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Rother District Council



LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

27 November 2023

Minutes of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 27 November 2023 at 6:30pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors R.B. Thomas (Chair), A.E. Biggs (Substitute), G.R.M. Delany, K.M. Field, A. Rathbone Ariel and H.L. Timpe.

Committee Members present remotely: Councillors B.J. Coupar, Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green and S.B. McGurk.

Other Members present remotely: Councillors J. Barnes (MBE) and C. Pearce.

Advisory Officers in attendance: Electoral Services Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present: 7 members of the public via the live webcast.

LG23/5. **MINUTES**

The Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 17 April 2023 and 24 May 2023 as a correct record of the proceedings.

LG23/6. **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Hacking and J. Stanger (Vice-Chair).

It was noted that Councillor A.E. Biggs was present as a substitute for Councillor Hacking.

LG23/7. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were made by Councillors in the Minutes as indicated below:

Timpe Agenda Item 5 - Personal Interest as involved with the Manor Barn, Bexhill-on-Sea.

PART I – RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

LG23/8.
(5)

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023

Members received and considered the report of the Electoral Services Manager detailing the Council's statutory review of its polling districts and polling places.

The review considered the arrangements for polling districts and polling places at UK Parliamentary elections and thus covered the arrangements in place for the parts of Bexhill and Battle and the Hastings and Rye constituencies that fell within Rother. These arrangements remained in place for other elections. The review did not cover parliamentary, local government or parish boundaries, or the naming of these electoral areas, which were subject to a separate review process conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The statutory criteria for a review of polling districts and polling places was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

A total of 23 responses to the consultation were received, which were included in Appendix 2 to the report. Feedback from polling station staff and polling station inspectors had also been considered.

There were six changes to the existing polling places and polling stations that the Committee was asked to recommend, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions and the following points were noted:

- officers were aware of the redevelopment plans for St Barnabas Church, Bexhill and therefore the venue was not recommended to be designated as the permanent polling place for Bexhill Sackville at the current time;
- Westfield Community Hall could be considered, but officers had not been able to view and access its suitability as yet;
- Members raised concerns that, although complaints had not been received about the Church Room, St George's Church, Crowhurst, residents who were not of that religion might feel inhibited due to having to walk through the church. There was no legislation preventing the use of a church as a polling place, but the Council tried to avoid it if possible and if complaints were received. As no complaints had been received, the needs of the area had been taken into account and the Church Room was considered to be a suitable venue;
- Crowhurst Village Hall had been considered as an alternative venue, but the school next door used it at lunchtimes and if used as a polling place, the school might have to close for the day;
- schools tended not to be used as polling places as the majority would not be able to remain open for the day, due to safeguarding concerns;

- the Bovis development in north Bexhill was to include a community pavilion and Members suggested that this could be considered as a polling place in the future;
- mobile venues could be considered but were not preferable, as they tended to cost more to hire, were not usually as accessible and did not have all the required facilities;
- designating the whole polling district as the polling place gave the flexibility to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one became available, without consultation; and
- often a venue in the centre of a rural polling district was not the focal point of the village and therefore not always the preferred option.

After some discussion, Members were happy to recommend to full Council that the Polling Scheme at Appendix 2 to the report be approved and that the Chief Executive's current delegated authority, as detailed in the report, should continue.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- 1) the Polling Scheme in Appendix A be approved; and
- 2) the Chief Executive's current delegated authority to agree necessary changes of polling place after consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee, relevant District Ward Member(s), County Council Member and Parish Council should continue. Should any of the consultees not agree the proposed change, the decision to be brought to the Licensing and General Purposes Committee and full Council for determination.

(Councillor Timpe declared a Personal Interest in this matter as she was involved with the Manor Barn, Bexhill and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct remained in the meeting during the consideration thereof).

CHAIR

The meeting closed at 6:57pm.

