REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL

DATE: 2 NOVEMBER 2023

TITLE: INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND

**PLACES 2023** 

LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW BRAMIDGE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(01279) 446000

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: SIMON HILL, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

(01279) 446099

**ALISON HODGSON, ELECTORAL SERVICES** 

MANAGER (01279) 446038

#### **RECOMMENDED** that:

**A.** Changes to the Polling Districts and Places as detailed in Appendix C will take effect from 1 December 2023.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a statutory requirement for councils to conduct a review of polling places every four years but also at any other time if a building becomes unavailable or if any changes are identified following an election.
- 2. Following the recent ward boundary review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) new ward boundaries have been drawn up for Harlow. Full details about the changes to Harlow's wards can be found on the LGBCE website. As a result of the new ward arrangements, it was necessary for the authority to undertake a full review of all polling districts and polling places in Harlow. This does fall outside of the period set out in legislation for a periodic review, so a review will need to be undertaken again during 2024, after the May elections.
- 3. The Council began this interim review on 19 July 2023 and via public consultation gave everyone the opportunity to make a representation until 4 September 2023.
- 4. A notice of the review was published on the Council's website. A copy was also sent to all local Councillors, current polling places, other interested organisations and social media. The responses are attached as Appendix B.
- The Council is required by law to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of Parliamentary Elections and to designate polling places for those districts.
- 6. A Polling district is the geographical area created by sub-dividing a constituency or ward.
- 7. A Polling place is the building or area in which a polling station is located.

- 8. A Polling station is the actual room or area where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.
- 9. Consideration must be given to the law and the Electoral Commission's Guidance. This means that the Council must:
  - Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as practicable in the circumstances;
  - ii. Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons;
  - iii. The polling place must be within the polling district (and therefore ward) unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible parking can be identified in the district).

## **ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

- 10. The (Acting) Returning Officer has considered the following factors, in addition to those set out in paragraph 9 above:
  - **Location**: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?
  - Size: Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place capable of accommodating all voters and the number of staff required to provide a good service to voters? Is the size sufficient to provide necessary private areas or privacy screens for photographic identification checks? Is the size big enough to ensure the flow of voters and reduce the risk of congestion and queues going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
  - Availability: Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
  - Accessibility: Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place? Can the building accommodate equipment provided to support disabled voters?
- 11. The (Acting) Returning Officer's representation was published in July 2023 and is attached in Appendix A.
- 12. A total of 16 responses to the consultation were received.

13. The (Acting) Returning Officer's comments on representations received and any subsequent recommendations are below:

## Little Parndon & Town Centre Ward

It is accepted that the Town Centre Polling District should follow the
designated town centre plan and so this has been amended. The only
electors to be moved from the original consultation are those in Bramble Rise
and Bentham House.

#### Latton Bush & Stewards Ward

- It is accepted that access to the Griffin Suite is easy and acceptable for the
  electors in The Briars, Copshall Close and other surrounding estates,
  therefore the boundary of Latton Bush West / Stewards has been amended.
  This also alleviates the pressure on the Longwood polling station by reducing
  the number of voters at this station.
- For clarity the polling place for Latton Bush West (LBS2) is to be designated as Latton Bush Centre with Griffin Suite designated as the polling station and the polling place and any different polling station names have been added to the proposed areas as shown in Appendix C.
- It should be noted that a polling station refers to the actual room or area where
  voting takes place and therefore the polling station for LBS2 cannot be The
  Latton Bush Centre as this would then refer to the whole centre being the
  place for voting. The Latton Bush Centre is a business centre and the polling
  station is located in one room in this business centre. To those unfamiliar with
  the name of a polling station can see the full address on their poll card and
  also use the polling station finder on our website.

## **Sumners & Kingsmoor Ward**

- It is not considered necessary at this time to create another polling district in the Sumners & Kingsmoor Ward. This would increase the election costs further (in terms of hiring another venue and employing more staff) for only a small electorate. The polling station at Kingsmoor Christian Centre for Sumners & Kingsmoor East has been used for a number of years with no issues or comments on previous reviews, however if voter turnout increases considerable and causes issues for voters in the future this can be reviewed.
- It should be noted that in general where a polling place has a polling station electorate of more than 2,250 (the maximum number considered appropriate by the Electoral Commission) the voting register will be split over 2 or 3 tables so the number of poll clerks will increase to aid the polling station voting process but just one presiding officer is needed to oversee the polling station. This has worked well for many years in Harlow and is more manageable and cost effective than having multiple polling stations in one polling place which can cause voter confusion and will increase staffing and equipment costs.

