

**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022**  
**Representations received during the Consultation and the Returning Officer's Response**

Respondent	Borough Ward	Representation made	Returning Officer's Response to Representation
Cllr Deborah Seabrook	Merrow	<p><u>Use of Merrow CoE Infants School as a polling place</u></p> <p>"It seems a shame to disrupt a school day. Could you consider Merrow Methodist Church instead? I believe it was used in the SCC elections and is not too far from the eastern part of the ward, although it is in the central district. Parking is OK.</p> <p>Another alternative to consider which is still in the eastern district is St John's Church Centre. However, it is a bit more isolated on the southern side of Epsom Road and further to walk for those in the northern part of Merrow Park."</p>	<p>The Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services and Elections Manager have met with Cllr Seabrook to discuss her representations.</p> <p>Possible alternatives to using Merrow C of E Infant School as a polling place for proposed polling district M1 - Merrow (North), are to use the Merrow Methodist Church or Bushy Hill Junior School, both of which have been used previously as polling stations. The Junior School can also be used as a polling station without the need for a full closure of the school. However, there are parking difficulties and traffic issues associated with the use of Bushy Hill School when it is used as a polling place.</p> <p>The Methodist Church cannot guarantee use of their premises as a polling station in the event that an unscheduled election is called. Using either of these alternatives as a polling place for proposed polling district M1 would mean that the only vehicular route to either of them for electors north of Epsom Road within polling district M1 would be via Park Lane/ Epsom Road/Bushy Hill Drive – considerably longer than the route to Merrow CoE Infant School. It is also worth noting that we have not received any complaints from electors (or the School itself) about the use of the Infant School as a polling place.</p>

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			<p>The Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services and Elections Manager have also visited the alternative venue suggested by Cllr Seabrook, St Johns Church Centre, to establish whether it might be a suitable alternative polling place in proposed polling district M1 - Merrow (North). Although the main hall is suitable, we would only be guaranteed the use of the smaller hall as a polling station as the local playgroup would be in the main hall during the day. We have three concerns about the use of this venue as a polling place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The security of the children in the playgroup with up to 2,000 electors visiting the polling station</li> <li>2. Although we do not have to supply parking for electors, the car park is small and will be busy during polling day with other users of the venue.</li> <li>3. There are two busy roads to cross to access the hall from the majority of the polling district.</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Seabrook is content with the proposed designated polling stations within the new Merrow ward.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: To retain Merrow C of E Infant School as the designated polling place for proposed polling district M1 – Merrow (North).</b></p>

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Helen Myers, Clerk to Pirbright Parish Council	Normandy & Pirbright	<p><u>Use of Lord Pirbright's Hall as a polling place</u></p> <p>"The Hall has disabled access, accessible toilets, baby changing facilities and ample car parking"</p>	Noted
Amanda Pick, Clerk to Normandy Parish Council	Normandy & Pirbright	<p><u>Use of St Mark's Church Hall as a polling place</u></p> <p>"The current polling station at St Mark's Church Hall is fine but there are concerns re: parking and access. Going in and out of the car park for the hall can be difficult with the amount of traffic that travels along Guildford Road at speed. The car park is not that big which can lead to cars queuing along the Guildford Road waiting to enter the car park. Only 2 disabled spaces available. There is a nursery displaced for polling.</p> <p>It has good roadside visibility for local residents as a reminder to vote."</p> <p><u>Suggested alternative polling place: Normandy Village Hall</u></p> <p>"This hall has three rooms available; the upstairs room does not have disabled access, the main hall is unnecessarily large for polling but the small hall should be fine. It has access to kitchen with a kettle and a hob/oven plus there is access to communal toilets including an accessible toilet. There is provision of ample parking spaces (including disabled).</p> <p>There is a baby sensory group which often (but not</p>	<p>The Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services and Elections Manager visited Normandy Village Hall and confirm that it is a suitable venue for a polling place.</p> <p>The committee that runs the Village Hall have agreed to guarantee the use of the hall for all elections provided that this will have no detrimental effect on St Mark's Hall.</p> <p>We have spoken to the booking secretary of St Mark's Hall who has assured us that the pre-school group understand they must vacate the building for elections as it is within their hire agreement. St Marks Church would like to maintain the venue as a polling station, so the recommendation is to remain at St Marks Hall.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation: To retain St Mark's Hall as the designated polling place for proposed polling district N&amp;P1 (Normandy).</u></b></p>