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Rother District Council – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

Current Polling Scheme with Proposals

Bexhill Central District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHCE1	Beulah Baptist Church Hall, Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1QA	2,099	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
BHCE2	St Paul's Free Church Room, 67 Wickham Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3ES	2,103	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current polling place is not considered ideal, as it is located at the border of the polling district. However, the previous polling place, Sackville Road Methodist Church, is no longer available for use, and we have been unable to identify any other suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please consider 9th Bexhill Scout Hall in Wainwright Road. <p>Reasons given are in your own words regarding St Pauls, "The current polling place is not considered ideal, as it is located at the border of the polling district. However, the previous polling place, Sackville Road Methodist Church, is no longer available for use, and we have been unable</p>

				<p>to identify any other suitable alternatives within the polling district.</p> <p>Beulah Baptist Church. This site is about to undergo a complete rebuild and may not be available when required.</p> <p>9th Bexhill Hall is within Central ward has accessible facilities as well as ample parking in the car park next door. Whilst also having welfare facilities available to staff throughout the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I must declare and interest as I am Chair of 9th Bexhill Scout Group.” – Councillor Paul Plim, Bexhill Town Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9th Bexhill Scout Hall was considered, however it is outside of BHCE2 polling district. Therefore, no changes proposed.
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Bexhill Collington District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHCO1	St Augustine's Church Hall, St Augustine's Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3AZ	1,429	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The above site is very well suited as there is enough (free) parking as well as nearby bus stops. The facilities inside are light, clean and spacious.” – Member of the public <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHCO2	Cooden Beach Sports & Social Club, 9 Withyham Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 9BD	1,209	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSM3. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHCO3	Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club, Little Common Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4HU	1,269	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHKE1. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

				<u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes proposed.
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Bexhill Kewhurst District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHKE1	Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club, Little Common Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4HU	1,539	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHCO3. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHKE2	Bexhill Leisure Centre, Down Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4HS	1,224	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSS1 and BHSS2. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, the previous polling place, St Stephen’s Church Hall, is no longer available for use, and we have been unable to identify any other suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We live in St. Marks Close Little Common, which is immediately adjacent St. Marks Hall Polling Station BHKE2. However in recent years we and other residents have been forced to travel to remote polling stations i.e. St. Stephens and now the Leisure Centre. This makes absolutely no sense when you look at the maps. There are many elderly residents in St. Marks Close who do not drive. It seems senseless to force residents to drive past an ideal location using petrol on increasingly congested roads and to the detriment of the environment.” – Member of the public

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rother Review of Bexhill Polling Stations (ends 13 November). IV reported that as part of this review it had become apparent that ideally another polling station needs to be found within the area of St. Stephens and Kewhurst Wards that used to use St. Stephen’s church hall as its polling station. It appears that this church hall is no longer available for this purpose. RT agreed to try and find out why. (RT). Committee members will try and think of another venue that would be suitable if required. It was agreed that Bexhill Leisure Centre which was used for last May’s election worked well.” – Bexhill and Battle Liberal Democrats <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one becomes available.
BHKE3	St Martha’s Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4SL	1,208	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Bexhill Old Town & Worsham District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHOL1	St Peters Community Centre, Church Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2HE	1,387	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I live literally next door to my local polling station, and for many years was allowed to vote there. Until the boundary change. Then my new polling station was half a mile away. Why are we not allowed to use our nearest one, who decides on the boundaries, surely you should go to the nearest one? Very unfair on those whose mobility isn't great.” – Member of the public <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHOL2	Christchurch Methodist Church Hall, Springfield Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2BX	1,838	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSS3. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Bexhill Pebsham & St Michaels District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHPE1	St Michael's Church Hall, Glassenbury Drive, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2NY	1,341	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHPE2	Pebsham Community Centre, 70 Seabourne Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2SW	1,353	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHPE3. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHPE3	Pebsham Community Centre, 70 Seabourne Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2SW	1,243	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHPE3. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Additional Comments for Bexhill Pebsham & St Michaels

