

Polling District and Polling Places Review 2023: Consultation Responses

Date	11 October 2023
Name	Parish Clerk of Stoke Hammond Parish Council
Polling District/Place	Stoke Hammond
Comments	<p>As the Parish Clerk for Stoke Hammond I am replying on behalf of my councillors to the consultation on Polling Stations in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>For many years the polling place for the Stoke Hammond Parish has been in the Community Centre , Bragenham Side in the heart of Stoke Hammond Village. This was perfectly adequate as the vast bulk of parishioners lived in the village and could walk to the polling station. The outlying villagers were either on farms or remote houses where they would have cars or other motorised transport.</p> <p>The last 5 years however have seen a dramatic change in the demographic of the Parish.</p> <p>Stoke Hammond Parish now comprises two distinct settlements approximately 2 -3 miles apart; the village of Stoke Hammond itself, and the entirely new separate South West part of the Newton Leys development on the edge of Milton Keynes but falling within the parish of Stoke Hammond and therefore within the Buckinghamshire Council area. The 2021 census shows that Stoke Hammond Parish has 2100 residents with 900 of these in Newton Leys. This means 43 per cent of the parish are 2-3 miles from the polling station. Within Newton Leys there were 558 residents of voting age with 986 in Stoke Hammond Village and outlying areas. There are significantly more school age and younger children in Newton Leys adding further difficulty for parents with young children in getting to the distant voting station.</p> <p>This is a serious issue for the residents of Newton Leys specifically those without a car. It is extremely difficult to walk between Newton Leys and Stoke Hammond to vote; there are no footways, beside either road route. One route would require negotiating two major roundabouts and walking beside a dual carriageway with no footway, the alternative route would involve walking along busier local roads again with no footways. In addition there is no viable bus route between the two settlements.</p> <p>We believe the solution is clear- we need a separate Polling Place for the Newton Leys Residents of Stoke Hammond Parish.</p>

Date	3 October 2023
Name	Andrew Jones
Polling District/Place	Stoke Hammond
Comments	<p>Stoke Hammond Parish comprises two distinct settlements approximately 2 -3 miles apart; the village of Stoke Hammond itself, and the entirely separate South West part of the Newton Leys development on the edge of Milton Keynes but falling within the parish of Stoke Hammond and therefore within the Buckinghamshire Council area. The larger part of the Newton Leys development falls under Milton Keynes Council.</p> <p>The Polling Place for the whole of Stoke Hammond Parish including the part of Newton Leys falling within that Parish is in Stoke Hammond village.</p> <p>Whilst I was campaigning as a candidate in the last Buckinghamshire Elections in 2021 I realised that the lack of a suitably convenient Polling Place for Newton Leys was a serious issue for the residents, particularly those without a car, and this issue was frequently raised with me on the doorstep. It would be practically impossible to walk between Newton Leys and Stoke Hammond to vote; there are no footways, beside either road route. One route would require negotiating two major roundabouts and walking beside a dual carriageway with no footway, the alternative route would involve walking along busier local roads again with no footways.</p> <p>There is no viable bus route between the two settlements.</p> <p>The solution is clear- there needs to be a separate Polling Place for the Newton Leys Residents of Stoke Hammond Parish.</p>

Date	3 October 2023
Name	David Bratt
Polling District/Place	Great Brickhill Parish Hall
Comments	Excellent venue with easy parking, including disabled spaces, and step free access.

Date	4 October 2023
Name	Roger Blofeld
Polling District/Place	Great Brickhill Parish Hall
Comments	The hall is a very convenient location for the residents of the village.

Date	4 October 2023
Name	Marcus Feinhols
Polling District/Place	Great Brickhill Parish Hall
Comments	Great Brickhill parish hall is a fantastic polling station being large, convenient to get to and offering plenty of parking with a large car park. A definite must use station.

Date	30 November 2023
Name	David Gardner
Polling District/Place	Adult Learning Centre, Chesham
Comments	<p>I prefer to vote in person.</p> <p>I understand from your consultation that I shall still be expected to walk over half a mile uphill to the Adult Learning Centre in Chartridge Lane when the nearest polling station is less than 200 yards away at the Chesham Methodist Church.</p> <p>Might it not be possible for common sense to overcome mathematics in this case?</p>

Date	3 October 2023
Name	Sanjeema De-Alwis
Polling District/Place	n/a
Comments	Wanting bigger space for all polling booths, less queues, a coloured voting sheet

Date	3 October 2023
Name	Mary-Anne Stanford
Polling District/Place	n/a
Comments	Not used polling station since moved to area as we do postal vote.

