

**Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and  
Polling Stations  
August 2019**

**Correspondence sent to the (Acting) Returning Officer in  
connection with the review**

**From:** Katy Chessum-Rice [mailto:k.chessum@worc.ac.uk]

**Sent:** 15 November 2019 15:55

**To:** Councillor Pat Agar <patagar2507@gmail.com>; Councillor Mel Allcott <mel.allcott@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Mohammad Altaf <altaf.worcs@gmail.com>; Councillor Alan Amos <alan.amos@worcester.gov.uk>; Councillor Bill Amos <isambardbrun8l@gmail.com>; Councillor Jennifer Barnes <Jenny.Barnes@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Marc Bayliss <mbayliss@worcester-research.co.uk>; Councillor Roger Berry <rogerberry@phonecoop.coop>; Councillor Tracey Biggs <biggs\_tracey@sky.com>; Councillor Marjory Bisset <Marjory.Bisset@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Christine Cawthorne <christine.cawthorne@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Tom Collins <councillor.tomcollins@gmail.com>; Councillor Simon Cronin <simon.cronin@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Lynn Denham <Lynn.denham@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Allah Ditta <ditta786@live.com>; Councillor Simon Geraghty <sgeraghty@worcestershires.gov.uk>; Councillor Adrian Gregson <Adrian.Gregson@worcester.gov.uk>; Councillor Louise Griffiths <lgriffiths36@gmail.com>; Councillor Nida Hassan <Nida.Hassan@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Jo Hodges <jo.hodges@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Lucy Hodgson <lucy.hodgson@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Stephen Hodgson <stephen.hodgson@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Michael Johnson <mandmjohnson@btinternet.com>; Councillor Matthew Lamb <drmatlamb@yahoo.co.uk>; Councillor Neil Laurenson <neil.laurenson@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Steve Mackay <Steve.Mackay@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Chris Mitchell <csmitchell@hotmail.co.uk>; Councillor Jabba Riaz <jabbarriaz@outlook.com>; Councillor Andrew Roberts <andyroberts@worcestershires.gov.uk>; Councillor Joy Squires <joy.squires@worcestercity.net>; Councillor Andy Stafford <AStafford@worcestershires.gov.uk>; Councillor Ceri Marie Stalker <ceri\_stalker@tiscali.co.uk>; Councillor James Stanley <jamesstanley635@gmail.com>; Councillor Louis Stephen <louisjosephstephen@gmail.com>; Councillor Richard Udall <richard.udall@worcestercity.net>

**Cc:** Ross Renton <r.renton@worc.ac.uk>; Megan Price <megan.price@worc.ac.uk>; Sarah Boyce <head@oldburypark.worcs.sch.uk>; Committeeadministration <Committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk>

**Subject:** FAO: Worcester City Council - Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019 - University of Worcester

**Importance:** High

**Message sent on behalf of Ross Renton, Pro Vice Chancellor Students**

Dear members of Worcester City Council,

Please find attached, for your information, a letter sent on behalf of Ross Renton, Pro Vice Chancellor Students, Meg Price, Vice President Education at Worcester Students' Union and Sarah Boyce, Head Teacher of Oldbury Park School regarding the proposal for a polling station at the University of Worcester's St John's Campus.

I hope that you find everything clear in the letter, however if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Katy

**Katy Chessum-Rice**

Executive Assistant to the Pro Vice Chancellor Students  
Vice Chancellor's Office

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**By email only**

15 November 2019

Dear Members of the City Council,

**Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019**

We are pleased that the proposal to change the polling place and polling station to the University of Worcester's Riverside Building (Severn Campus) from the Y.M.C.A. has been successful; however, we wanted to raise our concerns that the appeal to consider moving the Oldbury Park Primary School polling station to the University's St John's Campus has not been accepted.

We understand that our letter, dated 4 November, to members of the Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee, to appeal the decision by the Returning Officer to reject the use of the University's St John's Campus, was discussed at that Sub-Committee on 4 November 2019, with several members expressing their support for the change.

Therefore, we were disappointed to learn that this appeal was not accepted. We have been informed that this is because the Returning Officer felt that Oldbury Park Primary School had overcome safeguarding issues and that the Edward Elgar building would be 'too busy' with through traffic of people.

