separate site across the road, suitable alternative for double station with designated car parking.

Thornhill Lees: Nursery on school site, separate entrance, school would remain open so limited car park would be closed before and during school hours. 2 spaces for staff. See note. Accommodation is suitable for single station.

Headteacher comments: "I'm sure we could organise for maybe two carparking places to be available. The staff leave at varying times between 3.30 and 5 pm, so cannot guarantee how many spaces will be available at any time. On the day teachers to park in the main area to leave any free spaces in the area near the gates".

Councillor Masood Ahmed

Submission:

In response to our email confirming that the Taleem Centre were not able to accommodate the use of their building as a polling station.

I have noted your comments and double checked about the possibility of using Savile Town Community Centre as a Polling Station and the Trustee has informed me that they do not have an issue it being used as a Polling Station, if you think it is suitable.

I am happy with your other comments, will wait and see what both my colleagues say.

Business Manager Overthorpe Church of England Primary School

Submission:

The school fully supports the proposed relocation of the polling station to Thornhill Social Club.

DEWSBURY WEST

St Paulinus School Staff Member

Submission:

Please see attached as we wholeheartedly support our school site being removed as the polling station and St Paulinus Parochial Hall used instead.

Polling Station Inspector for Dewsbury West ward

Submission:

My views on the below is this is a positive change the move to the greenwood and Hopton URC create greater distance between the 2 polling stations. The main road is in particular a good barrier. My only concern is that we need to clearly define the boundary of the polling station at the greenwood centre given the large, grassed area that separates the centre and the main road.

GREENHEAD

Councillor Carole Pattison

Submission:

I believe that Greenhead ward councillors are happy with your proposals for Greenhead.

HECKMONDWIKE

Booking agent for Brighton Street Working Mens Club

Submission:

Yes we are more than happy for you to continue using Brighton Street.

KIRKBURTON

Treasurer - Whitley Community Association

Submission:

Clearly the polling station should be in the community centre . The church is too cold and there is no off street parking. I suspect most councillors have never been to Whitley and don't understand that the community centre is the heart of the village now that planning consent to destroy the pub has gone through.

I live at the vicarage next door to the community centre and I support the community association.

Resident of Kirkburton ward and Chairman of Whitley Community Association

Submission:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was much taken aback when I read the recently released proposal to relocate the polling station from the Whitley Community Centre to the Church of St. Michael St. Mary which is less than one hundred yards up Howroyd Lane from the community centre. The community centre has hosted the polling station since long before I moved into Howroyd Lane thirty eight years ago.

The community centre has provided the polling officers with adequate space, heating, clean toilets, facilities to make tea and coffee and has a large parking area whereas the church space is vast with very high ceilings which is very expensive to heat and has no parking area.

The community centre has always been run by volunteers who amongst other things put a lot of time and effort to raise funds to cover the costs of heating, lighting and maintain the building. It operates on a knife edge. The payments made by Kirklees for the use of the polling station have often made the difference between survival and going under. The village of Whitley once had a very famous pub which was covenanted as such. Very recently the new owner of the pub - very much on the make - was granted planning permission by Kirklees to change the use of the pub to housing much against the wishes of the villagers. The community centre is now the only amenity remaining in the village and I think that rather than taking away its role as the village polling station, Kirklees should be doing everything possible to support it.

Councillor Bill Armer

Submission:

Eminently sensible options to which I have no objection.

Treasurer - Whitley Community Centre

Submission:

We note that you are provisionally looking to move the polling place for Whitley DS07 from the Community Centre to the St Mary & St Michael Church, with a note that this is more cost effective.

We are disappointed that the Community Centre have not been contacted about this proposed change and given the opportunity to review the pricing of the hire of the Community Centre for polling before a decision was made to move the location.

The current costs were agreed long before the vast majority of the current board of trustees were in place, and it had been assumed that the payment was set by the Council, though we now know that this is not the case. We would be more than happy to offer a reduced cost going forward however do consider that it would have been helpful for this to have been discussed with us or raised as an issue as we would, and remain, more than happy to work with the Council on such matters. The Centre is a community resource and we want to ensure all our members have access to polling and voting facilities and the Centre is far better placed to offer these as we have a car park and a step-free accessible entrance.

Accordingly, the trustees have agreed to offer the hall for polling purposes at a cost of £350 for future polling days.

