

COUNCIL
26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS 2019

SUMMARY

The report provides information on the progress of the review, comments received in response to initial consultation on the Council's current Polling Scheme and the comments of the Acting Returning Officer, which will be the subject of a further period of consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report is noted.
2. That the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) comments are the subject of a further period of consultation.
3. That final proposals for the amendment of the Council's Polling Scheme be reported to Council on 21 November 2019.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

The provision of accessible polling facilities contributes to the Council's aims to provide excellent services and to lead the communities of the Derbyshire Dales.

1. REPORT

- 1.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities are required to divide their area into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts, and to keep their electoral arrangements under review.
- 1.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every four years. The Council's last Review was carried out in 2014.
- 1.3 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. A compulsory review must be completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive). Subsequent compulsory reviews must be completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

Explanation of Terms

- 1.4 A **Polling District** is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a constituency, district ward or division into smaller parts.
- 1.5 A **Polling Place** is the building or area in which polling stations will be located.
- 1.6 A **Polling Station** is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

- 2.1 Each Polling District must offer reasonable facilities for voting for all its electors, as far as reasonably practicable in the circumstances.
- 2.2 In conducting the Review the Council must ensure that:
 - all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - polling places must contain buildings that are suitable for use as a polling station by all sections of the community;
 - so far as is reasonable and practicable, all polling stations are accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities;
 - polling places must be must be located in an area of the corresponding polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area that is wholly or partly outside the polling district.

3. THE REVIEW PROCESS AND PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 The Council published a notice (Appendix 1) on 01 August 2019, announcing the Review and inviting comments and submissions in writing, from interested parties, by 02 September 2019.
- 3.2 The notice was posted in the Ashbourne News Telegraph, Peak Advertiser, at the Council's Offices and on the website.
- 3.3 The ARO (ARO) for the parliamentary constituency within the District was consulted and asked to make representations on the existing polling districts, places and stations.
- 3.4 Representations were invited from MEP's, MP's, local Political Party Agents, County and District Councillors, Parish and Town Councils, electors and from persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises for those with disabilities. Owners / managers of current Polling Station premises were also consulted.
- 3.5 A schedule of the representations received during the consultation period is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.6 The current polling arrangements are considered to offer suitable capacity to deal with the growth in the short term and will need to be continually monitored alongside the

electoral registration process. The District's electoral arrangements are currently the subject of a Boundary Review, which will take these factors into consideration.

- 3.7 The District Council did not propose any changes to the current Polling Scheme, except to confirm the minor amendments, made under delegated authority and already incorporated in the advertised scheme.

4. ACTING RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

- 4.1 The ARO's comments on the review are set out below and address known areas of concern, confirmed by a physical review of the Polling Places conducted at the most recent District & Parish and European Parliamentary Elections. The comments also take account of the cost per elector ratio for the polling stations scheduled for commission in the 2019 elections, set out in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 The recent inspection of the following polling stations has revealed access and privacy issues such that an alternative venues are proposed where practicable. The following table sets out the ARO's recommendations in full:-

Current Venue	Proposed	Reason
Ashbourne Portakabin, Shawcroft Car Park	Relocate to Ashbourne Library – dual use.	Access and convenience.
Cressbrook Club	New Polling Station - St John the Baptist Church Hall	Access
Cromford Institute	New Polling Station - Cromford Community Centre (subject to site visit)	Access
Curbar	Delete polling station in Curbar and redirect electors to Calver.	Access. Cost per elector
Eyam Mechanics Institute	New Polling Station Eyam Church Hall	Access
Great Hucklow	Delete polling station in Great Hucklow and redirect electors at Great Hucklow, Little Hucklow and Grindlow to Foolow Redirect electors in Hazlebadge to Bradwell	Risk of non-availability of venue.
Mappleton Pavilion	Delete polling station in Mappleton and redirect electors to Thorpe.	Access. No viable alternative available within area.
Sheldon	Delete Polling Station and redirect electors to Ashford	High cost per elector ratio.

