

Appendix B – Consultation Responses to Polling District and Polling Place Review

Response 1: From Pampisford Parish Council in favour of retaining existing arrangements

Response 2: From Cllr Corinne Garvie (Girton Ward)

Girton also includes part of Eddington. Girton is a linear village with the polling station at the far end of the village at Coton Hall, so far from Eddington. Eddington residents would need to cross Huntingdon Road and travel the far end of the village. The nearest building to the centre of the village, and therefore Eddington residents, which could house a polling station is the Village Hall, the William Collyns Centre, in Wellbrook Way.

Response 3: From Fulbourn Parish Council regarding Fulbourn Beechwood

Fulbourn has two Polling Stations, one at the Townley Memorial Hall (also known as The Fulbourn Centre), and a mobile caravan in the car park at Tesco, Yarrow Road for residents of the Beechwoods Estate.

The latter one as we understand, is a caravan lent by a parishioner. The Parish Council is concerned what will happen when this is no longer available, and also its disability access.

Response 4: From Cllr Graham Cone (Fen Ditton and Fulbourn Ward)

My personal preference is that the caravan stays in the Tesco car park as it is close to the Beechwoods but as and when the development next door to Arm is built or improvements are made at Capital Park, it could be moved to one of those locations in the future but currently I would leave it as it is.

Response 5: From a resident of Histon

I write as a resident of Histon. The whole of Histon & Impington votes at the Baptist Church.

This is quite some distance from the edges of the villages being approx one mile from Villa Road, Pease Way, St Andrew's Way, Glebe Way and Lone Tree Avenue, Drake Way.

The Baptist Church does have the advantage of being on the number 8 bus route in Histon with a stop right outside. However, that does not cover the whole of both villages. In particular the roads off Park Lane, Mill Lane and Milton Road. And now that we are reduced to a half-hourly service during the day (falling to hourly in the evenings), it is quite a journey to travel by bus to spend 5 minutes voting and then to return home.

I think you should consider a second polling station. There are some choices such as the IVC Sports Centre, The Parish Council HQ, St Audrey's Community Room and St Andrew's Impington.

Response 6: From a resident regarding accessibility arrangements

Looking at your 'Polling District Review' on your website, I have the following comments :

People with hand impairments need longer pencils to mark the ballot papers, these should be available at the voting booths. The current short pencils make it easy to inadvertently spoil the ballot paper;

Information on polling stations' access provision should be provided on the voting card, including height of ledge at voting booths and distance to accessible parking.

What provision is there to accommodate blind or partially sighted people?

Do staff know basic British Sign Language?

The terminology you use in your 'Polling Stations Accessibility Audit' document would benefit from revision. Where you refer to - 'Disabled Toilet' and 'Disabled Parking' (which logically means it's not available) should read 'Accessible Toilet & Accessible Parking' to reflect the fact that it is the 21st century.

Response 7: From Hatley Parish Council in favour of retaining existing arrangements

Response 8: On behalf of the Acting Returning Officer of Cambridge Constituency, no comments on the proposed arrangement

Response 9: From Gamlingay Parish Council regarding polling stations in Gamlingay

One of our councillors asked why there is only one polling station in Gamlingay given the size of the village and whether SCDC has received any adverse comments about that? Are you able to comment?

Response 10: From Barton Parish Council in favour of retaining existing arrangements