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		<p>always) hire the small hall on a Thursday all day and another regular community group in the evenings – both of which would be displaced but they may be able to use alternative rooms within the building.</p> <p>There is slightly less roadside visibility for local residents as a reminder to vote.”</p>	
Suzanne Hoyland, Clerk to Shere Parish Council	Tillingbourne	<p><u>Use of Peaslake Village Hall as a polling place</u></p> <p>“Good venue”</p> <p><u>Use of Shere Village Hall as a polling place</u></p> <p>“Good venue”</p> <p><u>Use of Holmbury St Mary Village Hall as a polling place</u></p> <p>“Good venue”</p> <p>On behalf of one of the parish councillors, the parish clerk has also asked why the polling district name has changed from Peaslake District to South West District under the Tillingbourne ward.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation:</u> To retain the current names for the five polling districts within the Tillingbourne ward as follows:</b></p> <p><b>T1 - St Martha</b>  <b>T2 - Albury</b>  <b>T3 - Shere</b>  <b>T4 - Peaslake</b>  <b>T5 - Holmbury St Mary</b></p>

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Cllr Diana Jones	Tillingbourne	<p>“It seems the only change in my ward is of some of the names in Shere parish. Is that so? Could someone remind me of the reasoning for that please?”</p> <p>Also, I see that the St Martha polling station is outside my ward (in Shalford). Presumably there was no alternative,”</p>	<p><b>Recommendation: To retain the current names for the five polling districts within the Tillingbourne ward as follows:</b></p> <p><b>T1 - St Martha</b>  <b>T2 - Albury</b>  <b>T3 - Shere</b>  <b>T4 - Peaslake</b>  <b>T5 - Holmbury St Mary</b></p> <p>Chilworth Village Hall has been used as a polling station for the St Martha polling district since 2013. Prior to 2013, we had used Chilworth C of E Infant School as a polling place and received numerous complaints about its use for this purpose because it involved the full closure of the school on polling day. Since moving the polling place to Chilworth Village Hall (which is outside of the St Martha polling district) we have received no complaints or adverse comments from electors.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: To retain Chilworth Village Hall as the designated polling place for St Martha polling district (T1).</b></p>
Cllr Angela Goodwin	Onslow	<p><u>Use of Queen Eleanor's C of E Junior School, Onslow Village Hall, and Stag Hill Campus as polling places</u></p> <p>“I am happy with the three proposed Polling stations for Onslow ward. However, there are roads (mainly those that are moving from Friary &amp;</p>	<p>Grace Church is located on the corner of Guildford Park Road and the existing access road to the Guildford Park Car Park. The venue does not have any off-street parking facility for polling station staff. Currently, the Presiding Officer at this polling station has to park on the yellow lines adjacent to the polling</p>