We would respectfully argue that the School remains highly concerned with the safeguarding risks of using their School as a polling station. The Head Teacher has explained that, in order to make the School safe, public money would have to be spent on temporary fencing in the School's driveway and playground; for the School Site Manager to be present for extended unsociable hours whilst the School is in use as a polling station, and for external security personnel to be on site throughout the day.

The Head Teacher is therefore considering closing the School on Election Day.

Closure of a school is a last resort for any Head Teacher and is not a decision made lightly. In addition to children missing a day's lessons, and cancelling the dress rehearsal for the Nativity Play, the impact on parents of having to make alternate childcare arrangements would be deeply disruptive.

This could be avoided by using the University's proposed polling place and is something the Head Teacher remains fully supportive of.

In terms of the Returning Officer's concerns about the Edward Elgar building, the University can assure the Council that it would take every effort to ensure that the polling station had a dedicated entrance and a clearly marked route to assist the public with locating the polling place.

To provide context for Council members, the option to consider a polling station at the St John's Campus was raised at the University Community Forum, a meeting held three times a year to promote partnership and community relations between residents, councillors, officers and the University, on the 29 May 2019.

The proposal was well received by the members of the Forum and it was agreed it would be progressed further with the City Council.

The City Council had two positive visits to the St John's and Riverside sites and no material concerns were raised regarding the proposed sites.

In addition to the benefits of no longer needing to disrupt the operations of a school, there are many other clear benefits of using the University as a polling station, which include:

- The St John's Campus has a high level of accessibility to those with disabilities, including a complete mapping of the site on AccessAble and a range of specialist facilities, including a 'Changing Places' toilet. Accessibility is one of the legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places.
- In the event of a winter election the University has the resources and specialist equipment to clear snow from the paths and roads, ensuring the facilities remain accessible to all, particularly the elderly and disabled. The University in recent years has not closed its campuses due to heavy snowfall or ice. The St John's site is well lit and has PCSOs allocated to location.
- The polling place on campus would be clearly identifiable to voters. The Edward Elgar building is familiar with local residents, and the building is in a clear line of sight from Oldbury Road. The majority of the newer residents in the polling district are either students or new members of university staff, who are less likely to be familiar with Oldbury Park Primary School.
- The St John's Campus is served by the number 31 bus that drives through campus and has a stop directly outside the Students' Union building. This stop is nearer to the proposed polling place than the stop on Oldbury Road is to Oldbury Park School and will be familiar for the many residents of St John's who travel on this service.
- The University has offered to make the facilities available free of charge and provide free managed parking close to the proposed location. Complementary refreshments and toilet facilities would also be made available to the polling staff.

- The University has a statutory requirement to promote democratic engagement, including voter registration.

The Electoral Commission identifies that voter engagement with young people is a key concern. A polling place closer to a large number of young people has the potential to facilitate their engagement and increase voter engagement, a goal which has national cross-party support.

We also note that there seemed to be cross-party support in the House of Commons to consider moving polling stations out of schools in the debate at the end of October.

We respectfully ask the Council to consider the option outlined to move the polling station to the St John's campus to enhance accessibility and inclusion. We are happy to provide further information and, if appropriate, facilitate a visit to the site by members of the Council.

Yours sincerely,



**Ross Renton**  
**Pro Vice Chancellor**  
**University of Worcester**



**Meg Price**  
**Vice President Education**  
**Worcester Students' Union**



**Sarah Boyce**  
**Head Teacher**  
**Oldbury Park School**

Katy Chessum-Rice  
Executive Assistant to the Pro Vice Chancellor  
[k.chessum@worc.ac.uk](mailto:k.chessum@worc.ac.uk)  
01905 54 2669



# Nunnery Wood Primary School



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Dear Julian Pugh,

I am writing to you on a behalf of my school governors and my local school community as well as Villages' Multi Trust. For the last three years, our children's education has not been disrupted by an enforced closure for polling. As a governing body, we feel strongly that a precedent has been established, and that another location is able to serve the electoral ward.

With the review of polling stations across Worcester and the City Council proposing that we are again to be used as a polling station we would like to express our dismay and annoyance that the City Council considering our school. The governors and I are extremely frustrated as we feel that an alternative site has worked effectively for the past three years, setting a precedent.

The use of a school of 420 pupils will be extremely disruptive to our children and parents, any closure that potentially happens to fall during the week before KS2 SATs testing is always very disruptive and does not give our Year 6 pupils the consistency they need at an already stressful time.