## **Netteswell Ward**

• In relation to the comment about having 3 polling districts in Netteswell this was decided because the ward is quite large and it is hoped an extra polling district and polling place will be beneficial to those residents in the south of the ward. There is no extra cost for us to use Greenhills Common Room.

#### **Great Parndon Ward**

Council Officers have visited areas where necessary to consider and evaluate
polling places and unfortunately no other places in the centre of the Great
Parndon East polling district are suitable. Jerounds school does not good
have disabled access (a temporary ramp has been previously provided) and
there are now concerns over the safety of the building.

## General - all areas

- Following UK Government advice received in 2021 we are trying not to use schools as a polling station so as not to disrupt the education of the children. Schools are often used because they are centrally located, well known venues, with good disabled access and parking however, we have been able to reduce the number of schools we use to just 2.
- The council will encourage postal voting as much as possible and the new elections act regulations on online postal applications should help in this matter.
- 14. All other polling districts and places received no representations in respect of them and are considered appropriate.
- 15. The final proposal as detailed in Appendix C sees the following new polling places in Harlow:
  - Netteswell North polling place moved from Our Lady of Fatima to Snow Farm Scout Hall.

The new polling place is more central in the polling district, has good disabled access and is a good size for voting. The cost will also be more affordable.

ii. **Netteswell South** – new polling district created with the polling place at Greenhills Common Room.

The use of another polling station for voters in the south of the Netteswell ward will alleviate the pressure at YCT House and make the journey and access easier for voters. There will be no charge for us to use the Common Room as it is council property.

iii. **Gilden Park & Mulberry Green** – new polling district created with the polling place at Mulberry Green Hall.

Due to the size and geographical area of the Old Harlow Ward a third polling district is needed, particularly for voters in the new Gilden Park Area. Since a community building has not been built yet in Gilden Park, Mulberry Green Hall has been found to be a close enough location for these voters and thus the polling district will also include voters who live in the surrounding Mulberry Green area.

iv. **Old Harlow West** – polling place moved from ABC centre to Harlow Womens Institute.

The new polling place is on the same road as the current polling place and so there will be no difference to the distance for voters, but the it is better in terms of space and access. It will also relieve the disruption to parents as the ABC centre is used as a childcare facility and therefore by not using this building they do not need to close.

- 16. Following the Elections Act 2022 there is now a legal requirement for Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide support for those with a disability in polling stations. The arrangements proposed in the review enable the council to fulfil this requirement and designate the most appropriate polling places and polling stations for voters that provide suitable access, space and facilities for voting.
- 17. This review concentrates on a number of changes of location for polling stations and discussion during the equality impact assessment process gave assurances of physical access to all proposed sites. People who are unable to vote at a polling station have alternative means of voting available to them by applying for a postal or proxy vote. See Appendix E.
- 18. It should be noted that in line with legislation (<u>The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013</u>) the next compulsory review of polling districts and polling places must take place between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025, therefore it is planned that this will be done July-December 2024 at which time any adjustments can be made in light of operational use in May 2024.

## Changes to a Polling Place or Station Before the Next Statutory Review

- 19. If a polling station becomes unavailable the (Acting) Returning Officer will first consider whether it is feasible to use a different room or area within a designated polling place.
- 20. If a polling place is or will become unavailable and sufficient time permits, a review will take place and a decision on a replacement polling place will be made by Full Council.
- 21. However, in an urgent situation where it is not feasible to make alternative arrangements within a designated polling place, such as the building was destroyed by fire or unsafe, the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers would apply whereby the Chief Executive, or another designated Officer in their absence, would identify and designate an alternative polling place considering paragraphs 9 and 10 above.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

## **Equalities and Diversity**

An Equality Impact Decision Tree has been completed and an Equality Impact Assessment was required and completed – see Appendix E. Author:

## **Climate Change**

None

#### **Communities and Environment**

Appropriate bodies have been consulted over access needs. Author:

#### **Finance**

There may be some additional costs incurred where buildings other than schools are used. These costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance

## **Governance and Corporate Services**

A requirement to undertake this review stems from the recent warding review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission of England which results in all out elections in May 2024. All ward boundaries have changed. A full assessment has been made of all new polling stations proposed from an accessibility point of view.

Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services

## Housing

Author: Neil Euesden, Interim Director of Housing

## **Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

None specific

Author:

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – (Acting) Returning Officer's Representation published July 2023

Appendix B – Responses Received

Appendix C – Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places

Appendix D – Overview Map of Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places

Appendix E – Equality Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

None.

## Glossary of terms/abbreviations used



# Interim Review of Polling District and Polling Places 2023

# (Acting) Returning Officers Representation

# **July 2023**

## Contents

BACKGROUND	8
Proposed new arrangements - Overview	10
Detail and Explanation for each Ward	
Bush Fair	
Church Langley North & Newhall	11
Church Langley South & Potter Street	
Great Parndon	
Latton Bush & Stewards	12
Little Parndon & Town Centre	12
Mark Hall	13
Netteswell	
Old Harlow	14
Passmores	14
Sumners & Kingsmoor	14

## **BACKGROUND**

- 22. The Council is required by law to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of Parliamentary Elections and to designate polling places for those districts.
- 23. A Polling district is the geographical area created by sub-dividing a constituency or ward.
- 24. A Polling place is the building or area in which a polling station is located.
- 25. A Polling station is the actual room or area where voting takes place.
- 26. Following the recent ward boundary review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) new ward boundaries have been drawn up for Harlow. Full details about the changes to Harlow's wards can be found on the LGBCE website. https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/harlow
- 27. As a result of the new ward arrangements, it is necessary for the authority to undertake a full review of all polling districts and polling places in Harlow.
- 28. The (Acting) Returning Officer must comment during any review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used if any new proposal for polling places were accepted.
- 29. The election rules require the (Acting) Returning Officer to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling place and they must allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as they think most convenient.
- 30. Consideration must be given to the law and the <u>Electoral Commission's</u>
  <u>Guidance</u> to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as practicable in the circumstances This means that the Council must:
  - Ensure the polling place is within the polling district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district)
  - ii. Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors.
  - iii. The council must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations and places.
- 31. There are a number of factors that will need to be considered when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places, including:
  - **Location**: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?

- Size: Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place capable of accommodating all voters and the number of staff required to provide a good service to voters? Is the size sufficient to provide necessary private areas or privacy screens for photographic identification checks? Is the size big enough to ensure the flow of voters and reduce the risk of congestion and queues going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
- Availability: Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
- Accessibility: Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place? Can the building accommodate equipment provided to support disabled voters?
- 32. Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'.
- 33. Following UK Government advice received in 2021 we are trying not to use schools as a polling station so as not to disrupt the education of the children.
- 34. Council Officers have visited areas where necessary to consider and evaluate polling places.
- 35. Staffing levels It should be noted that in general where a polling place has a polling station electorate of more than 2,250 (the maximum number considered appropriate by the Electoral Commission) the voting register will be split over 2 or 3 tables so the number of poll clerks will increase to aid the polling station voting process but just one presiding officer is needed to oversee the polling station. This has worked well for many years in Harlow and is more manageable and cost effective than having multiple polling stations in one polling place which can cause voter confusion and will increase staffing and equipment costs.

# <u>Proposed new arrangements – Overview</u>

New Ward	New PD name	New PD ref.	Current Total Electorate	Polling Place
Bush Fair	Bush Fair East	BF1	2978	New Life Christian Fellowship
Bush Fair	Bush Fair West	BF2	3317	St Stephen's Church
Church Langley North & Newhall	Church Langley North	CLN1	2610	Church Langley Community Centre
Church Langley North & Newhall	Newhall	CLN2	2414	Newhall Primary Academy
Church Langley South & Potter Street	Church Langley South	CLS1	3599	Church Langley Community Centre
Church Langley South & Potter Street	Potter Street	CLS2	2986	Potter Street Baptist Church
Great Parndon	Great Parndon East	GP1	3398	Great Parndon Community Association
Great Parndon	Great Parndon West	GP2	2148	Katherines Common Room
Latton Bush & Stewards	Latton Bush East	LBS1	2133	Royal British Legion
Latton Bush & Stewards	Latton Bush West	LBS2	1062	Griffin Suite
Latton Bush & Stewards	Stewards	LBS3	3509	Longwood Primary Academy
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Little Parndon East	LPT1	2652	Pemberley Academy
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Little Parndon West	LPT2	1900	St Thomas More Church
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Town Centre	LPT3	652	Harlow Playhouse
Mark Hall	Mark Hall North	MH1	2307	Harlow Museum
Mark Hall	Mark Hall South	MH2	3333	Harefield Church
Netteswell	Netteswell North	N1	1074	Snow Farm Scout Hall
Netteswell	Netteswell Central	N2	2205	YCT House
Netteswell	Netteswell South	N3	2323	Green Hills Common Room
Old Harlow	Churchgate	OH1	909	St Mary's Church Centre
Old Harlow	Gilden Park & Mulberry Green	OH2	1966	Mulberry Green Hall
Old Harlow	Old Harlow	OH3	3324	Harlow Womens Institute
Passmores	Passmores North	P1	1967	Harlow Youth Centre
Passmores	Passmores South	P2	3260	Salvation Army Centre
Sumners & Kingsmoor	Sumners & Kingsmoor East	SK1	4463	Kingsmoor Christian Centre
Sumners & Kingsmoor	Sumners & Kingsmoor West	SK2	1563	Xperience Centre