Date	4 October 2023
Name	James Blachford
Polling District/Place	CK - Chalfont St Giles Memorial Hall
Comments	<p>The polling station for Chalfont St Giles is currently located at The Memorial Hall on School Lane. However, this presents an issue as the hall is used by Chalfont St Giles Infant School for lunch every working day, both for hot meals and lunch boxes. On election days, the children cannot have hot meals because the hall is used for voting.</p> <p>I propose relocating the polling booth across the road to the Guide Hut, which has ample space. This way, the children can have their lunch as usual, and there would be no impact on people voting. It seems like a sensible solution that would make everyone happy.</p>

Date	3 October 2023
Name	Sarah Bennett
Polling District/Place	Church of Christ the Servant King, Sycamore Road, High Wycombe
Comments	The Church of Christ the Servant King, Sycamore Road, High Wycombe - unable to be used as a polling station as there are now regular hirers

Date	17 October 2023
Name	Sarah Rothwell
Polling District/Place	Long Crendon Baptist Church
Comments	Baptist Chapel would prefer not to be used as they had regular toddler groups on a Thursday. Would prefer us to go back to Church House, which we have previously used as a polling station.

Date	4 December 2023
Name	Sarah Pannu (Sproat) on behalf of Aylesbury Conservatives
Polling District/Place	See below
Comments	<p>Following the Parliamentary and Local Government Boundary Reviews it makes perfect sense that Buckinghamshire Council review the polling places to ensure that they work with the future boundaries as well as a sensible exercise to do regularly to ensure that polling places are accessible, suitable and cost effective for the Council.</p> <p>We understand that the Acting Returning Officer for the new Aylesbury constituency Nick Graham agrees with all of the proposals for the Aylesbury constituency. However, we have a few concerns that we feel need to be raised about some of the changes proposed and we have outlined below.</p> <p>The proposed changes within the Aylesbury constituency that we agree with are (using the new polling district codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAM Olympic Lodge changed to Rivets Sports & Social Club, Whitehead Way • AAV The Grange School changed to Aylesbury Tennis & Squash Club • ABN Ewe Barn changed to The Village Swan, Ivinghoe Aston • ABO Oakfield Community Building changed to Kingsbrook View Primary Academy – please note that there is a large increase in traffic at school drop off and pick up times and this may discourage people to vote at these times if clear signage about parking for voting is not made available • AAK & AAU being split due to LGBC proposals and voting at Walton Court CC • AAN polling districts being merged due to Parliamentary boundary changes and voting at Oakfield Scout Hut • AAO due to LGBC and voting at Prebendal Farm CC • AAQ polling districts being merged due to Parliamentary boundary changes and voting at Haydon Hill CC • AAW due to LGBC proposals and voting at Walton Court CC • ABX districts being merged due to Parliamentary boundary changes and voting at The School Room, 29/31 High Street, Weedon <p>The proposed changes that we would like to highlight our concerns about are:</p> <p>DCG & ABV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We understand due to the LGBC proposals the existing polling district (ABD) had to be split to accommodate the two wards of Aylesbury South East and Wendover, Halton & Stoke

Mandeville and that due to Parliamentary boundary changes both DCH and DCG would be voting for the Mid Buckinghamshire constituency. Given that ABV and DCG will fall into the same ward for Buckinghamshire Council and Parish Council elections we think it would make sense for both polling districts to vote in the same polling place.

- At the last polling place review, we raised concerns about moving the polling place to Hawkslade Farm CC due to the fact that it is a long walk for those who don't have access to a car/lift to the polling station. We note that there is an option to cross the railway line which will cut down the journey, but as it involves crossing a railway line via a stile we do not think this is suitable for everyone and certainly not those that have mobility issues and use any form of mobility aid. We believe polling places as accessible as possible to ensure as many people who wish to vote in person are able to do so without facing access difficulties.
- As our view is that both polling districts should vote in the same polling place we accept that the walk to Hawkslade Community Centre is a likely more pleasant walk than to the Stoke Mandeville Community Centre due to the nature of the roads (a heavily trafficked B443 where the vehicles can travel at up to 40mph for sections) both would take around 15-20 minutes from the respective polling districts.
- There is no direct bus route from these polling districts to Hawkslade CC, only to Stoke Mandeville village which is further rationale as to why we don't think Hawkslade CC is the most suitable location.
- We understand there is a lack of community venues within the polling districts, but we would suggest that the use of Booker Park School may be an option, it has been used for community events in the past, is easily accessible on foot for the residents in both polling districts, there is parking onsite for those that may need assistance and it falls within the Stoke Mandeville parish. There is a history of small polling districts that are in different parliamentary seats voting in the same polling station so we don't think this would be a problem.