Additionally, the disruption to parents to find alternative care for their children on polling days has historically proved very difficult. Many parents have previously expressed their annoyance and disappointment.

In a time when Central Government have a firm stance on absences from school, it feels that we are not helping matters by closing to be a polling station.

Unfortunately, we are unable to remain open during polling day, as the pupils cannot be fully separated from members of the voting public, thus safeguarding measures are seriously compromised. Previously when the school has used as a polling station, voters were seen wandering through other parts of the school, which is a security risk to the school as well as safeguarding issue.

We are happy for you to explore the potential use of the caretakers building or locating porta cabins however, we do have reservations that both these solutions will not be adequate for the purpose of a polling station.

In conclusion, I feel strongly that a precedent has been set over the past three years; therefore, The City Council should not be considering the school but continue to use the alternative location, which has been effective for three years.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Rachel Higgins  
Headteacher

**Prestwich Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1QE**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Higgins**





**Oldbury Park Primary RSA Academy**  
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WR2 6AA

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[www.oldburypark.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.oldburypark.worcs.sch.uk)  
Principal: Mrs Sarah Boyce

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Mr Shane Flynn  
The Electors Office  
Guild Hall  
Worcester

Dear Mr Flynn

Today I have had a visit from Ellen and Matt regarding the suitability of Oldbury Park as a polling station moving forward.

I have discussed with them at length that the election days create huge safeguarding issues for us as a school.

They have suggested a fence to protect the children and the use of a security guard at the gate for the duration of the time the children are in school. A polling clerk has not worked sufficiently for this purpose in the past.

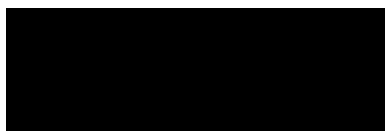
Our Site Manager also has to work extra (unsociable!) hours on the election days. I would appreciate some reimbursement for this in addition to the nominal amount for heating and lighting please.

I am sorry that this is not a more positive letter. We have managed the voting for many years but have always been extremely uncomfortable about the way it jeopardises the safety of our children.

Moving forward, I would rather this school was not used as a polling station, but if it has to be, the above precautions would have to be in place.

Many thanks for your time on this. I look forward to hearing back from you in due course.

Best wishes



Sarah Boyce  
Headteacher





**From:** Claire Chaplin  
**Sent:** 16 October 2019 17:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Shane Flynn  
**Subject:** Review of Polling Places

Dear Mr Painter,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to discuss the Review of Polling Places with you and your colleagues earlier today.

As discussed at the meeting, I have attached a summary of the legislative requirements (Representation of the People Act 1983) of the review which further clarifies the points you raised at the meeting. I have highlighted the paragraph in section 2 that states that the polling place must be an area in the 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).

I have also attached the map of the Electoral Ward for Battenhall which identifies those buildings/sites that have been assessed for their suitability and deemed to be unsuitable as they do not meet with the criteria set by the Cabinet Office/Electoral Commission as set out in the summary guidance and checklist of criteria attached.

The full guidance produced by the Electoral Commission is available via the link below:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/search>

I would be grateful if you could let me know a convenient time for you to be contacted to discuss further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards  
Claire Chaplin

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**Claire Chaplin**  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager / Deputy (Acting) Returning Officer  
Worcester City Council



**email:** [claire.chaplin@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:claire.chaplin@worcester.gov.uk)



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**From:** Claire Chaplin  
**Sent:** 11 October 2019 10:53  
**To:** 'Janet Vale'  
**Cc:** Matthew Comber  
**Subject:** RE: Polling Station Changes

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your email, which is very much appreciated. Just to confirm the use of St. Mark's Church will not change as it is the Council's intention to continue to use the Church going forward which the Council is extremely grateful for.

The review of polling arrangements across Worcester commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 and discussions with those persons responsible for any new proposed venues were consulted with closely after that the start date and continue to be consulted. As the Council's requirement to use St. Mark's Church have not changed and is not a new arrangement you were not individually consulted with. All consultation documents identifying all proposals for polling arrangements and the Council's request for comments to be made have been available on the Council's Website since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 and social media sites and continue to be updated if further proposals are made. In addition to the information on the Council's Website the local media have also been involved in advertising the review.

I hope this email clarifies the process. However, do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or want to discuss the review any further as I would be more than happy to assist.