Current Venue	Proposed	Reason
Ashbourne Hilltop	Re-draw polling district boundary of area BAS to incorporate nos. 26 to 58 Lower Pingle Road within Polling District BAH.	To correct an anomaly in polling district boundary to reflect natural break in development where all properties in Lower Pingle Road are within the same district and vote at the same polling station – Hilltop School.

4.3 The ARO acknowledges that the following polling stations are not fully accessible to people with disabilities but is satisfied that attempts to identify alternatives have been unsuccessful and, consequently, these facilities are the best practicable option to offer polling facilities to voters within the relevant polling districts.

- Stanton Lees Chapel
- Bolehill Men's Institute

4.4 The ARO has also reviewed the comments received during the first period of consultation and any responses she has made to these are noted on the schedule at appendix 2.

5. STAGE 2 OF THE REVIEW

5.1 The comments of the ARO will be published on the Council's website and will be added to the files held at the Council's Offices on 27 September 2019.

5.2 All consultees will be notified of this and will have the opportunity to make further representations in response to the comments of the ARO. The deadline for these comments is 25 October 2019.

5.3 Following consideration of all representations a final report to Council on 21 November 2019 will include recommendations for any changes to the Polling Scheme that arise from the findings of the Review.

5.4 Approved changes will be incorporated into the Register of Electors to be published on 01 December 2019.

5.5 A final report on the review and copies of all representations received will be published as the conclusion of the review.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 Legal

The legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report. The suggested amendments to polling areas and stations seek to address elements of risk in terms of accessibility and enhance the voting experience in the more rural areas. The legal risk is therefore assessed as low to medium.

6.2 Financial

There are no financial risks arising from this report.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations 2019

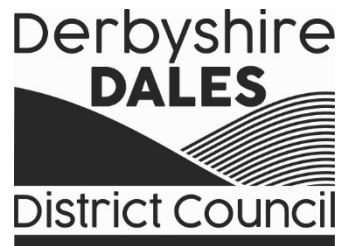
ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

Appendix 2 – Comments Received at Stage 1 of review

Appendix 3 – Schedule of Polling Stations and cost analysis

Appendix 1



Notice of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

1. Notice is hereby given that Derbyshire Dales District Council (the Council) is conducting a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations that fall within Council's area.
2. The (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO) for the Parliamentary Constituency of Derbyshire Dales, will make comment on the proposals and those representations will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the timetable set out below.
3. Electors within the Derbyshire Dales area may make a representation. We would like to invite initial comments from electors regarding the convenience of voting at polling stations currently used for elections and would welcome suggestions for alternative sites.
4. The Council would welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the proposals, ARO's representations or any other related matters.
5. Persons or bodies making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.
6. Comments and representations may be submitted as follows:

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5XX2MF7>

By email: premises@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

By post: Polling Review, Electoral Services, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3NN

7. Documents relating to the review can be inspected on the Council's website at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/review or Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3NN

Date	Detail
1 August 2019	Publication of notice and commencement of the review. Stage 1 public consultation period begins. Details of current arrangements and any proposed changes published.
2 September 2019	Stage 1 public consultation ends. Publication of (Acting) Returning Officer's comments and proposals
26 September 2019	Report to Council on proposals, submissions and Returning Officer's comments
27 September 2019	Public consultation on Returning Officer's comments on findings and proposals
25 October 2019	Stage 2 public consultation ends
21 November 2019	Final proposals considered by Council
22 November 2019	Publication of agreed scheme and all submissions