“I get complaints from residents in Furnells Walk off Pebsham Lane 200 voters that they can’t vote at Pebsham community hub at county elections but have to go to Springfield Rd polling station when Pebsham polling station so close to them. Might increase turnout if they went to Pebsham. Also the only access to their estate is via Pebsham seems odd to me.” – Councillor Charles Clark, Rother District Council

Bexhill Sackville District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHSA1	Manor Barn, De La Warr Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2JA	1,845	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSA2. • The previous polling place, St Mary Magdalene’s Church Hall, is considered preferable due to its location. However, it is currently unavailable due to repair works, with no estimated re-opening date. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We have been resident in Bexhill-On-Sea since 8 March 2021 and have cast our votes at both Manor Barn and St Mary’s Magdalene polling places. We both agree Manor Barn is the better location being light and airy with the added benefit of disabled access and nearby off-road public parking. Thank you for the opportunity to add our comment.” – Members of the public • “I live in the Sackville Road ward bsha1. I am disabled, unable to walk very far, have difficulty in balance, have difficulty with steps and uneven ground. Last time I went to vote it was at manor barn, which in my opinion is a totally unsuitable venue to use as a voting station. I had to drive there on my scooter, which is fair enough, but when I got near to the door of the venue, the only place to park near the door was on the grass, which isn't ideal. Luckily my wife was with me, otherwise I would not have been able to get over the hurdle of the door threshold, which is quite high, I then had to go down a ramp covering a couple of stairs, which seemed quite flimsy, on eventually reaching the desk, I noticed that all

				<p>the polling booths were at the other end of the room, and so once I had registered, I had to walk alone, about 15 meters across the not very flat floor to the station , vote and then walk back.</p> <p>The whole thing was for me felt like an accident waiting to happen. As I left I heard a couple of other older people complaining, saying how difficult it had been.</p> <p>I got home and wrote to the independent councillors of our ward complaining, and they agreed, that they needed to find a new venue.</p> <p>Unfortunately I do not know of anywhere that would be suitable, but if you would like someone to road test a new venue, I would be more than willing, health allowing.” – Member of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the last polling arrangements for Sackville Ward in Bexhill on Sea. <p>The polling station was moved from St Mary Magdalen’s Church in Sea Road to Manor Barn, De La Warr Road. This is, in my opinion, an entirely unsuitable venue due to its location and I cannot understand why it was chosen. It is right on the outskirts of this ward, a very long way from the other sides of the ward, and very difficult to get to by foot for a lot of people due to the distance and a walk up a very steep hill. As far as I am aware there was no vehicular arrangements made for voters to get to Manor Barn from the sea front or the centre of town or any other part of the ward.</p> <p>There were arrangements made for parking in the Manor Barn Car Park for voters without having to pay. However this was not sufficiently publicised and virtually no one knew about it. It also does not alter the fact that many residents were simply unable to get there.</p> <p>I would therefore request that any future elections are</p>
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				<p>moved back to St Mary Magdalen, or another venue in a more central location, that voters of all ages and mobile abilities are able to get to.” – Member of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It seems we must have the Manor Barn for the polling station. As it is not very convenient for most of the ward could we at least have cessation of paid parking at the venue on polling day. This would encourage those that might need to drive to vote. It is uphill for most so some might not be able to walk there.” – Member of the public <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Barnabas Church in Sea Road has been identified as a suitable alternative, and it has been agreed to use the venue at an upcoming parish by-election. It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place, to allow for the use of St Barnabas Church again, if it is deemed to be satisfactory, or alternatively for St Mary Magdalene’s Church Hall to be used again if it becomes available again in the future.
BHSA2	Manor Barn, De La Warr Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2JA	2,202	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSA1. • The previous polling place, St Mary Magdalene’s Church Hall, is considered preferable due to its location. However, it is currently unavailable due to repair works, with no estimated re-opening date. • Additionally, neither venue is in the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am resident in Sackville ward. At the last election I struggled to get to Manor Barn to vote. I have difficulty walking distances and especially uphill walking. So Manor Barn is a very bad venue for me. If you have to use it again perhaps you could offer time limited free car