We also have concern that if the St Mary & St Michael Church is used, there would be access issues on Howroyd Lane. Howroyd Lane is a narrow road, and the church has no car park facilities. It also has a somewhat uneven pathway and entry to the church. The lack of parking is very likely to cause disruption to residents and working farms with increased traffic and parking on polling days; this is already experienced when services and events are held at the Church on weekends and weeknights, and will be worse during the day, particularly for the farm. The Community Centre has a large car park as well as a recently installed accessible ramp to access the Centre, which provides far better accessibility than the Church and allows easy access for anyone with mobility issues or those with pushchairs or similar.

We hope this offer will alleviate the cost issue in regards to use of the Community Centre for polling days.

Councillor John Taylor

Submission:

Thank you for this, I am happy to support the changes which are proposed for the existing & new Kirkburton wards, the changes proposed for merging KB01 & KB02 do make sense and the change of locations for KB07 to the Church and to DS07 in Whitley, again moving to the Church to reduce the costs.

Councillor Taylor contacted the Electoral Services Manager highlighting community concern when promoting the consultation regarding the move from the Community Centre to the Church. Councillor Taylor supported remaining at the Community Centre with the reduced cost agreement.

Councillor Richard Smith

Submission:

I am ok with the proposed change in Kirkburton ward.

LIVERSEDGE AND GOMERSAL

Head teacher Gomersal St Mary's Primary School

Submission:

We do not have any issue with the proposed changes. I would welcome the school no longer being used as a polling station.

NEWSOME

Councillor Andrew Cooper on behalf of the Green Party

Submission:

Here is the Green Group response to the Netherton and Newsome Ward proposals. We would like to address the 2 options being presented for NE02.

It is the only Polling District where 2 options for Polling Stations are being proposed. Our view is that it should remain at The Newsome Centre (the former St John's Church).

The Polling Station has been at this location for many years. People are familiar with it as a place to go and vote and it would certainly raise questions from the public if it was to change without explanation for the reasoning behind it.

As a large polling district, if there was a need for a double polling station there are 2 separate rooms which may help with that, the Lounge and the Lady Chapel area in the main hall. Newsome Scout Hut only has one usable room as a Polling Station and so lacks the flexibility that The Newsome Centre offers.

There may be sensitivities regarding the role of local Councillors as board members at The Newsome Centre. It is worth pointing out that Councillors do not hold advice surgeries at The Newsome Centre and Councillors are in a minority on the Executive which is formed mainly of local residents. Local Councillors would also not be involved in the opening up or closing up of the building on Polling Day. It is also worth noting that one of the Newsome Ward Councillors is also on the Management Committee of Newsome Scout Hut.

We are supportive of other proposals for the new Netherton and Newsome Ward. The change from the Lowerhouses former Childrens Centre to The Ark Church on Lowerhouses Lane is a return to a building that was used as a Polling Station for many years in the Lowerhouses area.

Councillor Karen Allison

Submission:

I would like to email in support of retaining the polling station at the Newsome Centre. My view is that it should remain in this building. NE02 has been situated in this building for many years and the residents are familiar with its location as a venue to place their vote. NE02 is a large polling district, and the Newsome Centre can accommodate (if needed) two polling stations. The polling stations will have their own separate areas with separate entrances. I don't think that the Newsome Scout Hut can offer the same facilities as this.

There may be an issue regarding the role of local Councillors on the Management Committee at the Newsome Centre. Be assured that no advice surgeries are held in the building and there is no political literature in the building. I am on the Committee as a resident and not a Councillor. I have also suggested that the building be opened and closed by other trustees and not a Councillor.

I am happy with the proposals relating to the new Netherton and Newsome Ward. The Ark Church was used as a polling Station for many years in the Lowerhouses area, a change back to this building is a welcome one.

Resident of Newsome ward

Submission:

As a resident of the Newsome ward, I am writing to support the continued use of the existing polling station (the Newsome Centre, previously St John's Church) as opposed to Newsome Scout Hall. The church building has been a polling station for many years, a well-known meeting place and is currently used for a range of community events (for example advice and drop-in services, a place to meet out local PCSO etc) for the residents of Newsome. I do not see any benefits of relocating next door, to a building which I believe would not provide comparable facilities. The scout hut is used for after school club on a Thursday and other activities in the school holidays so this would not be good for parents.

I hope that my comments are given consideration.