

APPENDIX 2

Copies of representations received as part of the review

BATHAVON NORTH WARD

Cllr Kevin Guy

“I personally feel the polling stations in mine and Sarah’s ward work well. It is always worth asking the views of the Parish Councils as well though.”

Charlcombe Parish Council

“The Charlcombe Parish Council are satisfied with the current arrangements allowing residents of the parish to either vote at Walcot Rugby Football Club or Weston Free Church.”

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD

Cllr Fiona Gourley

“Unless Matt has any further comments, [the current scheme] seems fine to me.”

Cllr Matt McCabe

“No comment from me.”

CHEW VALLEY WARD

Cllr Anna Box

“Unsure if we need to get back to you if there is no concern but I read through the document for the Chew Valley, and it all seems very perfectly suitable.”

Chew Stoke Parish Clerk

“We have reviewed the arrangements in Chew Stoke and are happy with the current arrangements. The hall is fully accessible and there is parking nearby. One important change is that the hall is soon to be known as ‘Chew Stoke Village Hall’ not Church Hall.

CLUTTON & FARMBOROUGH WARD

Cllr Sam Ross

“I agree that there is no need for any changes to the current arrangements for the three polling places in Clutton, Farmborough and Chelwood. They continue to be the most suitable and accessible for the residents of each village.”

Farmborough Parish Council

At the meeting of 14 November 2023, Farmborough Parish Council agreed that Farmborough Memorial Hall was still the most suitable and accessible polling place in Farmborough for its residents.

KEYNSHAM NORTH WARD

Cllr Alex Beaumont

“I am pleased that Somerdale will have its own district as I remember several residents saying how far away the polling station was for them. Also, the High Street area would benefit from a smaller polling station in the community space as there are a lot of non-mobile residents in the Hawthorns/Carpenters Lane area who can’t make it down to the rugby club.”

Ann E Shaw

“The addition of a polling station at Somerdale Pavilion seems entirely sensible to me. Most people on the estate will be able to walk to cast their votes.”

KEYNSHAM SOUTH WARD

Christine Jorgensen

“Whilst I accept that the choice of Stirling Way Community Room as a polling station for the N-KS1 district meets accessibility criteria in terms of entry and exit to the building, I do have concerns about the lack of parking for those constituents who need to reach the polling station by car.

Although there is a car park, it is used extensively by local residents who I believe may rent the spaces from Curo (Park Road West, Keynsham is listed as being a Curo parking area on their website). There is very limited on street car parking along the part of Park Road closest to the polling station which is opposite a bus stop.

Please consider the needs of voters with impaired mobility who may need transport to their polling station in order to exercise their democratic right to vote when deciding where the polling station for this district of Keynsham South ward should be located.

“The LA previously used Elim Church could this be looked at again? There is plenty of parking there for both Polling Station staff and voters.

Other suggestions might be the Community Space or Riverside Suite which I believe has been used in the past. Both of these may be challenging in terms of parking but there is on street parking on Temple Street.

Has Castle Primary School been considered?”

KINGSMEAD WARD

Cllr George Tomlin

“Regarding Kingsmead and the location of the B-KM3 polling station we did receive some reports of confusion at the location of the polling station at the Lower Mews, Christ Church from electors and our tellers. This was mainly due to the fact there were two polling stations located at churches along Julian Road (the other being in B-LN3). But I appreciate there isn’t much that can be done about that, and I can’t off the top of my head think of an alternative location within the B-KM3 polling district.

However, I was wondering if the polling station for B-KM3 is located outside the ward, has there been some consideration at moving some properties on the north side of the Upper Bristol Road (Crescent Gardens) and the north side of Charlotte Street in to the B-KM1 polling district as the Percy Centre is much closer to those voters than Julian Road is.”

“I would be very supportive of the idea of a polling station in the Guildhall to serve parts of B-KM1. With that new location I think a reasonable new split of B-KM1/B-KM3 can be achieved between the Guildhall and the Percy Centre polling locations with a redrawing of the current boundary line.”

LAMBRIDGE WARD

Cllr Joanna Wright

“I am happy with the polling places within Lambridge. The recent change to the Oriel Hall of the streets listed did work much better in May 2023 and there have been no complaints on this matter.”

MENDIP WARD

East Harptree Parish Clerk

“I have consulted with our councillors, and we are all in agreement that the current use of The Pavilion in East Harptree works very well, it is fully accessible and has good parking facilities. We’d like to continue with this arrangement.”

MOORLANDS WARD

Cllr Jess David

"I am happy with the position for Moorlands ward."

OLDFIELD PARK

Cllr Ian Halsall

"As the new member representing Oldfield Park I do still wonder whether the north of the ward has appropriate access to a polling station. In May, as you have published, Hayesfield Lower School and St Bartholomew's Church Hall were the two polling stations for the ward.

Now the Newark Works is fully open on the Lower Bristol Road, I do wonder whether this may be a more suitable alternative to Hayesfield?

It is north of the railway line but I would argue much more accessible along the entire Lower Bristol Road corridor from Brougham Hayes to Churchill Bridge and covering Oak Street, Cheltenham Street, Westmoreland Street, Sydenham Buildings and Thornbank Place (not to mention the purpose built student accommodation buildings at Thornbank Gardens, Aquila, Banglo and The Depot – a demographic I am eager to be empowered to vote!) and much of the Lower Oldfield Park and Cedars area and my side of the Wells Road.