Best wishes

Claire Chaplin  
Deputy (Acting) Returning Officer

---

**Claire Chaplin**  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council



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**From:** Janet Vale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2019 17:54  
**To:** Matthew Comber  
**Cc:** Michael Painter; Joanne Weston; Claire Chaplin  
**Subject:** Re: Polling Station Changes

Sorry about the confusion, Matt. St Marks has a very good relationship with the head teacher at Cherry Orchard, as we do with you, and I also have a grandchild in the school whose parents both work so would probably be called upon to help out, which would not be a problem for me but for others it will be. It has all come as a sudden shock owing to the short notice of the proposals but I am sure that it will be sorted out in due course with more dialogue.

Regards  
Jan

On Thu, 10 Oct 2019 at 14:23, Matthew Comber [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Mike,

I do apologise, I was unaware that I was speaking to you via a third party – I don't recall Jan mentioning in her email that my messages were being transmitted to you via her.

I assume you are referring to me when you talk about Marks proposals? I have been carrying out the data gathering part of this review and have visited Cherry Orchard in person as part of this, meeting with a member of your team – the business manager.

As I said in my email to Jan we have so far been unable to find any alternatives to the use of the school but would still welcome any suggestions. As I also said to Jan, we would like to meet with you and try to find a way to come to an acceptable solution (but it would most likely not be myself involved in that meeting) for example we have worked with Redhill Primary and Pitmaston Primary to put measures in place that allow them to stay open while still serving as a polling station for the community. I will pass your direct email onto the Deputy Returning Officer who will no doubt be in touch shortly.

To avoid any confusion about who I am talking to I have copied in everyone that was cc'd into your email and have copied in the DRO so that she has your email address.

If you do have any further questions please feel free to email me.

Kind regards,

Matt Comber

Democratic and Electoral Services Administrator

Worcester City Council  
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**From:** Michael Painter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2019 13:47  
**To:** Joanne Weston; Matthew Comber  
**Subject:** Fwd: Polling Station Changes

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Michael Painter [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, 10 Oct 2019 at 13:45  
**Subject:** Re: Polling Station Changes  
**To:** Janet Vale [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Andy Stand [REDACTED], Ian Griffin [REDACTED], Roger Knight [REDACTED], Steve Mackay [REDACTED], Trevor [REDACTED], Val Phillips [REDACTED]

Dear Jan,

Thanks for the heads up , it is a pity that Mark feels he has to transmit messages via you - to date, he's not picked up the phone to speak to me directly, despite his proposed changes potentially closing the school, costing us upwards of a few thousand pounds in unavoidable costs and leaving the parents of 621 children at the school to face additional costs, lost of leave or relying on family to provide emergency childcare because this decision has been made without factoring these elements in.

Our number is in the directory and online but to save the trouble, I am going to contact Mark now.

Thanks, Mike Painter

On Thu, 10 Oct 2019 at 13:37, Janet Vale [REDACTED] wrote:

The electoral officer's response to my message FYI. Pity it wasn't made clearer from the onset

Regards

Jan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Comber** [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 10 Oct 2019 at 13:05  
Subject: RE: Polling Station Changes  
To: Janet Vale [REDACTED]

Hi Jan,

One of the main considerations for a polling station is that it must, unless there is no venue available, be in the polling district. St Marks Church is not only outside of both B2 and B3 polling districts but is in a different Ward – B2 and B3 being in Battenhall and St Marks Church being in Cathedral.

The proposal for polling district D1 is that we stop using a portakabin located on the Waverley Street playground car park and use St Marks Church instead. The main difference for you is that Battenhall holds City Council elections 2 out of every 4 years whilst Cathedral has a vacancy on 3 out of every 4 years. Including the County Council elections this would mean us needing to use St Marks Church every year.

We have been unable to find any alternative venue in polling districts B2 and B3 other than Cherry Orchard Primary School. The public consultation is still open on the City Council website if you wished to make a comment, we have been asking for suggested alternatives on there as well as carrying out our own search. When the Returning Officer does have to use a school he only requires them to provide a suitable room. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher or governors to consider any safeguarding measures and decide whether to close the school. We have worked with a number of other schools to find a way to ensure the safety of the pupils and allow the school to remain open on polling day and are hoping to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher of Cherry Orchard soon to discuss this.