Sandra Lamb
Acting Returning Officer
1 August 2019

Comments Received - Stage 1

Appendix 2

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
1	<p>VENUE: Great Hucklow – Nightingale Centre</p>	<p>It may be necessary at some times in the future to find alternative premises in the village, perhaps the Chapel? The disruption to guests who booked with us years ago is not really acceptable. If we have no one in that will be fine but please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate you as a Polling station.</p> <p>Stella Burney - Centre Manager</p>	<p>No change at this time.</p>
2	<p>Cllr. Clare Gamble DDDC – Litton & Longstone Ward VENUE: Cressbrook</p>	<p>The contact details for the possible Cressbrook polling station are below:</p> <p>Vicar of Tideswell St John The Baptist Tideswell Vicarage, Pursglove Drive Tideswell Buxton SK17 8PA</p>	<p>Alternative venue is suitable for the purpose and following inspection, is recommended as the new polling station for this area.</p>
3	<p>VENUE: Foolow – Burdekin Hall</p>	<p>Foolow Parish Meeting requests that the use of Burdekin Hall in Foolow be continued. It is central to the village, has disabled facilities and is in good repair. Alternative sites in Foolow do not exist. Alternative sites in neighbouring villages (Eyam, Hucklow, Tideswell etc) are some way away and would normally require own transport or a bus. Please therefore retain Burdekin Hall.</p> <p>Simon Wills - Chair of Foolow Parish Meeting</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>
4	<p>Cllr. Susan Hobson DDDC – Chatsworth Ward</p>	<p>My thoughts for Chatsworth Ward are that residents having access to relatively small venues is helpful, but as most people in rural areas travel by car to the polling stations there can be little merit and a great deal of cost in using small venues if not many people use them.</p>	<p>Accessibility is a major theme for this review and recommendations have been made here appropriate.</p>
5	<p>VENUE: Wardlow – Village Hall</p>	<p>We are happy with the current arrangement. Our Village Hall is fine being central to the village You can park outside the door and it is level/flat path to door. Thinking disabled there is one step at the door but this is not normally an issue. But if needed there a flat disabled entry at the rear of the Hall. So there in no</p>	<p>The venue is not fully accessible but it is considered that best efforts have been made. The polling station staff will make adaptations when required.</p>

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
		<p>reason to change.</p> <p>Philip Maltby - Chair Wardlow Parish Meeting</p>	
6	<p>Cllr. Alyson Hill</p> <p>DDDC – Bakewell Ward</p>	<p>I think it's essential that there are two polling stations in Bakewell one to serve the top of the town and the other in the town centre itself. The town hall has the required facilities the use of the school at the top of Bakewell could be improved as it impacts on the school day. Possibly two Portakabins in the large carpark at Lady manners could be used or a class room on the edge of the school for example the gym. Ashford, Sheldon and Over Haddon are all suitably located.</p>	<p>Agree with sentiment and need to keep two polling stations, but Portakabins will not best meet the needs of the electorate. The ARO works with all Schools in the District to minimise disruption wherever practicable.</p>
7	<p>Annunziata Rees-Mogg</p> <p>MEP – East Midlands Region</p>	<p>Derbyshire Dales District Council ran a very smooth election operation for the European election 2019, of which I was very appreciative. I am honoured to have been invited to contribute to the consultation but feel I have no information that would add value to the previous successes.</p>	
8	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Tansley – Village Hall</p>	<p>There's nothing that I can add that DDDC does not know already about Tansley Village Hall as a polling station.</p> <p>Chris – Manager - Tansley Village Hall</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>
9	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Litton - Village Hall</p>	<p>As the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee I can confirm that there are no planned major works to the Hall envisaged over the next 4 years. We remain available as a polling station for the local community.</p> <p>Tracey Hall</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>
10	<p>Cllr. Joyce Pawley</p> <p>DDDC – Masson Ward</p>	<p>I believe the polling stations in Bonsall and Matlock Bath to be suitable, although the Bonsall Village Hall as a polling station does have quite a steep slope leading to the entrance.</p> <p>CROMFORD INSTITUTE - the current polling station</p> <p>Although there is an entrance through the railings into the courtyard which is usable for those with accessibility issues there is no parking. There are also steps up into the building itself and there are no accessible toilets. The building is cold if you have to sit there all day and the kitchen is not to a modern standard.</p>	<p>Cromford Institute has known access issues. Pending a site visit the Community Centre is the preferred location.</p>

