

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2014: Responses to Consultation and Returning Officer's proposals

The following tables set out the proposed polling districts, polling places and polling stations in Swale, taking into account the new ward boundaries which take effect in May 2015. Proposed polling stations must be within the polling place.

As this review is looking ahead to May 2015, the electorate figures are as estimated in the final report produced by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Postal voters are also estimated as 12% of the electorate. The maximum number of voters for a polling station is 2,500.

District ward:		Abbey Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,337	
Estimated number of voters at stations		3,817	
Constituency:		Faversham and Mid Kent	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
FAE	Abbey East	Ward	St Mary of Charity Primary School, Orchard Place, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8AP
FAW	Abbey West	Polling district	St Mary of Charity Primary School, Orchard Place, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8AP
Consultation Responses			
Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Faversham Town Council	"The station was small with a single door into the room which made access and egress difficult."	No alternatives proposed – recognise that alternative venues are at a premium	Continue to use St Mary of Charity Primary School, but review access and egress arrangements.

District ward:		Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,104	
Estimated number of voters at stations		3,612	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
BB	Bobbing	Polling District	Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8PL
BI	Iwade	Polling district	Iwade Village Hall, Ferry Road, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8RG
BLH	Lower Halstow	Polling district	Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 7ES

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Iwade Parish Council	"If the Parish Council has taken on the lease for The Barn it might be a suitable venue as a Polling Station."	The Barn	It is understood that The Barn may not be ready in May, and so I intend to continue with the current arrangement at the Village Hall.

District ward:		Borden & Grove Park Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,654	
Estimated number of voters at stations		4,096	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
BGB	Borden	Polling district	Borden Parish Hall, School Lane, Borden Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8JS
BGG	Grove Park	Polling district	Grove Park C.P School, Hilton Drive, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1PT
BGBP	Grove Park – Bobbing Parish	Ward	Grove Park C.P School, Hilton Drive, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1PT

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Cllr Gareth Randall	<p>“Residents of Auckland Drive and its adjoining roads, known as the New Zealand estate (*), currently vote at Minterne County Junior School.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The changes proposed in the document will force these residents to travel a considerable extra distance to vote at Grove Park Community Primary School instead. The walking distance will be roughly half as much longer again and the driving distance more like double. 2. The new route also contains a steep hill. 3. This area has a considerable number of elderly residents who may be deterred from 	<p>In summary, voters in the "New Zealand estate" (*) should continue to vote at Minterne school as first preference, or Westlands Primary school in Homewood Avenue as second preference.</p>	<p>I have given this careful consideration as I fully appreciate the points being made; however, it is not possible to use Minterne or Westlands Primary School as these venues are located within other wards and are already being used as polling stations for residents of the Homewood ward and the Woodstock ward. I therefore intend to use Grove Park School.</p>

	<p>voting by the distance or go to the wrong polling station through habit.</p> <p>I believe that the residents of this area should be able to continue to vote at Minterne school, and that this area should be made in to a separate polling district in order to support this.</p> <p>If for any reason Minterne school is not available as an option, the Westlands Primary School in Homewood Avenue is also at a very convenient walking distance (and again much closer than Grove Park school), so should be strongly considered.</p> <p>I believe convenience and continuity are more important than whether a voter votes in their own ward, especially when they are already used to voting in a particular location. Besides, the proposals in the document would require drivers from Auckland Drive to leave the ward then re-enter it, undermining the case for having the polling station in the same ward.</p> <p>(*) The area I am referring to is: Auckland Drive, Hamilton Crescent, Russell Close, Dunedin Close, Napier Close, plus those parts of Borden Lane and the nearby part of Cryalls Lane which are in the new Borden and Grove Park ward.”</p>		
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District ward:		Homewood Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,719	
Estimated number of voters at stations		4,153	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
HW	Homewood West	Polling district	Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1XN (Ashdown House)
HC	Homewood Central	Ward	UK Paper Leisure Club, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4DE
HE	Homewood East	Polling district	UK Paper Leisure Club, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4DE

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Feedback from Polling Station Staff at 2014 Elections	Wyvern Hall will not be available next year, but the bar area will.	UK Paper Leisure Club	I intend to use the UK Paper Leisure Club instead of the Wyvern Hall for HC and HE. (The polling districts have been revised as there were very few electors allocated to UK Paper).