Kind regards,

Matt Comber

Democratic and Electoral Services Administrator

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Phone: 01905 722530

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**From:** Janet Vale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2019 12:08  
**To:** Matthew Comber  
**Cc:** Val Phillips  
**Subject:** Polling Station Changes

Good Morning Matt

A few weeks ago, and given the expensive alterations that we have made in the church, I spoke to you about the rumour that St Marks Church would no longer be used as a polling station. Your response was that there were no plans to stop using the church and that the voting areas were being re-organised and that it was the Diglis polling station(s) that would probably be moving.

I have now seen in writing that it is proposed to move B2 & B3 to Cherry Orchard School which is quite alarming for us and for them. Using the church causes no disruption to anyone but closing the school does.

So what is going on, please? Are we going to lose out? Is the school to be closed against their wishes? It is all so very strange

Regards

Jan

From: Chris Mitchell [<mailto:csmitchell@hotmail.co.uk>]  
Sent: 16 August 2019 17:38  
To: Councillor Simon Geraghty <[sgeraghty@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sgeraghty@worcestershire.gov.uk)>; Electoral Services  
<[ElectoralServices@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:ElectoralServices@worcester.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Re: St Clement Polling Station

I concur with cllr Geraghty's comments below.

Regards

Chris

On 16/08/2019, 17:20, "Geraghty, Simon (Councillor)" <[SGeraghty@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SGeraghty@worcestershire.gov.uk)> wrote:

Many thanks for the email and update on the review of polling stations and in particular the current one at YMCA. Given the good availability of on-street parking outside Oldbury Park School and that it's a well known and convenient location with good accessibility for all I would have no objection to relocating the Polling Station to that location.

Hope this helps,

Kind regards,

Simon

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On Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 1:58 PM +0100, "Electoral Services"  
<[ElectoralServices@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:ElectoralServices@worcester.gov.uk)<<mailto:ElectoralServices@worcester.gov.uk>>> wrote:

Dear St Clement Councillors.

As you are no doubt aware we are currently undertaking a Polling Place Review, please don't forget to make any comments you may have via the survey on the Council website.

One of the locations we know we need to find an alternative for is the YMCA on Henwick Road which, for obvious reasons, will no longer be available to us. We are hoping to use your local knowledge to help find a replacement. Attached is a map of the Ward with the polling districts shown, as the polling station will be serving districts J3A and J3B it would ideally be located in one of those districts. Do you know of any suitable buildings in those areas?

However, accessibility for electors and particularly for disabled electors is more important than location – we would rather have a venue outside the polling district that is wheelchair accessible than one inside the district that has no disabled access. If there are no suitable locations inside J3A or J3B our probable next step



would be to consider putting the polling station in the existing venue of Oldbury Park Primary School, alongside the J4 polling station, as we know this venue is DDA compliant.

If there is a location inside the J3A or J3B districts where we could site a portakabin to use as a polling station please let us know this as well. But, the (Acting) Returning Officer may choose to propose placing the polling station outside the district rather than using a portakabin as there are still accessibility concerns with portakabins.

Whilst we would rather keep the polling station in the Ward we can consider venues just across the boundary into St John, they would need to be closer or easier to get to than Oldbury Park Primary School to be considered as an alternative for J3A and J3B electors.

In summary, could you please let us know:

1. Do you know of a potential polling station venue inside J3A or J3B?
2. Do you know of a site inside J3A or J3B that could house a portakabin polling station?
3. Do you know of a potential polling station venue outside J3A or J3B more convenient for electors than the alternative venue of Oldbury Park Primary School?

Kind regards,  
The Electoral Services Team

Worcester City Council  
Worcester Guildhall  
High Street  
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**From:** Shane Flynn  
**Sent:** 16 September 2019 08:07  
**To:** Councillor Neil Laurenson  
**Cc:** Claire Chaplin  
**Subject:** RE: Query - polling station (St. Stephen ward)

Dear Neil

That is the proposal. It is dependent upon the response that we receive to the submission but it should mean that those residents in the streets listed, including Gregor's Bank, will fall into district M3, for which the proposed polling place is St George's Primary School, St George's Lane.

Shane

**Shane Flynn**

Corporate Director Finance & Resources & (Acting) Returning Officer  
Worcester City Council

Telephone: 01905 722536  
Mobile: 07710 854096

**From:** Neil Laurenson [<mailto:neil.laurenson@worcestercity.net>]  
**Sent:** 15 September 2019 08:08  
**To:** Shane Flynn  
**Subject:** Query - polling station (St. Stephen ward)

Dear Shane

Thank you for your work so far on the polling station consultation. Please could you clarify this statement regarding St. Stephen ward: 'Change polling district boundary to take out addresses currently in polling district M1 and include them in polling district M3.' - Does this mean that residents on Gregory's Bank will be able to vote at St. George's Primary School instead?