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
		<p>THE COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p>This has parking and is accessible to wheelchairs, albeit up quite a slope. There are public toilets just outside and some in the building itself which are not accessible. There are also catering facilities inside if the Committee agrees to make them available. The hall, which is the only part of the building which is accessible, is large and likely to be cold in winter.</p> <p>THE METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING ON WATER LANE</p> <p>There is not much parking. The building is comfortable and warm, I am not sure if there are accessibility issues but I would think those would have been addressed as it is a building which is used a great deal by the general public.</p>	
11	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Clifton – Clifton Smith Hall</p>	<p>At the present time Clifton Smith Hall is used for the Clifton District Polling Station. We would suggest that this would continue as Clifton Smith Hall being used for the polling station as it has excellent facilities including car parking, good disabled access, is very convenient and is the best facility available for use as a polling station.</p> <p>Mrs N. Taylor-Smith Clifton Parish Clerk</p>	No change proposed
12	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Taddington – Bramwell Memorial Institute</p>	<p>Taddington and Priestcliffe Parish Council is happy with the present arrangements.</p> <p>Lesley Bramwell Clerk to Taddington & Priestcliffe Parish Council</p>	No change proposed
13	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Darley Dale – Wesleyan House</p>	<p>I can confirm that as things stand at the moment our premises will still be available to use as a polling station for at least the next 4 years. We have no plans for any changes.</p> <p>Ann Esders</p>	No change proposed
14	<p>VENUE:</p> <p>Bonsall – Village Hall</p>	<p>Bonsall Parish Council considered this issue at their meeting on 20th August, and wish to confirm that there are no issues of concern in relation to the current polling station arrangements for Bonsall.</p> <p>Tony Payne - Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer</p>	No change proposed
15	<p>VENUE:</p>	<p>I write on behalf of Sheldon Parish Meeting to comment that we</p>	Deletion of polling station at

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
	Hartington – Village Hall	do not wish to see any change in the arrangements for Sheldon; it is vitally important that Sheldon retains its Polling Station in the Hartington Memorial Hall: we think everyone should have the opportunity to vote where they live and, as we have no public transport to/from Sheldon, it would be difficult for residents, particularly elderly ones, to access a station further afield; we also understand turn out to usually be high in Sheldon. Wendy Neilson - Chair Sheldon Parish Meeting	Sheldon proposed on the grounds of cost. Re-direct voters to Ashford in the Water.
16	VENUE: Bakewell – Town Hall	There are 2 polling stations one in the centre at Bakewell Town Hall and another at I believe Lady Manners School that serves the large population at Moorhall etc. The town needs 2 polling stations as access to town from Moorhall is badly served and the turnouts are not great now as it is. Paul Morgans - Bakewell Town Council	No change proposed
17	VENUE: Brailsford & Ednaston Institute	Every polling station should have facilities for disabled access and disabled toilets. I appreciate that this isn't possible in older buildings. Inclusion is very important in our society. Diane Minshall	No change proposed
18	Helen Swift Bakewell Town & Community Trust VENUE: Bakewell Town Hall	Bakewell Town Hall is a good, central location. It is well-known to residents, with a high profile, through its considerable programme of community arts activities and entertainment. We welcome having the polling station at the heart of our community and hope that this continues. We have good disabled access and facilities. Our entrance is level with no steps, the polling station is on the ground floor with adjacent disabled toilet facilities. Our doorways are double-width and we hold regular events for people with sight, hearing and mobility impairments. We have an induction hearing loop in the polling station. We have no plans for maintenance that would affect the holding of an election for the next 4 years.	No change proposed
19	VENUE: Matlock Bath – Grand Pavilion Pump Room	We have a disabled access ramp and space for wheel chairs to move around easily. However the closure of the Public toilets behind the building means that the nearest Accessible toilets are at the other end of the village.	No change proposed