				<p>parking in the Manor Barn Car Park. Is there a reason why St Barnabas Church in Sea Road isn't used? That's much easier for me to walk to." – Member of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "For so many people, especially the elderly and disabled living nearer the sea front of Bexhill, Manor Barn is a very inconvenient venue and we can't understand why the voting station was moved from St Mary Magdalen's church. What was the perceived benefit of such a change? <p>We would like to suggest that voting be moved back to somewhere more central to the ward and not on the top edge. If St Mary Magdalen's church is no longer available, would somewhere like St Barnabas be possible as the area around it is flat and it is easily accessible? Also, St Barnabas is aiming to become much more of a community hub and is a well-known venue locally." – Members of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "We wish to add our comments to the polling station review. As pensioners without a car who live at the Galley Hill end of Cantelupe road, we found that having to go to the old town to vote was quite a trek. From our point of view St Barnabas Church on sea road is much more accessible and is actually in our polling area, unlike Manor Barn. It may not sound far but it is 4 buses to get to and from where we are to Manor barn and back. And as the community bus only goes 3 times a day you can see the difficulties. There are many people who live here near the seafront in the same position, without transport and who are elderly." – Members of the public <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St Barnabas Church in Sea Road has been identified as a suitable alternative, and it has been agreed to use the venue at an upcoming parish by-election. It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place, to allow for the use of St Barnabas Church again, if it is deemed to be satisfactory, or alternatively for St Mary Magdalene's Church Hall to be used again if it becomes available again in the future.
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Bexhill Sidley District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHSI1	Sidley Freedom Church, Claremont Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 5BX	2,510	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSI2. • The previous polling place, All Saints Community Hall, is no longer available. Sidley Freedom Church was used a polling place at the most recent elections, however it is not in the polling district. We have investigated alternative venues but have not been able to identify a suitable alternative in the polling district that is available. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place, to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one becomes available.
BHSI2	Sidley Freedom Church, Claremont Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 5BX	1,740	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSI1. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Bexhill St Marks District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHSM1	St Marks Church Hall, Green Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4BZ	1,601	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSM2. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHSM2	St Marks Church Hall, Green Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4BZ	1,531	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSM1. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BHSM3	Cooden Beach Sports & Social Club, 9 Withyham Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 9BD	824	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHSM2. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I now have a postal vote but please could you check that my polling station is now accessible for wheelchairs - it used not to be.” – Member of the public

				<p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooden Beach Sports & Social Club have confirmed that they have suitable disabled access. No changes proposed.
BHSM4	Normans Bay Caravan Park, Normans Bay, Pevensy, BN24 6PS	146	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Bexhill St Stephens District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BHSS1	Bexhill Leisure Centre, Down Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4HS	1,020	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHKE2 and BHSS2. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, the previous polling place, St Stephen’s Church Hall, is no longer available for use, and we have been unable to identify any other suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rother Review of Bexhill Polling Stations (ends 13 November). IV reported that as part of this review it had become apparent that ideally another polling station needs to be found within the area of St. Stephens and Kewhurst Wards that used to use St. Stephen’s church hall as its polling station. It appears that this church hall is no longer available for this purpose. RT agreed to try and find out why. (RT). Committee members will try and think of another venue that would be suitable if required. It was agreed that Bexhill Leisure Centre which was used for last May’s election worked well.” – Bexhill and Battle Liberal Democrats <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one becomes available.
BHSS2	Bexhill Leisure Centre, Down Road, Bexhill-on-	1,813	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHKE2 and BHSS2. • The current polling place is not considered ideal, as it is