Regards

Neil

Neil Laurenson  
Green Party Councillor for St. Stephen ward  
[Neil.Laurenson@Worcestercity.net](mailto:Neil.Laurenson@Worcestercity.net)  
mob. no. 07805 871 163

**From:** Claire Chaplin  
**Sent:** 02 October 2019 08:54  
**To:** Councillor Mel Allcott <mel.allcott@worcestercity.net>  
**Cc:** Shane Flynn <Shane.Flynn@worcester.gov.uk>; David Blake <David.Blake@worcester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Claire Chaplin Contact

Dear Mel,

Thank you for your feedback which is very much appreciated and will be considered. Your personal experience of the polling arrangements for Claines Ward is most useful. The closing date for comments to be received is 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the (Acting) Retuning Officer will be considering all comments after that time with the final recommendation being considered by Personnel and General Purposes Sub Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> November and then Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

The (Acting) returning Officer is proposing to use Worcester Lawn Tennis Club as the polling place for polling district E1, as the Royal British Legion is located in polling district E1 which is further away to the majority of the electorate in E1. The Tennis Club is considerably closer the electorate within E1. As part of the consultation process a number of electors within polling district E1 have requested that the polling place be moved from the Royal British legion to the Tennis Club.

I understand your concerns regarding the volume of traffic and parking availability and wanted to ask, with your local knowledge of the Claines Ward are you able to suggest an alternative venue. I'm happy to meet with you to discuss further.

Kind regards  
Claire

---

**Claire Chaplin**  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council



**email:** [claire.chaplin@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:claire.chaplin@worcester.gov.uk)



**telephone:** (01905) 722005 : [REDACTED]



**postal address:** The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester. WR1 2EY



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**From:** Mel Allcott [<mailto:Mel.Allcott@worcestercity.net>]  
**Sent:** 29 September 2019 20:47  
**To:** Margaret Johnson  
**Subject:** Claire Chaplin Contact

"Dear Claire.

Thank you for the feedback from the polling station consultation so far.

With regard to polling stations in Claines, I note the proposal to move the Ombersley Road Methodist Church to Gheluvelt Sons of Rest. This makes sense as the Methodist Church is difficult to access if you have mobility issues. I do support this.

I also note the proposal to move the Claines Royal British Legion (CRBL) to the Worcester Lawn Tennis Club (WLTC), making WLTC a polling station for two areas. This concerns me greatly. Access to WLTC is via the narrow Northwick Close, situated alongside Northwick Manor Primary School, home to 660 pupils when full to capacity, host to the resultant traffic and parking issues.

I would like to recommend maintaining CRBL as the polling station for one area and WLTC as the polling station for one area. CRBL has good access, unlike WLTC.

Having been a candidate in Claines for the last six local elections, I have understandably, spent a great deal of time around the polling stations. Also to add, retired local Councillors from Claines, recall WLTC being used for two areas in the past and it not working, due to the access problems mentioned above.

I look forward to hearing from you and trust you will take my views on board, having spent a great deal of time around polling stations.

Kind Regards

Mel"

[Cllr Mel Allcott](#)

[Claines Ward](#)  
[Worcester City Council](#)

[Mobile 07429 184705](#)

**From:** Chris Mitchell [<mailto:csmitchell@hotmail.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 15 October 2019 07:42  
**To:** Claire Chaplin  
**Cc:** MOORE, Gareth; David Blake; Councillor Simon Geraghty; Robin Walker; Shane Flynn  
**Subject:** Re: Worcester City Council - Polling Place Review

Claire,

Thanks. I think that the car park at BBC Hereford, using a mobile voting booth, and Worcester could be a good alternative for the YMCA.

Again a mobile voting both either in the school car park or entrance off of Oldbury Road would also retain the general location for local residents without impacting upon the school activities.

Regards

Chris

On 14 Oct 2019, at 10:34, Claire Chaplin <[Claire.Chaplin@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Chaplin@worcester.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your comments. To clarify, no changes to polling stations have been agreed, these are proposals at this stage as the consultation stage for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposals ends at 11.59pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The recommendations of the review are due to be considered by Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019. I have been sending regular updates of the review to all Members via the Weekly Members Bulletin and via separate email updates. All comments received from Members and other persons as part of the consultation will be considered in full prior to the final recommendations being proposed.

