

Isle of Wight Council

Polling Places and Districts Review 2020

Summary of Responses ordered by new Electoral Division:

Brighstone, Calbourne and Shalfleet: The proposed Shalfleet East polling district (D7) should be renamed as Shalfleet Village, in order to differentiate it from the wider area of Shalfleet East Ward (of Shalfleet Parish Council) which covers two polling districts (D6 (Newbridge) and D7).

Chale, Niton and Shorwell: Niton and Whitwell Parish Council: The Parish Council expressed disappointment at the omission of "Whitwell" from the title of the proposed "Chale, Niton and Shorwell" Ward.

East Cowes: It would be better if the polling districts in the East Cowes electoral division (L) were referred to as East Cowes North #1 (L1) and East Cowes North #2 (L2), to reflect the fact that together they make up the area of the East Cowes North Ward (of the Parish of East Cowes). The proposed use of East Cowes South as the name for the L2 polling district within this wider East Cowes North Ward is confusing, and should be changed as we have suggested.

Mountjoy and Shide: #1 If we leave the polling station at the St John's Church Hall it is not within the Ward.

#2 The proposed polling station (St Johns Church Hall) for the new Mountjoy & Shide electoral division (S) / polling district (S) is outside of the division's boundaries. Whilst this situation unavoidably exists elsewhere on the Island, we consider that it would be preferable if the polling station for Mountjoy & Shide was in a more central and accessible location – and certainly within the division if possible.

St Johns Church Hall has little available parking; nor do the nearby streets – which is an important consideration given that some voters may find walking back up St Johns Road difficult. We would ask that consideration is given to the possible use of The Church of the Latter-Day Saints building on the corner of Shide Road and Chestnut Close, which has a large car park to the rear. Another possible location is the 1st Newport Scout Hall in Woodbine Close, which also has car parking available.

We understand that the latter has previously been used for a parish council by-election, and both of these suggested locations are within the division's boundaries, so would be suitable in this regard. The Church of the Latter-Day Saints building would be preferable out of the two, from a highways / access perspective.

Nettlestone and Seaview: Nettlestone & Seaview electoral division (T) should be split into two polling districts (T1 and T2), each with their own polling station. The two villages are distinct communities and having just one polling station – particularly now it has reverted to a central position within Seaview (rather than a location between the two communities, as Seagrove Pavilion was) – is unacceptable for voters in Nettlestone.

St Peter's Church, Undercroft (as proposed) is suitable as a polling station for the Seaview polling district, and Nettlestone Primary School should be reinstated as the polling station for the Nettlestone polling district (making use of the outbuilding at the top of the school area, to minimise the possibility of the school having to close on polling day). The previous polling district boundaries should apply.

Parkhurst and Hunnyhill: Access by foot to the college restaurant is restricted by the St Mary's junction. I imagine most who do so use the underpass if coming from roads off Hunnyhill and from the southern 'prison estates'. Use of a facility more easily accessible would be welcome.

Those who do not walk will usually drive, and often because of the distance to travel. Addressing that can be done in two ways (at least): first, ensuring there is available parking; second by reducing the need to drive. With the latter in mind, consideration to having a second polling station further north would be welcome; this would allow more people to consider walking.

I am mindful that there are very few facilities of the type typically used, and I expect that there is a desire to avoid using temporary cabins.

Totland and Colwell: We note that a polling station has not yet been identified for the polling district of Colwell (JJ2), which aligns with the Freshwater Colwell Ward (of the Parish of Freshwater). We would like to suggest Colwell Baptist Church on Colwell Road as a suitable venue for this polling station.

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