Voters living in the upper parts of Lower Oldfield Park and in the areas of Shaftesbury, Canterbury and Arlington roads and Third Avenue for example do not have any significantly tortuous trips to St Barts on King Edward Road."

PAULTON WARD

Cllr Liz Hardman

"The current situation is fine for us in Paulton."

Alex Frost

"Regarding the polling stations in Paulton. Although there were two of them for the earlier local elections the turnout was abysmal. Whether the positioning was inconvenient for some four thousand people or perhaps those four thousand just couldn't be bothered. If the latter is the case then repositioning one of the polling stations will not matter but it is something to consider."

PEASEDOWN WARD

Cllr Karen Walker

"As Ward Councillor for Peasedown St John, I can only comment on the polling stations in my ward. I am happy to support that the polling stations stay as they are. I am happy with the proposal of changing the polling district boundary between N-PS1 and N-PS2."

Cllr Gavin Heathcote

"I am with Cllr Walker and also have no issues."

RADSTOCK WARD

Cllr Eleanor Jackson

There is a problem which I have raised before. As a disabled person with limited mobility assigned to the Victoria Hall, I find access very difficult, though you did take steps to improve things. Is there some way to make it possible for people to drive in behind the hall if they have an electric chair? The issue is the gate and the lack of pavements.

Going in the front, there is no handrail. The rail is attached to the old entrance, which was easier. Could not the dance studio which opens almost directly onto the Street be used

instead of the former office? It is not completely flat, but much easier to access. The room was used for public concerts once.

Cllr Lesley Mansell

“The Lamb Inn, Clandown, is under planning application to change this into housing so it may not be available for much longer.”

TWERTON WARD

Cllr Sarah Moore

“Councillor Ball and I had asked for our ward name to be changed to “Twerton and Whiteway ward” to reflect the 2 distinct areas that we represent. Is this to be reviewed as part of this process please.”

Cllr Tim Ball

“We raised this several years ago. The community in Whiteway feel this change will give this distinct community recognition.”

David Lee

“I agree that the ward should be renamed Twerton and Whiteway!”

Helen Tubbs

“Please update name to Whiteway and Twerton ward as that makes perfect sense.”

Lisa Morris

“I would like to request that the ward name for Twerton be changed to Twerton and Whiteway Ward as this will reflect the area that it covers.”

SOUTHDOWN WARD

Cllr Dine Romero

“Conversations with residents in the part of Southdown previously in Westmoreland suggest that they would value a polling station at the lower end of the ward, however there are no community spaces within Southdown just off the Lower Bristol Road. Would it be possible to use Twerton Village Hall, I understand that in previous years this has been shared by other wards, or else the White Horse pub?

“Ascension Church isn’t particularly accessible to anyone with mobility needs, the car park is usually full so there are no spare spaces. Also the car park is in very poor condition, so even if someone can park it is tricky to walk across. And finally, the polling station is next to a primary school, as well as on the lane to a gym which also creates a lot of car traffic, which is worrying for parents taking young children to Oldfield Park Juniors School. Cars trying to park in the challenging car park adds to this stress.

WALCOT WARD

Cllr John Leach

“I have asked our ward members and supporters if they have any suggestions. One of our current polling stations (St Saviours) is not within the ward. The Claremont pub is a popular suggestion as a replacement for that one, but the pub does not have step-free access. The Fairfield Surgery on Tynning Lane has been suggested by three people. It has step-free access and a large waiting room that is more than the minimum it needs so it might be worth enquiring there.

The polling station at Riverside serves the middle of the ward and it would be nice if that were more centrally located but no one has identified an alternative that would be significantly better.”

WESTFIELD WARD

Cllr Eleanor Jackson

“There is a problem which I have raised before. Both polling stations are exemplary, with easy access, car parking, etc. but I get complaints from residents in the Nightingale Way area and the ‘birdie’ estate, especially from those who remember voting at Norton Hill School, which was closer for them. They are often, older, and do not want a postal vote. Mardons Social Club pool table room (without the tables!) would be a possibility, and the club were interested. Disabled access and toilets are good with good parking, but the room is admittedly a bit small. Not much smaller than Haydon Que Club, where I admit we did seem to be all on top of each other at the Haydon by election count. Have you ever thought about using a mobile library?”

Westfield Parish Clerk

“At its meeting last night the Parish Council noted that the polling stations are remaining the same in Westfield and had no objections.”

WESTMORELAND WARD

Rose Snook

“I am happy with the proposed polling station sites for my area and will continue to use my vote at every election.”

WESTON WARD

Cllr Ruth Malloy

“As far as I can see, there are no changes made to the two Weston ward polling districts, both of which are accessible to voters with disabilities.”

Cllr Malcolm Treby

“I too am happy with the current arrangements for polling in Weston, and see no need for any changes.”

WIDCOMBE & LYNCOMBE WARD

Helen Peter

“I think St Mark’s is a great polling station. In a quiet cul-de-sac, very easy and flat to access – it has ramps for disabled people and handrails plus a disabled parking spot. My only concern is that tellers have to be outside in the cold and wet when there is a perfectly good lobby to stand in.”