



Polling District and Polling Place Review 2021/2022

Representations received in connection with the review

Review of polling places and polling districts 2021 – Summary of Responses

Respondent	Area(s)	The polling district/polling place/polling station the submission makes reference to	Summary of Comments	Summary of Review
Cllr Allison Wren (District councillor)	Harpenden North and Rural ward	Wood End School (HNA)	<p>The Boundary changes have increased the size of Harpenden North ward significantly, and added the village of Kinsbourne Green, at the north eastern most end of the ward. The furthest dwelling is at least 1.7 miles from Wood End school, which has been used as a polling station in the past. However, this did not happen in 2021 as the school felt that it could not guarantee social distancing.</p> <p>Whilst we cannot predict whether next year's elections will take place during a time of restricted movement, I feel that it is important that we provide a suitable alternative for the residents in the northern and eastern ends of the ward. During doorstep conversations before the elections, several elderly residents doubted their ability to get to the southern end of town to vote without assistance.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these important points.</p>	As no suitable alternative venue can be located there are no proposed changes to the current arrangements.

<p>Cllr Sandy Walkington (County councillor)</p>	<p>Sopwell ward</p>	<p>Marlborough Road Methodist Church (SLA)</p>	<p>While I would prefer a polling station within the SLA polling district of Sopwell, I appreciate that voters have been using the Marlborough Road Methodist Church and there have been no objections. Accordingly, I have no objection to the proposals as drafted for the St Albans South division.</p>	<p>Alternative venues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th St Albans Scout Hut, Riverside Road – limited availability • St Albans Sub Aqua Club, Cottonmill Lane – limited accessibility • St Peters School, Cottonmill Lane – no longer available as a polling station <p>As no suitable alternative venue can be located there are no proposed changes to the current arrangements.</p>
<p>Charrington Place Residents Association</p>	<p>St Peters ward</p>	<p>SPC</p>	<p>I am the founding Chairman of the City Neighbourhoods Committee-recognised Residents Association for Charrington Place, and am currently a non-officer member of its Executive Committee. I am writing to you in my capacity as a member of the Charrington Place RA Executive.</p> <p>Charrington Place sits in the corner of the ABD Polling District, and of St Peters Ward as a whole. It consists of: AL1 3DB - Opus House. 44 dwellings. AL1 3FJ - Ellis House. 74 dwellings. AL1 3FL - Davy House. 40 dwellings. AL1 3FU - Serra House. 61 dwellings.</p>	<p>Charrington Place will be included in SPC. However, during the review, Trinity United Reformed Church notified St Albans City & District Council that they will no longer be available for use as a polling station. St Alban & St Stephen Roman Catholic Church, Beaconsfield Road has been identified as the replacement polling station. St Alban & St Stephen Roman Catholic Church is approximately 150</p>

			<p>AL1 3FY - The Parade, Ellis House. 15 dwellings. AL1 3FZ - Barcino House. 63 dwellings. AL1 3GW - Nero House. 36 dwellings. AL1 3NT - Milan House. 25 dwellings. AL1 3GX - Vita House. 20 dwellings. AL1 3NX - Roma House. 36 dwellings.</p> <p>It was our request as a Residents Association which led to Charrington Place and Station Way previously being moved from Polling District ABC and Polling Station ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN INFANT SCHOOL, VANDA CRESCENT, ST ALBANS AL1 5EX to Polling Station TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BEACONSFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS AL1 3RD in Polling District ABD</p> <p>As such, for Charrington Place to remain with the TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Polling Station, we would support Charrington Place being in what will now be the SCP polling district, as provisionally proposed, and not being relocated to the SPD polling district that corresponds to the old ABC polling district.</p> <p>Trinity United Reformed Church is much closer to Charrington Place than</p>	<p>meters from Trinity United Reformed Church.</p>
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			<p>St Alban & St Stephen Infant School. We are just the other side of the Victoria Street railway bridge from Trinity United Reformed Church, whereas St Alban & St Stephen Infant School is at the other end of the Polling District. Commuting residents returning on fast services from London can see Trinity United Reformed Church as they exit onto Ridgmont Road from City Station. For commuters exiting onto Station Way, it's a quick walk over the bridge. Our closest supermarket Iceland is directly across the road from Trinity United Reformed Church, with our two "locals", The Horn and The Robin Hood, either side of Iceland. We've had instances of residents assuming that Trinity United Reformed Church was their polling station, only to discover otherwise on election day itself.</p> <p>The thing that takes Charrington Place residents down to St Alban & St Stephen Infant School - a much smaller proportion of residents than use one or more of City Station, Iceland and the local pubs on a given day - doesn't apply on an election day itself, as the school is closed. Also, while the desire line route there from Charrington Place via the Alban Way is in daylight for most - but not all - of</p>	
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			<p>the day on a standard first Thursday of May election, it may be in darkness for peak morning and evening voting times for a by-election or snap general election. Our route to Trinity United Reformed Church is lit from prior to 7 am to after 10 pm.</p> <p>As such, and having consulted with the RA Exec, the preference remains Trinity United Reformed Church.</p>	
St Albans resident	St Stephen ward / Park Street ward	SSD	<p>Polling Station for the residents of Spielplatz:</p> <p>For many years, as long as I have lived at Spielplatz our polling station was the church hall in Bricket Wood.</p> <p>A few years ago this was changed to the Scout Hut in How Wood. Although the Scout Hut was closer in a hypothetical direct line, it is much further away in reality as residents of Spielplatz have to go out our gate, into Lye Lane and then drive to How Wood. There was no sensible justification for this move, we are located in Bricket Wood and that's where our polling station should be. I did take this up with the council and my MP, who at the time was Ms Anne Main. I never received a reply.</p> <p>Now you are advising us that we should go to Park Street, even further</p>	The LGBCE review placed all properties in Spielplatz in the St Stephen ward. The polling station for the proposed polling district (SSD) will be located at St Lukes Church, Bricket Wood.

			away. This is totally unacceptable. We should be going to the polling station in West Riding, Bricket Wood. I urge you to reconsider this decision.	
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