The Head Teacher at Oldbury Park Primary School has expressed her concern with the school being used as a polling Station for J4 and has requested that we consider alternative buildings, and the YMCW building is no longer in use for J3. The Electoral Services Team has spent a considerable amount of time trying to identify a suitable building which meets with the legislation and criteria set by the Electoral Commission.

With you local knowledge of the Ward, are you able to suggest an alternative building? The (Acting) Returning Officer and myself would very much welcome any suggestions you have.

Kind regards

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**Claire Chaplin**  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council



**email:** [claire.chaplin@worchester.gov.uk](mailto:claire.chaplin@worchester.gov.uk)



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**From:** Chris Mitchell [<mailto:csmitchell@hotmail.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 13 October 2019 14:29

**To:** Claire Chaplin; 'Robin Walker'; MOORE, Gareth ([gareth.moore@parliament.uk](mailto:gareth.moore@parliament.uk)); David Blake; Councillor Simon Geraghty

**Cc:** Shane Flynn

**Subject:** Re: Worcester City Council - Polling Place Review

Claire,

Not sure why, but I didn't get the original email. Having had a read of it, I have a number of concerns with the use of the University as a polling location. The school in Oldbury Road has always been an excellent location and enables many residents to lodge their vote when taking or collecting their children from school. The University is not popular with many local residents for a number of reasons, and I can see the change of location as both unpopular and more difficult for residents to get to. This change has been made with no prior consultation with myself or Simon Geraghty the 2 local councillors. I would like to make my objections clear from the outset.

Regards

Chris

Chris Mitchell  
Cllr St Clement  
07490161631

**From:** Claire Chaplin <[Claire.Chaplin@worchester.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Chaplin@worchester.gov.uk)>

**Date:** Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 15:17

**To:** All WCC Members <[REDACTED]>, 'Robin Walker' <[robin.walker.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robin.walker.mp@parliament.uk)>, "MOORE, Gareth ([gareth.moore@parliament.uk](mailto:gareth.moore@parliament.uk))" <[gareth.moore@parliament.uk](mailto:gareth.moore@parliament.uk)>, David Blake <[David.Blake@worchester.gov.uk](mailto:David.Blake@worchester.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Shane Flynn <[Shane.Flynn@worchester.gov.uk](mailto:Shane.Flynn@worchester.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Worcester City Council - Polling Place Review

Dear All,

**Update on Progress : Polling Place Review**

The attached notice states that the City Council is extending the period of the Consultation Stage of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations that fall within the City of Worcester.

The Consultation Stage, which is due to finish on Thursday 10th October 2019, is being extended until 11.59pm on Wednesday 16th October 2019.

The reason for the extension is to provide sufficient time for people to make comments on further proposals that are as a result of ongoing assessments to determine the suitability of polling arrangements, comments received and considered to date.

The notice identifies those polling districts where further proposals for polling arrangements have been made.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me or the (Acting) Returning Officer, Shane Flynn.

Kind regards

Claire

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**Claire Chaplin**

Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council



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-----Original Message-----

From: Claire Chaplin

Sent: 11 October 2019 16:38

To: Councillor Simon Geraghty

Subject: RE: Worcester City Council - Polling Place Review

Hi Simon,

Thank you for your comments, much appreciated. The Head Teacher at Oldbury Park Primary School has highlighted the disruption that having a polling station causes for the day to day running of the school. The university which is located close by is very keen for us to use one of their rooms. Shane and I are due to meet with the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Ross Renton next week to explore the option further. All options are currently being assessed for suitability, will keep you updated.

Kind regards

Claire

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Claire Chaplin  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council

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-----Original Message-----

From: Geraghty, Simon (Councillor) [<mailto:SGeraghty@worcestershire.gov.uk>]

Sent: 10 October 2019 16:43

To: Claire Chaplin

Subject: Re: Worcester City Council - Polling Place Review

Hi Claire,

Many thanks for the info - for clarity I continue to support the use of Oldbury Park Primary School as a Polling Station. It is a well known location with on-street parking available outside and ideally suited for that part of the ward.