## Detail and Explanation for each Ward

## **Bush Fair**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Bush Fair East	BF1	2978	New Life Christian Fellowship
Bush Fair West	BF2	3317	St Stephen's Church

- There has been a small increase in the electorate with the addition of Toddbrook East (810 electors) and Latton Street (21 electors, previously in Mark Hall South).
- No changes are proposed to the polling places which meet the requirements for voting.
- St Stephens Church would be able to accommodate the new electors in the West of the ward and so St Marks School would no longer be needed as a polling station.
- Furthermore, St Marks school polling station is a difficult one to get to as it is located some way from the car park and there is no disabled access so a purpose built ramp has to be installed. The polling station used at the school is also not ideal for the lighting and other facilities.

## **Church Langley North & Newhall**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Church Langley North	CLN1	2610	<b>Church Langley Community Centre</b>
Newhall	CLN2	2410	Newhall Primary Academy

- Following the LGBCE ward review the previous Church Langley ward has been divided but as Church Langley Community Centre has been successfully used as a double polling station for 2 years now and no other alternative venue can be found in church Langley it is recommended to continue to use this polling place.
- Furthermore the Church Langley Community Centre is a well-recognised building and all voters in the area are used to going to this location.
- There is no proposed change to the Newhall polling district and polling place.

## **Church Langley South & Potter Street**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Church Langley South	CLS1	3599	Church Langley Community Centre
Potter Street	CLS2	2986	Potter Street Baptist Church

 As above, Church Langley South has been created and due to no other venues available in the polling district the polling place will be Church Langley Community Centre.

- The only change to the boundary for the polling district is to move Oaktree Gardens into the Church Langley south polling district.
- There is no proposed change to the polling place in Potter Street which meet the requirements for voting.

## **Great Parndon**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Great Parndon East	GP1	3398	<b>Great Parndon Community Association</b>
Great Parndon West	GP2	2148	Katherines Common Room

- This ward has increased to include electors from the Hare Street area. However, the current polling station used by these voters (Harlow Youth Centre) is now located in another ward and unfortunately it is too small to make it a double polling station.
- Other options for a new polling station have been looked at but unfortunately no suitable buildings can be found and so no changes are proposed to the polling places in this district and the Hare Street electors will vote at Great Parndon Community Association. The polling place is a good size and meets all the accessibility requirements.

## **Latton Bush & Stewards**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Latton Bush East	LBS1	2133	Royal British Legion
Latton Bush West	LBS2	1062	Griffin Suite
Stewards	LBS3	3509	Longwood Primary Academy

- This new ward includes the old Harlow Common West and most of Staple Tye Ward.
- All current polling stations are still considered adequate and so no changes to the polling places are proposed.
- The only change proposed is to the move the boundary line of the polling district between Latton Bush East and West to increase the electorate voting at the Griffin Suite.

## **Little Parndon & Town Centre**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Little Parndon East	LPT1	2624	Pemberley Academy
Little Parndon West	LPT2	1900	St Thomas More Church
Town Centre	LPT3	696	Harlow Playhouse

- This ward has the addition of the Town Centre and the removal of the Hare Street area to the Great Parndon Ward.
- The development at the old rugby club site that was built in the north of the ward should be part of Little Parndon East as they are in fact slightly closer to the polling place in this polling district and are considered to be in the East not west of the ward.
- The town centre polling district will cross Fourth Avenue to include the properties at Wych Elm as this is a new town centre development.
- No changes are proposed to the polling places which meet the requirements for voting.