District ward:		Minster Cliffs Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		5,856	
Estimated number of voters at stations		5,153	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
MCC	Minster Cliffs Central	Polling district	Minster CP School, Brecon Chase, Minster, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2HX
MCE	Minster Cliffs East	Polling district	St.Georges Primary School, Chequers Road, Minster, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 3QU
MCW	Minster Cliffs West	Ward	Communal Lounge, Invicta Lodge, Kent Avenue, Minster, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2DZ

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Feedback from Polling Station at 2014 Elections	Communal Lounge - very cramped station. On street parking only, but many voters walk to the station.	Elliott Park School, Marina Drive	We have contacted Elliott Park School regarding availability and suitability for use as polling station on 7 May. At the time of writing this report no response has been received. As such, I intend to continue to use the Communal Lounge at Invicta Lodge. AmicusHorizon have confirmed that this venue is available.

District ward:		Priory Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		2,071	
Estimated number of voters at stations		1,822	
Constituency:		Faversham and Mid Kent	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
FP	Priory	Polling district	Davington CP School, Priory Row, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7EQ

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Faversham Town Council	"Issues with car parking."	No alternatives proposed – recognise that alternative venues are at a premium	I intend to continue to use current venue; however, I will require the school to make the car park available and to use main hall for 7 May 2015.
Feedback from Polling Station at 2014 Elections	No parking; won't work for 2015. There were no parking spaces provided for voters and several complaints. Not good at school closing time.		

District ward:		Queenborough and Halfway Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		5,821	
Estimated number of voters at stations		5,122	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
QHE	Halfway East	Polling district	Halfway Houses C.P School, Southdown Road, Halfway, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 3BE
QHW	Halfway West	Polling districts of QHE and QHW	Halfway Houses C.P School, Southdown Road, Halfway, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 3BE
QQ	Queenborough	Polling district	Castle Connections, Railway Terrace, Well Road, Queenborough, Sheerness, Kent, ME11 5AY
QR	Rushenden	Polling district	Communal Lounge, Manor Close, Rushenden, Sheerness, Kent, ME11 5NB

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Feedback from Polling Station at 2014 Elections	Queenborough Library too small for a combined General/Local and Town Council Election.	Castle Connections or Sheppey Hall, both have plentiful parking.	I intend to use the Castle Connections venue for the Queenborough polling district as this will provide more room for voters in the polling station.

District ward:		Sheerness Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		7,365	
Estimated No. of voters at polling stations		6,481	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
SEE	Sheerness East East	Polling district	Richmond Primary School, Nursery Close, St. Helen's Road, Sheerness
SEC	Sheerness East Central	Ward	Vincent Court, Vincent Gardens, Sheerness has been suggested as a venue. However this is not available to use as a polling station. The General Purposes Committee recommended that we use a portacabin at Vincent Gardens.
SWS	Sheerness West South	Polling district	West Minster Primary School, St. Georges Avenue, Sheerness
SWN	Sheerness West North	Polling district	Seashells Children and Families Centre, Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1AW
SEW	Sheerness East West	Polling district	Sheerness County Youth Club, Broadway, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1TP

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Cllr Mark Ellen	"The Youth Club as always and the Academy, formally Cheyne School, would be my choices."	The Youth Club is one of the proposed polling stations but the Academy is an alternative proposal for this Ward.	I intend to continue to use the Youth Club as a polling station. The Academy is not suitable given it is a secondary school and suitable alternatives are available.
Online Form x 2	Happy with current arrangements	N/A	In respect of the proposal to use Vincent Court, unfortunately this

			is not available to hire. The General Purposes Committee recommended that we look to use a portacabin at Vincent Gardens. Therefore 5 polling districts are suggested.
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District ward:		St. Ann's Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,035	
Estimated No. of voters at polling stations		3,551	
Constituency:		Faversham and Mid Kent	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
FSE	St Ann's East	Polling district	St Jude Welcome Centre, 34 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW
FSW	St Ann's West	Polling district	West Faversham Community Centre, Bysing Wood Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7RH

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Faversham Town Council	<p>"There was some discussion about access issues, particularly in relation to the St Jude Welcome Centre. This was on a long slope making it difficult for those with access issues, unless they came by car. That was also likely to cause problems given the narrowness of the venue's access."</p> <p>"The West Faversham Community Centre unintentionally took voters on a tour of the centre to reach the polling station."</p>	No alternatives proposed – recognise that alternative venues are at a premium	<p>Re St Jude Welcome Centre, as there are no suitable alternatives available, I intend to continue to use this venue as a polling station. As in previous elections, a flyer will be sent with the poll card to ensure that voters are made aware of access arrangements and voting methods available.</p> <p>Re West Faversham Community Centre, I intend to continue to use this venue as a polling station; however, we will look at the location of the polling station within the building.</p>