	Sea, TN39 4HS			<p>located at the border of the polling district. However, the previous polling place, St Stephen's Church Hall, is no longer available for use, and we have been unable to identify any other suitable alternatives within the polling district.</p> <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rother Review of Bexhill Polling Stations (ends 13 November). IV reported that as part of this review it had become apparent that ideally another polling station needs to be found within the area of St. Stephens and Kewhurst Wards that used to use St. Stephen's church hall as its polling station. It appears that this church hall is no longer available for this purpose. RT agreed to try and find out why. (RT). Committee members will try and think of another venue that would be suitable if required. It was agreed that Bexhill Leisure Centre which was used for last May's election worked well.” – Bexhill and Battle Liberal Democrats <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one becomes available.
BHSS3	Christchurch Methodist Church Hall, Springfield Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 2BX	1,104	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BHOL2. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Brede & Udimore District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BRE	Brede Village Hall, Cackle Street, Brede, TN31 6DX	1,498	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
UDI	St Mary's Community Hall, Udimore, TN31 6BB	302	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Burwash & the Weald District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BRI	Brightling Village Hall, Brightling, TN32 5HH	284	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BUR1	Burwash Village Hall, High Street, Burwash, TN19 7HA	1,426	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BUR2	Burwash Common Pavilion, Burwash Common, TN19 7NA	739	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
ETC	Etchingam Village Hall, Parsonage Croft, TN19 7BY	686	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
MOU	Mountfield Village Hall, Church Road, Mountfield, TN32 5LG	427	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.

Additional Comments for Burwash & The Weald

- “As one of the 2 Ward Councillors. I write to confirm that the existing arrangements are wholly satisfactory. I have never heard a single complaint.” – Councillor John Barnes, Rother District Councillor

Catsfield & Crowhurst District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
ASH	Ashburnham Village Hall, Brownbread Street, Ashburnham, TN33 9NX	285	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with PEN. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
CAT	Hermon Cottage, Catsfield Village Hall, Church Road, Catsfield, TN33 9DP	715	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
CRO	St George's Church Parish Room, Forwood Lane, Crowhurst, TN33 9AJ	645	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current polling place is not considered ideal, as it located away from the street along a lengthy pathway. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district that are available for use. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The church which is currently used as a polling venue in Crowhurst is dark, damp and has limited parking. The Village Hall used to be used but we understand that it is used by the school and no longer available. We wondered if the Christian Healing Centre located at The Old Rectory, Forewood Ln, Crowhurst, Battle TN33 9AD

				<p>has been approached as an alternative venue – plenty of parking, ease of accessibility etc.” – Crowhurst Parish Council</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Healing Centre have been contacted, but they have advised they the venue would not be available for use. Therefore, no changes are proposed.
DAL	Dallington Old School Village Hall, The Street, Dallington, TN21 9NH	256	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
PEN	Ashburnham Village Hall, Brownbread Street, Ashburnham, TN33 9NX	40	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with ASH. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Eastern Rother District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
CAM	Camber Memorial Hall, Lydd Road, Camber, TN31 7RJ	865	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
EAS	Salts Farm Shop & Café, East Guildford, TN31 7PA	58	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
ICRH1	Rye Harbour Village Hall, Harbour Road, Rye Harbour, TN31 7TR	311	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Icklesham Parish Council are supportive of the proposals for Icklesham Parish (no changes).” – Icklesham Parish Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
ICRH2	Winchelsea Beach Community Hall, Sea Road, Winchelsea	703	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Icklesham Parish Council are supportive of the proposals

	Beach, TN36 4NA			for Icklesham Parish (no changes).” – Icklesham Parish Council <u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
IDE	Iden Village Hall, Iden, TN31 7XE	396	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <u>Other comments received:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
PEA	Peasmarsh Memorial Hall, Mains Street, Peasmarsh, TN31 6YA	963	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <u>Other comments received:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
PLA	Playden W.I. Hall, Hughton Green Lane, Playden, TN31 7PL	219		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with RYF. • No issues identified with polling place. <u>Other comments received:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <u>Recommendation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
RYF	Playden W.I. Hall, Hughton Green Lane, Playden, TN31 7PL	293	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with PLA. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district.