## Mark Hall

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Mark Hall North	MH1	2307	Harlow Museum
Mark Hall South	MH2	3333	Harefield Church

- The only boundary change in this ward is the addition of Altham Grove which will be part of Mark Hall North polling district.
- No changes are proposed to the polling places which meet the requirements for voting.

## Netteswell

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Netteswell North	N1	1074	Snow Farm Scout Hall
Netteswell Central	N2	2205	YCT House
Netteswell South	N3	2323	Green Hills Common Room

- The only boundary change in this ward is the removal of Altham Grove.
- It is proposed that First Avenue is used as clear polling district boundary for Netteswell North.
- The current polling place for this area, The Our Lady of Fatima church hall is on the edge of the polling district and is considered to be too far therefore it is proposed to move the polling place to Snow Farm Scout Hall, which is a more central location, a big size and fully accessible for all.
- The YCT building has been used for the last few elections and is thought to be
  adequate although has a large electorate allocated to it, especially if the boundary
  line of First Avenue is used. Therefore, other options for a polling station in
  Netteswell have been looked at to alleviate the pressure on the YCT House and it
  is proposed that a third polling district is created with the polling place at the Green
  Hills Common Room.

## **Old Harlow**

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Old Harlow - Churchgate	OH1	909	St Mary's Church Centre
Old Harlow - Gilden Park and Mulberry Green	OH2	1966	Mulberry Green Hall
Old Harlow	ОНЗ	3324	Harlow Women's Institute

- No changes are proposed for the Churchgate polling district and polling place.
- A new polling district is needed for Gilden Park however with no community building yet to be built in this new development area it is proposed to extend the polling district into Mulberry Green and use the Mulberry Green Hall as the polling place.
- Other options have been looked at for the Old Harlow polling district as this needs a large polling place to accommodate the large electorate and the current polling place is a difficult building to use. It is proposed to move the polling place to Harlow Women's Institute, which is located alongside the current polling station meets all the requirements of a polling place.

## **Passmores**

- This new ward comprises of the old Toddbrook West polling district, as small area of Toddbrook North and some of Hare Street.
- There should be no change to the clear boundary line of Third Avenue and no changes are proposed to the polling places which meet the requirements for voting.

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Passmores North	P1	1967	Harlow Youth Centre
Passmores South	P2	3260	Salvation Army Centre

## **Sumners & Kingsmoor**

- There will be an increase in the electorate in the East polling district due to the addition of the Staple Tye areas Joyners Field and Moorfield to this ward.
- Due to there not being any road access from Phelips Road to Broadley Road the
  polling district boundary line cannot change and although this does not make the
  electorate equal no changes are proposed to the polling places as they both meet
  the requirements for voting. Furthermore, the Kingsmoor Christian Centre is
  particularly well apt to cope with the larger electorate.

Polling District	PD Ref	Electorate	Polling Place
Sumners & Kingsmoor East	SK1	4463	Kingsmoor Christian Centre
Sumners & Kingsmoor West	SK2	1563	Xperience Centre

## Appendix B Interim Polling District and Polling Places Review 2023 - Responses

Very well done. There is just one point that I noticed that might have been an oversight or perhaps we did not make it clear. This regards to the Little Parndon polling district of the town centre. Simon and I agreed that the Playhouse should be the venue for all areas within the designated Town Centre. Therefore, it would include the area to the North including Wych Elm and Bramble Rise and the area of Sainsbury. The boundary to the East should include the College and Leisure zone, although this has no voters as far as I am aware, but should be changed for the sake of consistency with the new ward boundaries.

Kind regards

James

## Dear Registration,

I consider the proposals as they pertain to Stewards and Latton ward satisfactory.

Consideration could be given to moving the 'Atelier' estate into LSB2, given that there is easy pedestrian access, though this would primarily achieve greater equity between the polling districts as the estate is not far from either the Griffin Suite or Longwood Primary.

Regarding SK1, I note that this is the largest proposed polling district. I have previously raised concerns about how far the polling station was for residents of Risdens (many of whom are elderly) when their polling station was Longwood Primary. This problem is to some extent replicated in the new plan. I believe consideration should be given to creating an additional polling district that could use a venue such as St James' Church or Stewards Academy as its polling centre, which could also serve Brockles Mead.