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		<p>St Nicolas ward to Onslow ward) that will be poorly serviced with the proposed removal of the <b>Grace Church Guildford</b> facility on Guildford Park Road, Guildford. The <b>roads in walking distance to Grace Church</b> include Guildford Park Road, Upperton Road, Denzil Road, Ludlow Road, Rupert Road, Bray Road, Dunsdon Avenue, Agraria Road, Guildford Park Avenue, Ridgemount, Scholars Walk, Lynwood, Sandalwood, Dray Court, part of The Chase, and The Oval residents etc. could also be added to this polling station too.</p> <p>Voters would be more encouraged to vote in person on foot if this option was reinstated and carefully planning; this would be easier for residents and more environmentally friendly for our community. The upcoming Guildford Park Road car park development – if approved as a planning application – could also bring in an extra 200+ homes to the nearby area”.</p>	<p>station to unload their ballot box, and other election sundries and then they park their car in the Guildford Park Car Park for the day. It is expected that the development to which Cllrs Angela and David Goodwin refer will lead to the permanent closure of the Guildford Park Car Park in 2023-24, and therefore nowhere for the polling station staff to park.</p> <p>There is limited waiting parking on-street in the vicinity, which is only available on a first come first served basis. By the time the presiding officer (and poll clerks) arrive at the polling station on the morning of polling day (6.15am), it is extremely unlikely that there would be any vacant on-street parking spaces.</p> <p>We have also reviewed the number of electors within the southern part of Onslow ward to be served by the Onslow Village Hall polling place and have divided it into two polling districts: Onslow (East) – O2 and Onslow (West) – O3.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation:</u> To configure the proposed polling districts and polling places for the Onslow ward as follows:</b></p> <table data-bbox="1370 1141 2000 1300"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Polling District</u></th> <th><u>Polling Place</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>O1 - Onslow (Central):</td> <td>Queen Eleanor's School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O2 - Onslow (East):</td> <td>Onslow Village Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O3 - Onslow (West):</td> <td>Onslow Village Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O4 - Stag Hill:</td> <td>Stag Hill Campus</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Polling District</u>	<u>Polling Place</u>	O1 - Onslow (Central):	Queen Eleanor's School	O2 - Onslow (East):	Onslow Village Hall	O3 - Onslow (West):	Onslow Village Hall	O4 - Stag Hill:	Stag Hill Campus
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Cllr David Goodwin	Onslow	<p><u>Use of Queen Eleanor's C of E Junior School, Onslow Village Hall, and Stag Hill Campus as polling places</u></p> <p>"I am happy with the three proposed Polling stations for Onslow ward. However, there are roads (mainly those that are moving from Friary &amp; St Nicolas ward to Onslow ward) that will be poorly serviced with the proposed removal of the <b>Grace Church Guildford</b> facility on Guildford Park Road, Guildford. The <b>roads in walking distance to Grace Church</b> include Guildford Park Road, Upperton Road, Denzil Road, Ludlow Road, Rupert Road, Bray Road, Dunsdon Avenue, Agraria Road, Guildford Park Avenue, Ridgemount, Scholars Walk, Lynwood, Sandalwood, Dray Court, part of The Chase, and The Oval residents etc. could also be added to this polling station too.</p> <p>Voters would be more encouraged to vote in person on foot if this option was reinstated and carefully planning; this would be easier for residents and more environmentally friendly for our community. The upcoming Guildford Park Road car park development – if approved as a planning application – could also bring in an extra 200+ homes to the nearby area".</p>	<p>Grace Church is located on the corner of Guildford Park Road and the existing access road to the Guildford Park Car Park. The venue does not have any off-street parking facility for polling station staff. Currently, the Presiding Officer at this polling station has to park on the yellow lines adjacent to the polling station to unload their ballot box, and other election sundries and then they park their car in the Guildford Park Car Park for the day. It is expected that the development to which Cllrs Angela and David Goodwin refer will lead to the permanent closure of the Guildford Park Car Park in 2023-24, and therefore nowhere for the polling station staff to park.</p> <p>There is limited waiting parking on-street in the vicinity, which is only available on a first come first served basis. By the time the presiding officer (and poll clerks) arrive at the polling station on the morning of polling day (6.15am), it is extremely unlikely that there would be any vacant on-street parking spaces.</p> <p>We have also reviewed the number of electors within the southern part of Onslow ward to be served by the Onslow Village Hall polling place and have divided it into two polling districts: Onslow (East) – O2 and Onslow (West) – O3.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation:</u> To configure the proposed polling districts and polling places for the Onslow ward as follows:</b></p>

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			<p><b><u>Polling District</u></b>      <b><u>Polling Place</u></b></p> <p>O1 - Onslow (Central): Queen Eleanor's School</p> <p>O2 - Onslow (East): Onslow Village Hall</p> <p>O3 - Onslow (West): Onslow Village Hall</p> <p>O4 - Stag Hill: Stag Hill Campus</p>
Alexander Fiuza (resident)	Castle	<p><u>Use of The Spike as a polling place for proposed polling district C3 (Castle East)</u></p> <p>“The proposed C2 (Castle South-East) polling district which I will be in makes geographic sense and voting at The Spike is both consistent for many residents (those who were in D2 in Holy Trinity) and convenient for all residents. I am concerned though about the use of The Spike for C3 (Castle East) polling district as well – from, for instance, Elgin Gardens, The Spike is a 30-minute walk, which may put off voters. I understand there are not easy alternatives, but I would urge consideration of one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trying to make a deal with Tormead School or the branch of the RGS in C3 to use part of them as a polling station – these are both relatively central in C3 and halve or more the journey for most electors; or</li> <li>2. Alternatively, if C3 was extended to include Waterden Road, it could make sense for Christ Church Guildford on Waterden Road to act as a polling station – taking the Elgin Gardens example, it would be only 20 minutes rather than 30 to walk to.”</li> </ol>	<p>Although both Tormead School and the Royal Grammar School have been approached to enquire as to their availability, no formal response has been received. However, it is worth noting that both schools are independent and not state funded, and therefore the Returning Officer cannot require them to provide a room/hall to be used as a polling station.</p> <p>The Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services and Elections Manager have visited Christ Church in Waterden Road and are of the view that it would be a suitable venue as a polling place. They have also received assurance that the venue could be made available at short notice, for example should a snap General Election be called.</p> <p>The boundary between proposed polling district C3 (referred to as ‘Castle East’ in the consultation but is now recommended to be renamed <b>Castle North</b>) and proposed polling district C1 (Castle West) has been extended to the junction with London Road/High Street/Epsom Road, so that Christ Church is located wholly within polling district C3.</p>