ABY

- Due to the LGBC proposals we understand the need to create two new polling districts, however part of the reasoning behind this change was the fact that ABY Aston Reach is not closely linked to Weston Turville so it would make no sense for that to continue as the polling station for the ward.
- To walk to Weston Turville from Aston Reach would at the quickest take approx. 40 minutes via New Road. However, New Road doesn't have a footpath for the whole length of the way and is a national speed limit road, with no street lighting, for a large part of the route where cars could be travelling 60mph.
- Although Bedgrove Pavilion is still a somewhat long walk, it takes approx. 25 mins but is within areas with footpaths the entire way with streetlights.
- There is no direct public transport option to get from Aston Reach to Weston Turville village, again one of the reasons behind the LGBC proposals for a change in the ward. We do not believe that Weston Turville Village Hall would be a suitable polling place.
- Our suggestion would be for Bedgrove Pavilion to be used for ABY being in the same Buckinghamshire Council ward, the venue is already in use, and it is safely accessible. Ideally, we would suggest a venue even closer for residents, but we understand that the cost of using the Holiday Inn may be too high and it may not be suitable due to it being a busy hotel and fitness centre.

DAC

- We understand due to the increase in the size of the electorate that the Family Centre in Berryfields Primary School may no longer be suitable. Roman Park is a fabulous local

facility; however we are concerned that the location could cause problems for people voting if they wish to walk to the venue as it is not central to the estate.

- Although the venue may be less than half a mile, suggesting it will take a 5 minute walk is optimistic at most, especially for those with mobility issues it could be at least double if not more. At the furthest point it could be upwards of a 20 minute walk.
- For those that will drive, there is limited parking at the venue while both schools have more parking individually as well as on street parking available.
- Would it be possible to use one of the other schools which are centrally located, have ample parking and are within easier walking distance for the majority of the ward?

Date	30 November 2023
Name	Councillor Susan Morgan, on behalf of Aylesbury Liberal Democrats
Polling District/Place	See below
Comments	<p>The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats submit the following responses to the proposed changes to polling places:</p> <p>Current Ward: Stone & Waddesdon Changing from Berryfields Family Centre, Berryfields Primary School HP18 0FG to Roman Park Hall, Sir Henry Lee Crescent, HP18 0YT The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats note that the majority of the Berryfields Parish are on the opposite side of the main road from Roman Park and while the change in distance is not significant, moving all the polling districts to Roman park will deter some voters. We propose that one polling district remains in Berryfields Family centre.</p> <p>Current Ward: Aston Clinton & Bierton The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats have no objections to moving the polling station from The Oakfield Community Building, Siding Road, Kingsbrook HP22 7AY to Kingsbrook View Primary Academy, Kingsbrook Basin, Broughton, HP22 7EE</p> <p>Current Ward: Aylesbury South East</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats have no objections to moving the polling station from Room 5/6 Olympic Lodge, Stoke Mandeville Stadium HP21 9PP to Rivets Sports and Social Club, Whitehead Way, Aylesbury HP21 8AD 2. The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats have no objections to moving the polling station from The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH to Aylesbury Tennis and Squash Club, The County Ground, Wendover Road, Aylesbury, HP21 9NJ <p>AAI - Aylesbury Hawkslade changes to AAK Aylesbury, Hawkslade. Polling District changed to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposal for Hawkslade Ward for Aylesbury Town Council. Proposed polling place is Walton Court Community Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, Hannon Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8TJ. Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows: Aylesbury Liberal Democrats support this proposed change.</p>

AAI (NEW SPLIT) changes to **AAU** Aylesbury, Southcourt 3. Polling District changed to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposal for Hawkslade Ward and Southcourt Ward for Aylesbury Town Council. Proposed polling place is Walton Court Community Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, Hannon Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP218TJ. Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows: **Aylesbury Liberal Democrats support this proposed change.**