As a final observation, describing the LBS2 polling station as 'Griffin Suite' could be confusing to those unfamiliar with the Latton Bush Centre, and it does seem unusual to identify a room rather than a venue – this is not replicated with other polling stations. Could the polling station be named 'Latton Bush Centre' for greater clarity?

Best wishes,
Cllr Alastair Gunn
Conservative Councillor
Staple Tye Ward

I am writing to complain about the proposal to discontinue using St Marks School as a polling station. My husband and I are in our 70s and have our disabled son living with us, who is in a wheelchair and as we live in Westfield this polling station is most convenient for us as we can walk to it without having to contribute more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by driving. My son has never had a problem accessing the polling station in his wheelchair, contrary to one of the reasons given for abandoning Mark Hall school as a polling station. St Stephens Church is much further away and would mean we would have to drive to it.

I do hope this decision is reversed.

Regards Jackie Hutchison

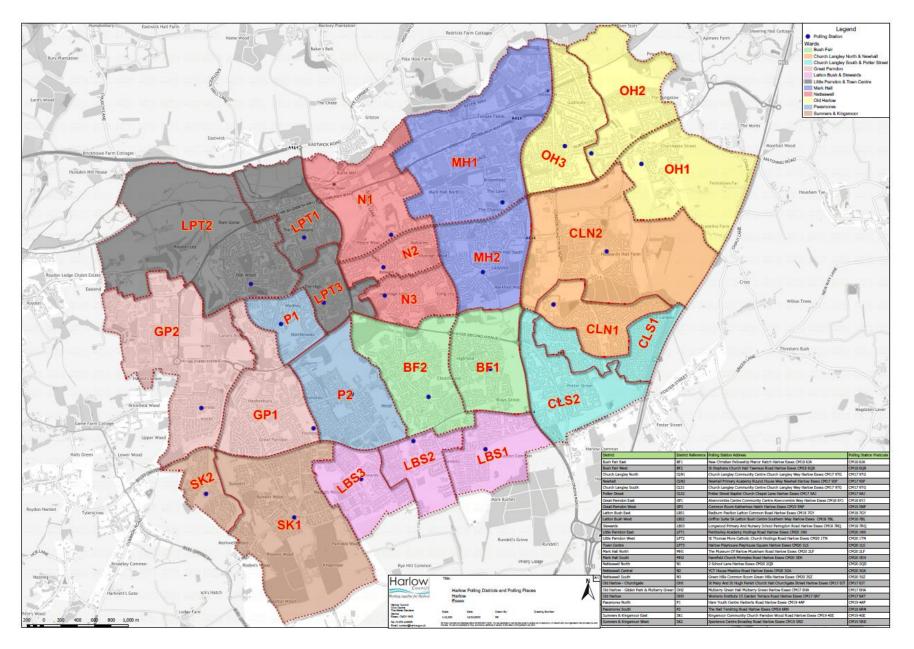
#### Polling Station Interim Review 2023 - Online Responses

date created	name	representation
01/09/2023	Marie Leppard	The new wards and polling stations make good sense.
28/08/2023	Maria Sosa	Looks fine.
02/08/2023	Raul	All looks ok.
22/07/2023	Ella Collinson	Very pleased that we are now part of Great Parndon ward. This is an uplift. Also pleased our polling station is in Great Parndon.
20/07/2023	Jo Douse	Stop using schools in this day and age there are plenty of other options children need to be in school everyday. The disruption both as a teacher and a parent is ridiculous
18/07/2023	Peter Lamb	Firstly we shouldn't be closing schools to allow people to vote, the inconvenience to parents and children is unnecessary, could we not move to weekend voting or in this day and age electronic voting
18/07/2023	Chelsea brace	Snow farm scout hut should be used
14/07/2023	Gill Hall	We are very satisfied with new wards. Being linked with Church Langley makes sense. The proposed polling stations are fine.
14/07/2023	Dan	This is a very strong proposal. I would like to see the Great Parndon polling station moved back into the centre of this neighbourhood.
14/07/2023	Dorothy Drake	All looks practical and fair.
14/07/2023	Lesley Cook	I support the new wards and proposed polling stations. However, to make it easier, surely the Council should do more to promote postal voting.
14/07/2023	Marie Leppard	I think the new polling stations proposed look reasonable for the new wards. I Great Parndon should have a more central ward if possible such as Jerounds School. In my own ward, why does it need three wards as it is a small ward. One in the North and then either the YCT or Greenhills. Having two in the South of Netteswell must add unnecessary cost.
13/07/2023	Nick Langman	Keep the polling station in Churchgate Street as is. There are many elderly local residents who would struggle if it was moved to, say, the otherside of Gilden Way.

#### Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023.xlsx

New Ward	Polling District Name	PD ref.	Polling Place, Polling Station	Address 1	Town	Postcode	Electorate (includes postal voters)
Bush Fair	Bush Fair East	BF1	New Life Christian Fellowship	Purford Green	Harlow	CM18 6HP	2978
Bush Fair	Bush Fair West	BF2	St Stephen's Church	Tawneys Road	Harlow	CM18 6QR	3317
Church Langley North & Newhall	Church Langley North		Church Langley Community Centre	Church Langley Way	Harlow	CM17 9TG	2610
Church Langley North & Newhall	Newhall	CLN2	Newhall Primary Academy	Roundhouse Way	Harlow	CM17 9SF	2414
Church Langley South & Potter Street	Church Langley South	CLS1	Church Langley Community Centre	Church Langley Way	Harlow	CM17 9TG	3599
Church Langley South & Potter Street	Potter Street	CLS2	Potter Street Baptist Church	Potter Street	Harlow	CM17 9AW	2986
Great Parndon	Great Parndon East	GP1	Great Parndon Community Association	Abercombie Way	Harlow	CM18 6YJ	3398
Great Parndon	Great Parndon West	GP2	Katherines Hatch Common Room	Katherines Hatch	Harlow	CM19 5NP	2148
Latton Bush & Stewards	Latton Bush East	LBS1	The Royal British Legion, Radburn Pavillion	Latton Common Road	Harlow	CM178 7GY	2133
Latton Bush & Stewards	Latton Bush West	LBS2	Latton Bush Centre, Griffin Suite	Southern Way	Harlow	CM18 7BL	1879
Latton Bush & Stewards	Stewards	LBS3	Longwood Primary Academy, Infant School Hall	Paringdon Road	Harlow	CM18 7RQ	2692
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Little Parndon East	LPT1	Pemberley Academy	Hodings Road	Harlow	CM20 1NW	2624
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Little Parndon West	LPT2	St Thomas More Church	Hodings Road	Harlow	CM20 1TN	1900
Little Parndon & Town Centre	Town Centre	LPT3	Harlow Playhouse, Studio 2	Playhouse Square	Harlow	CM20 1LS	680
Mark Hall	Mark Hall North	MH1	Harlow Museum	Muskham Road	Harlow	CM20 2LF	2307
Mark Hall	Mark Hall South	MH2	Harefield Church	Burgoyne Hatch	Harlow	CM18 3EH	3333
Netteswell	Netteswell North	N1	Snow Farm Scout Hall	School Lane	Harlow	CM20 2QB	1074
Netteswell	Netteswell Central	N2	YCT House	Maddox Road	Harlow	CM20 3GA	2205
Netteswell	Netteswell South	N3	Greenhills Common Room	Green Hills	Harlow	CM20 3SZ	2323
Old Harlow	Churchgate	OH1	St Mary's Church	Churchgate Street	Harlow	CM17 0JT	909
Old Harlow	Gilden Park & Mulberry Green	OH2	Mulberry Green Hall	Mulberry Green	Harlow	CM17 0HA	1966
Old Harlow	Old Harlow West	OH3	Harlow Womens Institute	15 Garden Terrace Road	Harlow	CM17 0AT	3324
Passmores	Passmores North	P1	Harlow Youth Centre	Hare Street	Harlow	CM19 4AY	1967
Passmores	Passmores South	P2	Salvation Army Centre	Tendring Road	Harlow	CM18 6RN	3260
Sumners & Kingsmoor	Sumners & Kingsmoor East	SK1	Kingsmoor Christian Centre	Parndon Wood Road	Harlow	CM19 4SE	4463
Sumners & Kingsmoor	Sumners & Kingsmoor West	SK2	Xperience Centre	Broadley Road	Harlow	CM19 5RD	1563

## **Appendix D – Overview Map of Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places**



# Appendix E - Equality Impact Assessment

**Equality impact assessment.pdf**