Kind regards,

Simon

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

Get Outlook for Android<<https://aka.ms/ghei36>>



On Thu, Oct 10, 2019 at 3:15 PM +0100, "Claire Chaplin"

<[Claire.Chaplin@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Chaplin@worcester.gov.uk)<mailto:Claire.Chaplin@worcester.gov.uk>> wrote:

Dear All,

Update on Progress : Polling Place Review

The attached notice states that the City Council is extending the period of the Consultation Stage of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations that fall within the City of Worcester.

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The notice identifies those polling districts where further proposals for polling arrangements have been made.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me or the (Acting) Returning Officer, Shane Flynn.

Kind regards

Claire

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Claire Chaplin  
Democratic and Civic Services Manager  
Worcester City Council

**From:** Mel Allcott [<mailto:Mel.Allcott@worcestercity.net>]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2019 20:41  
**To:** Julian Pugh  
**Subject:** Re: Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Dear Julian,

Thank you.

Using the Tennis Club for 2 polling districts still concerns me a little. It is at the end of a narrow, effectively cut de sac, where the residents often struggle with parking and access issues, due to the nearby school. Although I can appreciate the lack of available buildings plus local schools not wanting to close.

The Sons of Rest building much more accessible, now we have it, great news we can use as a polling station. Do we review polling stations on a regular basis?

Best regards

Cllr Mel Allcott

Claines Ward  
Worcester City Council

Mobile 07429 184705

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**From:** Julian Pugh <[Julian.Pugh@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:Julian.Pugh@worcester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 25 October 2019 15:06  
**To:** Councillor James Stanley; Councillor Andy Stafford; Mel Allcott  
**Subject:** Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Dear All

The findings of the Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations will be published with the agenda for Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee today.

Ahead of publication, I wanted to let you know what is being proposed for your Ward.

There are two changes, as identified below together with the rationale for the proposals.

| No | Ward    | Polling District | Proposed Change  | Rationale  |
|----|---------|------------------|--|--|
| 3. | Claines | E1               | That Worcester Lawn Tennis Club, Northwick Close is designated as the permanent polling place for polling district E1. | This would be more accessible and/or closer for electors in polling district E1 as the existing polling place, Claines Royal British Legion, Cornmeadow Lane |

|    |         |    |   |   |
|----|---------|----|---|---|
|    |         |    |   | is located within polling district E4.  |
| 4. | Claines | E3 | That Gheluvelt Sons of Rest Building, Lavender Road be designated as the permanent polling place for polling district E3. | The existing polling place, Ombersley Road Methodist Church, presents access issues due to the gradient of the car park and permanent ramp structure leading from the pavement to the polling place in its entirety. The proposal, Gheluvelt Sons of Rest Building, Lavender Road, provides level disabled access into the polling station and is readily available for election purposes and is located in the polling district. |

It is proposed to implement the changes in time for the May 2020 Local Election.

Best wishes

Julian

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**Julian Pugh**

Democratic Services Administrator - Worcester City Council

**email:** julian.pugh@worcester.gov.uk

**telephone:** 01905 722027

**address:** Guildhall, High Street, Worcester, WR1 2EY

**From:** Jo Hodges [<mailto:jo.hodges@worcestercity.net>]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2019 18:11  
**To:** Julian Pugh; Councillor Ceri Marie Stalker  
**Subject:** Re: Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Hi Julian,

That's fine with me. I think it is very sensible to merge the two polling stations as they operate out of the same room. Consideration needs to be given to the number of poll clerks there, as there will still be the same number of people going to one station as previously went to two.

cheers

Jo

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**From:** Julian Pugh <[Julian.Pugh@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:Julian.Pugh@worcester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 25 October 2019 15:08  
**To:** Councillor Ceri Marie Stalker; Jo Hodges  
**Subject:** Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Dear Ceri and Jo

The findings of the Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations will be published with the agenda for Personnel and General Purposes Committee today.

Ahead of publication, I wanted to let you know what is being proposed for your Ward.

There is one change, as identified below together with the rationale for the proposal.

| No  | Ward    | Polling District | Proposed Change   | Rationale  |
|-----|---------|------------------|---|--|
| 10. | Warndon | N2<br>N3         | To merge polling districts N2 and N3 and rename the merged polling district N2. | The current polling place/station for polling district N2, St. Wulstan's Church Hall, Cranham Drive is located in polling district N3 and is a suitable and available venue. |

It is proposed to implement the change in time for the May 2020 Local Election.

Best wishes

Julian

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**Julian Pugh**  
Democratic Services Administrator - Worcester City Council

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