			<p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “You state within the document 'Current Polling Scheme with Proposals' that for Rye Foreign polling district that no suitable alternative within the ward could be identified. I wondered whether you had considered asking those responsible for running the 'Hub on Rye Hill', Kiln Drive, TN31 7SQ. These premises are within the Rye Foreign Ward, allowing easy access on foot for a lot of the ward residents, with adequate and appropriate parking for those less able to walk.” – Member of the public <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hub on Rye Hill is currently under consideration as a possible polling station venue. It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated the polling place to allow for Hub on Rye Hill to be used if it is deemed to be suitable.
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Hurst Green & Ticehurst District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
HUR	Hurst Green Village Hall, 21 Station Road, Hurst Green, TN19 7PL	1,164	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
TCST	Stonegate Village Hall, Forge Field, Stonegate, TN6 7ED	390	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
TCTC	Ticehurst Village Hall, High Street, Ticehurst, TN5 7BB	1,956	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
TCFL	The whole polling district (Flimwell Playing Field Pavilion was the polling station at the most recent elections)	641	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The previous polling place was Flimwell Playing Field Pavilion. However, the whole polling district was designated as the polling place at the last polling review in 2019, as the new Flimwell Village Hall was under construction and nearing completion. Flimwell Village Hall is now available for hire and is considered suitable

				<p>for use.</p> <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is proposed that Flimwell Village Hall is designated the polling place.
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North Battle, Netherfield & Whatlington District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BANE	Netherfield Village Hall, Netherfield Road, Netherfield, TN33 9QB	638	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BAWO1	Battle Baptist Church, Mount Street, Battle, TN33 0EG	1,583	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BAWO2. • The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BAWO2	Battle Baptist Church, Mount Street, Battle, TN33 0EG	1,382	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with BAWO1. • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

WHA	Whatlington Village Hall, Whatlington, TN33 0NE	261	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See below. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
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Additional Comments for North Battle, Netherfield & Whatlington

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The polling places in Battle work well and I would not support change. Residents know where to go. I would support a name change to Battle North etc and Battle South.” – Councillor Kathryn Field, Rother District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The polling stations in Battle and Netherfield work well with parking and the opportunity to access both on foot. If there was a need to make savings and it was within legal requirements possibly the polling station at Whatlington could be moved to join Battle. Most people have to drive to the Whatlington polling station but moving it to Battle might discourage voting. I expect residents would support keeping the polling station in Whatlington if there was a consultation.” – Councillor Sue Burton, Rother District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Battle Town Council has no comment to make on this review.” – Battle Town Council

Northern Rother District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BEC	Beckley Village Centre, Main Street, Beckley, TN31 6RL	933	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
BOD	Bodiam Parish Room, Sandhurst Road, Bodiam, TN32 5UJ	299	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
EWH1	The Arthur Herdman Pavilion, Ewhurst Green, TN32 5TB	229	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Ewhurst Parish Council supports the recommendation that the status quo applies for Ewhurst – ie polling district unchanged and Staplecross Village Hall and the Arthur Herdman Pavilion (Ewhurst Green) continuing to be used as polling stations.” – Ewhurst Parish Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.
EWH2	Ewhurst and Staplecross Village Hall, Northiam	764	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place.

	Road, Staplecross, TN32 5QG			<p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ewhurst Parish Council supports the recommendation that the status quo applies for Ewhurst – ie polling district unchanged and Staplecross Village Hall and the Arthur Herdman Pavilion (Ewhurst Green) continuing to be used as polling stations.” – Ewhurst Parish Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
NOR	Northiam Village Hall, Frewen Close, Northiam, TN31 6RA	1,841	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Robertsbridge District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
SAL	Robertsbridge Village Hall, 11-23 Station Road, Robertsbridge, TN32 5DA	2,023	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes proposed.

Rye & Winchelsea District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
RYE1	Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, Rye, TN31 7BE	1,683	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
RYE2	Rye Community Centre, Conduit Hill, Rye, TN31 7LE	1,866	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
ICWI	Winchelsea New Hall, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, TN36 4EY	362	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Icklesham Parish Council are supportive of the proposals for Icklesham Parish (no changes).” – Icklesham Parish Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.