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			<p><b><u>Recommendation:</u></b></p> <p><b>(1) To change the name of proposed polling district C3 – Castle East to ‘C3 – Castle North’.</b></p> <p><b>(2) To change the designated polling place for polling district C3 to Christ Church, 23 Waterden Road, Guildford GU1 2AZ</b></p>
The Acting Returning Officer for Mole Valley Parliamentary Constituency	Send and Lovelace	<p><u>Use of Ripley Village Hall as a polling place for proposed polling districts S&amp;L2 (Ripley) and S&amp;L3 (Wisley)</u></p> <p>The Acting Returning Officer for Mole Valley is content with the proposal to use Ripley Village Hall in place of the previous polling station located at RHS Wisley provided the new location is convenient for the electors within the polling district. The ARO notes that the Village Hall is undergoing extensive renovation and the proposed venue will provide improved parking facilities for electors and is located on the main road in Ripley.</p>	Noted
Cllr George Potter	Burpham	<p>“I oppose the polling district boundaries in Burpham ward and have reservations about the locations of the polling stations. Sutherland Memorial Hall’s entrance faces north west, and the car park serving it can only be accessed from Clay Lane. The entrance to Burpham Village Hall faces south east and can only be accessed from Burpham Lane. By drawing the boundary between the polling districts down London Road, the result is that residents of Weylea</p>	<p>The Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services and Elections Manager have met with Cllr Potter to discuss his representations.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that the two venues most suitable as polling places in the ward are in such close proximity.</p> <p>The Electoral Services Manager and</p>

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		<p>Farm, Abbotswood, the Marlyns Drive area and the houses on Burpham Lane will all be forced to travel past the Burpham Village Hall polling station to access their polling station located on the opposite side of the park to where they live. Similarly, residents of Merrow Lane, Great Oaks Park, Old London Road, Winterhill Way and Orchard Road will be obliged to travel to the opposite side of the park to where they live in order to cast their ballots.</p> <p>It should also be noted that there will be a complete one-way northbound closure of London Road by SCC during next year's elections, which will further make it incredibly difficult for many voters to access the polling stations.</p> <p>If the polling stations are to remain as proposed then the boundary between the polling districts should instead run north west to south east along Clay Lane and New Inn Lane (replicating the existing division of Burpham, with Abbotswood, Ganghill and Boxgrove Avenue residents allocated to the southern polling district). Alternatively, consideration should be given to establishing a polling station located at George Abbot school in order to better cater to the residents transferring into Burpham. This could potentially be done by allocating voters in the north of the ward to either Burpham Village Hall or Sutherland Memorial Hall and allocating voters in the south of the ward to a George Abbots school polling station."</p>	<p>Democratic Services and Elections Manager have visited the alternative venue suggested by Cllr Potter, George Abbot Secondary School to establish whether it might be a suitable venue for a polling place. Whilst the school has three large halls that would be suitable for use as a polling place, it was clear that due to their location, any such use would necessitate the full closure of the school. A closure during the examination period would have a significant impact on the school and the pupils affected, particularly in respect of an unscheduled election with very limited notice (e.g. Parliamentary election). Given that there are suitable alternative venues for polling places in the ward, it is felt that requiring the use of the school for polling could not be justified in the circumstances.</p> <p>Following discussions with Cllr Potter, the boundary between the two polling districts in the Burpham ward has been re-drawn, as shown on the relevant map in Appendix 3, to create a new Burpham – North polling district served by Sutherland Memorial Hall as its designated polling place and a Burpham - South polling district served by Burpham Village Hall as its designated polling place.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation:</u> To retain Sutherland Memorial Hall and Burpham Village Hall as designated polling places respectively for Burpham - North and Burpham - South polling districts.</b></p>