AAL - Aylesbury Oakfield changes to **AAN** Aylesbury, Oakfield as Current Polling Districts BEC and AAL merge since they are both now within the same parliamentary constituency boundaries and have the same Polling Place Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows: **Aylesbury Liberal Democrats support this proposed change.**

AAM - Aylesbury Oxford Road changes to **AAO** Aylesbury, Oxford Road and the Polling District is changed to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposal for Walton Court for Aylesbury Town Council. Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows **Aylesbury Liberal Democrats propose that the ward is split into two polling districts - Prebendal Farm and Hartwell polling at the Community Centre in Somerville Way - and the part of Oxford Road Ward to the south of Oxford Road along Ellen Road polling at Southcourt community centre on Prebendal Avenue. It would bring the polling station closer and is geographically more appropriate for that part of the ward.**

AAN - Aylesbury Quarrendon No 1 Renamed to **AAP** Aylesbury, Quarrendon 1 with polling taking place in. Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre, Bowlers Field, Meadowcroft Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 9H

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

We propose that AAP Aylesbury Quarrendon 1 is renamed to Aylesbury Quarrendon. Splitting the old Haydon Hill / Quarrendon Ward into two has made the numbering superfluous as there will only be one polling district in the town ward.

AAO - Aylesbury Quarrendon No.2 is renamed to **AAQ** Aylesbury, Quarrendon/Haydon Hill 1 and will also merge with current Polling District BEE to match the Boundary Commission for England's final proposals for parliamentary constituencies Haydon Hill Community Centre, 10 Dickens Way, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 8SR

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

We propose that AAQ Aylesbury, Quarrendon/Haydon Hill 1 is renamed to AAQ Aylesbury Haydon Hill 1. Splitting the old ward into two means that the Quarrendon reference is inappropriate in that the Quarrendon estate is on the other side of the A41 and none of the new Ward is in Quarrendon nor do the local people consider themselves to be part of that estate.

BEE - Quarrendon No.3 has been proposed to be changed to **AAR** Aylesbury, Quarrendon/Haydon Hill 2 as it will need to merge with current Polling District AAO to match the Boundary Commission for England's final proposals for parliamentary constituencies. Polling station is Haydon Hill Community Centre, 10 Dickens Way, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 8SR

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

We propose that the reference to Quarrendon is removed in the naming of this polling district. The Quarrendon estate is on the other side of the A41 and none of the new Ward is in Quarrendon nor do the local people consider themselves to be part of that estate.

AAS - Aylesbury Walton Court is renamed to **AAW** Aylesbury, Walton Court. The new Polling District boundaries to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposal for Oxford Road Ward, Hawkslade Ward and Walton Court Ward for Aylesbury Town Council. Polling stations will be Walton Court Community Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, Hannon Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8TJ
Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats support this proposed change.

ABH (NEW SPLIT) is being created as **ABY** Weston Turville, Aston Reach. This is to make sure the Polling District is set to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposals for Weston Turville Village Ward and Aston Reach Ward for Weston Turville Parish Council. The Polling station will be in Weston Turville Village Hall, School Approach, Main Street, Weston Turville, Bucks. HP22 5RW

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

We suggest relocating the polling station to a closer venue instead of Weston Turville Village Hall. The hall is currently over a mile and a half away, and there are limited transportation options for voters. The Oakfield Scout Hut is the closest alternative, but both Bedgrove polling stations are even closer. This adjustment aligns with the upcoming change where the district will be part of the Aylesbury East unitary ward in the next election, making it a more logical choice.

BEC - Provis Wharf Aylesbury, Oakfield will be removed. The current Polling Districts **BEC** and **AAL** merge since they are both now within the same parliamentary constituency boundaries and have the same Polling Place Oakfield Scout Hut, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1L

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats support this proposed change.

ABC - Stoke Mandeville Stoke Leys that is renamed to **ABV** Stoke Mandeville, Stoke Leys 1 and proposed polling station at Hawkslade Farm Community Centre, Orwell Drive, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 9YL

AND

ABD (NEW SPLIT) that will be creating **DCG** Stoke Mandeville, Stoke Leys 2 Polling District to match the Local Government Boundary Commission's final proposals for Stoke Mandeville Village Ward and Stoke Leys Ward for Stoke Mandeville Parish Council which has a proposed New Polling Place as Stoke Mandeville Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5UJ

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats comments as follows:

Aylesbury Liberal Democrats propose consolidating the polling stations for these two districts into a single location, either at Hawkslade Farm Community Centre or Stoke Mandeville Community Centre. The Parish ward spans two constituencies, necessitating two polling districts. Currently, the polling stations are 2.4 miles apart. In the event that a voter mistakenly goes to the wrong station, such as when receiving a ride from a neighbour, having both polling stations at the same location would ensure they can still cast their vote.