Sedlescombe & Westfield District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
GSTO	Three Oaks Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Three Oaks, TN35 4NG	713	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
SED	Sedlescombe Village Hall, Church Hill, Sedlescombe, TN33 0QW	1,225	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
WFWF	Westfield Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, Westfield, TN35 4SD	1,729	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with WFWL. • The current polling place is not considered ideal, as it located away from the street along a steep pathway. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
WFWL	Westfield Church Hall,	316	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined polling place with WFWF.

	Vicarage Lane, Westfield, TN35 4SD			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current polling place is not in the polling district. However, we are not aware of any suitable alternatives within the polling district. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that the whole polling district is designated as the polling place to allow for an alternative venue to be used if one becomes available.
WFKS	Claverton Country House Hotel, Bluemans Lane, Westfield, TN33 0SE	257	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed.

South Battle & Telham District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
BAMA	The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle, TN33 0FL	1,283	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
BATE	The whole polling district (The Emmanuel Centre was the polling station at the most recent elections)	444	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emmanuel Centre was the polling place at the most recent elections, as the previous venue, Wilmoths Garage, was no longer available for use. The Emmanuel Centre is not in the polling district, however we are not aware of a more suitable alternative that is available for use. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below. <p><u>RecommendationL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is therefore proposed that the whole polling district continue to be designated as the polling place to allow for a suitable alternative to be used, should one become available.

Additional Comments for South Battle & Telham

- “The polling places in Battle work well and I would not support change. Residents know where to go. I would support a name change to Battle North etc and Battle South.” – Councillor Kathryn Field, Rother District Council
- “The polling stations in Battle and Netherfield work well with parking and the opportunity to access both on foot. If there was

a need to make savings and it was within legal requirements possibly the polling station at Whatlington could be moved to join Battle. Most people have to drive to the Whatlington polling station but moving it to Battle might discourage voting. I expect residents would support keeping the polling station in Whatlington if there was a consultation.” – Councillor Sue Burton, Rother District Council

- “Battle Town Council has no comment to make on this review.” – Battle Town Council

Southern Rother District Ward

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	Electorate	Number of Polling Stations	Comments and Proposals
FAI	Fairlight Village Hall, Fairlight, TN35 4DS	1,538	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
GSGG	Guestling Village Hall, Guestling, TN35 4HS	500	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
ICIC	Icklesham Memorial Hall, Workhouse Lane, Icklesham, TN36 4BJ	792	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Icklesham Parish Council are supportive of the proposals for Icklesham Parish (no changes).” – Icklesham Parish Council <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed.
PET	Pett Village Hall, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HD	712	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues identified with polling place. <p><u>Other comments received:</u></p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes proposed.
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Additional Comments:

“Dear Lorna

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Hastings & Rye parliamentary constituency

Thank you for the recent letter from your Electoral Services Manager, Richard Adams. This invited me, as the (Acting) Returning Officer of Hastings & Rye parliamentary constituency, to comment on your current review of polling districts and polling places.

I have reviewed the consultation documentation received and fully support the proposals made by Rother District Council, in relation to the Rye part of the constituency. I also note that the constituency boundaries within the Rother area will change for Hastings & Rye following the completion of the Boundary Commission for England’s recent review.

It is vitally important to focus on access for all electors, including those with disabilities. We should always strive to ensure that polling stations are fully accessible, but realise this is not always possible, given the limited numbers of venues within an area. This is certainly a challenge in the Hastings part of the constituency. Nevertheless, I feel we should continue to aspire to make our polling stations as accessible as possible.

In addition, and while I fully support your proposals, my previous electoral experience suggests that further changes to polling stations will sometimes be forced upon us, when current locations are no longer available. Similarly, new locations may become available from time to time and present opportunities to improve access and/or facilities. I hope it will be possible to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Thank you again for allowing me to make representations, and I wish a successful conclusion to your review.”

- Jane Hartnell, (Acting) Returning Officer, Hastings & Rye Constituency