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
		Clare Herbert – Peak Mines	
20	Cllr. Sir Richard FitzHerbert DDDC – Dovedale & Parwich Ward VENUE: Mappleton	The polling station at Mappleton was too far off the beaten track and rather difficult to access. I realise it has been difficult there but could we look at another place. Could we look at Local Projects Fund to provide better access? Say at the Pub?	The premises are unsuitable and no alternative has been found. Recommend merger with Thorpe.
21	VENUE: Bradwell – War Memorial Hall	Our hall has been used for many years as the local polling station. Everyone knows where to go and the hall will continue to be available as a polling station into the future. Easy disabled access is available, including a toilet for disabled people. Paul Downing	No change proposed
22	VENUE: Hognaston – Village Hall	Suggest no change needed. Current venue is central and easy to get to, with ample parking. Disabled access/toilets available and use. Suggest no change to current arrangements. Anthony Clarke	No change proposed
23	VENUE: Over Haddon – Village Hall	Looking forward over the next 4 years, there is nothing booked that can't be changed. We always give priority for use of the hall as a Polling station. Our premises are fully accessible for disabled persons and have disabled facilities. We have a disabled lift to get people from road level up to the hall. Mrs Jennifer Foxon - Management committee	No change proposed
24	VENUE: Matlock – Scout & Guide Headquarters	No comment G. Beeson	No change proposed
25	VENUE: Middleton by Youlgrave – Village Hall	Disabled access has to be via a wheel-chair through the kitchen entrance which is just possible. The toilet is not accessible. Mrs A M Marsh - Village Hall Committee	No change proposed
26	VENUE:	Current arrangements works well. Current venue good.	No change proposed

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
	Monyash – Village Hall	Lesley Fitton - Monyash Parish Council	
27	VENUE: Flagg – Village Hall	Feel that a polling station is required to be kept in the village for use by residents of the village. The Village Hall is a central village location, easy to find, of suitable size and easy access with all required facilities (light/water/heat/toilets etc) and also has limited car parking space available. The Village Hall has adequate access (and facilities) for wheelchair user disabled persons as well as for ambulant disabled persons. Mrs S. Naylor / Mr A Butterwick	No change proposed
28	VENUE: Doveridge – Village Hall	At this time I think the arrangement in place are satisfactory. DVH has adequate disabled access. I have no information on any other Polling station. Rosemarie Fleming	No change proposed
29	VENUE: Matlock – The Imperial Rooms	No comment Amanda Wilson – Matlock Town Council	No change proposed
30	VENUE: Stoney Middleton – St. Martin's Church	Current polling district well covered for local population. St Martin's Church only facility suitable in the village - all facilities - kitchen, toilet etc. St Martin's Church has full disabled access. J.T.Askey	No change proposed
31	VENUE: Bakewell – Town Hall & Methodist Junior School	Bakewell's two polling stations appear entirely suitable for the polling district and do not need changing. Maintaining excellent disabled access to polling places and polling stations should be a high priority because it also helps a broad spectrum of people who would not necessarily consider themselves disabled. John Rowe - Town Clerk & RFO	No change proposed
32	Peter Dobbs Agent – Liberal Democrats VENUE: Ashbourne Empire Club and Ashbourne Hilltop School	Could Lower Pingle Road Nos 26-58 be moved from BAS into BAH. Voters from these properties would almost drive past Hilltop on their (long) journey to the Empire. The whole of the rest of this (new) estate is in BAH. An additional polling place to split the load on Ashbourne Hilltop is needed. The situation will only get worse as new estates are completed. Alas I do not have a suggestion - a fault of planning that there are no multi use	No change proposed. Designation of electors in Pingle Road would require a Community Governance Review. It is recommended that such a review is considered in 20/21 in order to assess the full development potential in that area.

No	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer's Comment
		community buildings in Ashbourne South. Lack of planning?	
33	Cllr. Steve Wain DDDC – Matlock All Saints	I have regularly been contacted by residents of Farley Hill Matlock, regarding development issues in the area. The area is currently on the Darley Dale Ward, but in my opinion it's location is more suited to be included in Matlock All Saints.	No change proposed pending more in depth electoral review
34	VENUE: Elton – Village Hall	The Village Hall is happy to continue being the local polling station for the foreseeable future. Our purpose is to be used by the community and local people, including being available as their polling station. We do have disabled access for the benefit of our users. Voting facilities in small communities are valued by the local people, especially the elderly. Susan Lightfoot	No change proposed