Date	3 October 2023
Name	Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE
Polling District/Place	WD – Abbey No. 4
Comments	There may well be another location on Daws Hill Lane, that being the Community Centre. It is proposed that this should be open early next year. I wonder whether this could also be added to the Daws Hill location and would mean the school would not then have to close (Abbey View Primary Academy, Kennedy Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1BX).

Date	5 December 2023
Name	Councillor Matt Knight
Polling District/Place	EBG Ryemead & Micklefield/Marsh & Micklefield 1, Unparished
Comments	<p>Just a few points on Micklefield and Ryemead polling stations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It had been agreed ahead of the scheduled 2020 elections that the half of Micklefield closest to the A40 London Road would vote at the Hicks Farm Rise community room owned by Red Kite. In the event these elections were rescheduled and the community room not available in 2021 due to ongoing covid related restrictions. As this has been previously agreed I am not sure why it is not still part of the present proposals. 2. Micklefield historically has low turnout and it is notable it has always only had one polling station. The addition of Hicks Farm Rise would resolve this. 3. It would make sense for residents of Pimms Grove, Pimms Close, Cock Lane and Olympic Way to vote at Wrights Meadow Centre, as they need to drive past it to vote at Micklefield Community Centre.

Date	4 December 2023
Name	Councillor Julia Wassell
Polling District/Place	EBT Totteridge and Bowerdean 4 unparished EBS Totteridge and Bowerdean 3 unparished
Comments	<p>I write to inform you that I am responding to the consultation as follows, further to feedback received from 2021 elections, agent and the public subsequently.</p> <p>Code EBT Totteridge and Bowerdean 4 unparished. Proposal Totteridge Community Centre.</p> <p>Totteridge Community Centre is not in Bowerdean ward it is in Totteridge Road. It is not fit for purpose to cope with the level of traffic, political agents and supporters and arguments. The use of the rear of the premises has caused a lack of oversight and multiple allegations of electoral code breaches and continuous downright fraud allegations. I have been the councillor for the area since 1997 and since the use of this building I have been continually summoned there. No polling agents wish to attend there. Local residents and shops are grossly inconvenienced and shocked. I could go into a lot more detail but suffice to say the mayhem in recent elections caused in the road and on the pavement is unacceptable.</p>

Therefore I propose The Hive 1- 2 Arnison Avenue in the place of Totteridge Community Centre where people can walk downhill and there is a proper entrance and exit and marked parking bays. It is not a ' new polling place'.

Code EBS Totteridge and Bowerdean 3 'New Polling Place'. This is not new at all as it was used in 2021. This needs to be replaced by the tried and tested Hannah Ball School which is convenient for the large swathe of pensioners resident in lower Bowerdean. Residents who want to cast their vote do not want to walk up to the Hive again. They know Hannah Ball School as a polling station for a very long time. This will have the benefit of preventing the Hive becoming the new polling centre of mayhem that the Community Centre became.

In my view, an error was made in 2021 dropping Hannah Ball and pushing voters back up the hill towards Hive and Community Centre.

Acting Returning Officer Responses to the Consultation

Date	30 October 2023
Name	Nick Graham Acting Returning Officer for Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Chesham and Amersham, Mid Buckinghamshire and Wycombe Parliamentary Constituencies
Polling District/Place	Those in the above Parliamentary Constituencies
Comments	
No objections to proposed polling districts or polling places.	

Date	30 October 2023
Name	Sharon Bridglalsingh Acting Returning Officer for Buckingham and Bletchley Parliamentary Constituencies
Polling District/Place	Those in the above Parliamentary Constituencies
Comments	
<p>I am writing to you to today regarding the proposals in your polling places and polling districts review.</p> <p>I have reviewed the proposals and note that there no recommendations to change any of the polling districts or polling places within the Buckinghamshire area of the proposed Buckingham and Bletchley constituency from what they are currently designated. As the Acting Returning Officer for the proposed constituency, I am supportive of the review's proposals for this area.</p>	