District ward:		Teynham and Lynsted Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,124	
Estimated No. of voters at polling stations		3,629	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
TLL	Luddenham	Polling district	Oare Village Hall, Church Road, Oare, Faversham,, Kent, ME13 0QA
TLO	Oare	Polling district	Oare village Hall, Church Road, Oare, Faversham,, Kent, ME13 0QA
TLT	Tonge	Polling district	Bapchild Village Hall, School Lane, Bapchild, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 9NL
TLY	Lynsted with Kingsdown	Polling district	Lynsted & Norton School, Lynsted Lane, Lynsted, Sittingbourne,, Kent, ME9 0RL
TNB	Norton, Buckland and Stone	Polling district	Norton Village Hall, Norton, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0SW
TTN	Teynham North	Polling district	Teynham Village Hall, Belle Friday Close, Teynham, Kent, ME9 9TU
TTS	Teynham South	Polling district	Teynham Village Hall, Belle Friday Close, Teynham, Kent, ME9 9TU

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Online form	"Some time ago I contacted our then local councillors (they did not respond) after a conversation I had with a group of elderly residents. As the majority of the	Perhaps a section of the Belle Friday Centre could be an additional polling station.	Unfortunately there is no parking for the Belle Friday Centre. Whilst I appreciate the comments made online, I intend to continue to use Lynsted and

	<p>population of Lynsted w Kingsdown is housed along London Road they felt it very unfair to place the polling station in Lynsted Village School. This would require a (very infrequent) bus journey. When I explained they could ask for a lift to the school most said they were very uncomfortable with that. I would of suggested postal voting but as someone who was denied a vote last time because SBC did not send us our voting papers (did complain but no response) I didn't think I could advocate it."</p>		Norton School.
Online Form	Happy with current arrangements	N/A	

District ward:		The Meads Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		2,289	
Estimated No. of voters at polling stations		2,014	
Constituency:		Sittingbourne and Sheppey	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling place	Polling station
TM	The Meads	Ward	To be agreed – community centre or alternative
TMBP	The Meads Bobbing Parish	Ward	To be agreed – community centre or alternative

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
County Cllr Mike Baldock	"I have serious reservations about the voters in Meads Bobbing Ward voting at Bobbing Hall which is outside the Meads Electoral area."	No alternative proposed	The arrangements have been revised following this feedback to allow for all voters of the Meads Ward to vote in the same location, and in the Meads ward. However, this needs to be carefully managed with regard to the Meads Bobbing Parish polling district.
Cllr Mike Whiting	"In the Meads, I would suggest both TM and TMBP use the same polling station, and that that polling station be on the Meads or the Watermark development. It seems wrong to expect people to travel to Bobbing Village Hall, the other side of the A249, when a polling place is to be set up on	Shops and a pub and the new community centre.	

	<p>the estate on which they live, a polling place that could be shared for the two polling districts. If you are looking for suggestions, then I am stumped!</p> <p>However, there are shops and a pub and the new community centre and health centre may be up and running by May 2015.”</p>		
Mr James Hunt	<p>“Hopefully the community centre will have been built by then but if not could the council please ensure that other polling stations are investigated for residents? With The Meads being a new ward it would be good if those residents had a polling station within their ward so they didn’t have to travel too far and it was more convenient for them. I understand that some of the ward comes under Bobbing Parish Council and there may be parish elections at the same time but there may be ways of keeping both polling stations within the ward boundary and within the parish.”</p>	<p>Some possibilities for investigation could be The Watermark buildings, The Jenny Wren, the local shops, Quinton Village Hall, houses, or even a caravan that some rural locations use.</p>	<p>At the time of writing it is understood that the community facility is unlikely to be available for 7 May 2015, and so alternatives within the ward will be considered, and a mobile unit hired if necessary.</p>

District ward:		Watling Ward	
Estimated electorate (2017)		4,428	
Estimated No. of voters at polling stations		3,897	
Constituency:		Faversham and Mid Kent	
Polling district letters	Polling district	Polling Place	Polling station
FWE	Watling East	Polling district	Preston Schoolroom, Preston Lane, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8LG
FWW	Watling West	Polling district	Ethelbert Rd Primary School, Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8SQ

Consultation Responses

Name	Response	Alternative proposals	Returning Officer's proposal
Faversham Town Council	"Voters could have long distances to travel."	No alternatives proposed – recognise that alternative venues are at a premium	I intend to continue to use the school as a polling station.
Feedback from European Parliamentary elections	Asks whether Preston Schoolroom is fit for use.	Possible joint station again at Ethelbert Road School	I have visited Preston Schoolroom and intend to continue to use this venue as a polling station.
Online Form	Happy with current arrangements	N/A	
Online Form	Happy with current arrangements	N/A	