

Representations received through public consultation exercise

Name of Respondent	Polling District	Polling Place	Suggested Alternative	Full Comment	Outcome/Response
Cllr Linda Woodings	BASA	Community Room at Southwark Primary School	Oakleigh Social Club or Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	<p>When Highbury Vale Community Centre was closed (formerly the Polling Station for Polling District A) I raised concerns about the distance that people would have to travel on foot to vote if they lived on either St Albans Road, Kersall Drive, Lauriston Drive/Oakleigh Street (and surrounding roads off the north of Vernon Road), Saxondale Road/Laxton Avenue, Hucknall Road.</p> <p>However I wanted to flag that the marked register showed very low 'in person' voting levels around the areas of St Albans Road, Avalon Court, Kersall Drive and the Lauriston Drive road group. So clearly this change created barriers to those residents for voting at Southwark Primary. There is also limited parking at the school.</p> <p>I would instead suggest a joint BUF/BASA polling station at the church just over the boundary of Basford ward (the other side of Kersall Drive) Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. They have a modern church hall, warm and pleasant with good facilities. It's much closer walking distance, easy parking outside, easier for parents picking their children up from school and accessible for people with mobility scooters and wheelchairs. It's just over the road from the former Block A polling station.</p>	<p>Oakleigh Social Club was previously used as a polling place for Bulwell Forest F district. It is proposed that this venue is no longer used as a polling place. However, sending electors from Basford A district to this polling place would result in them voting in a different ward, and may confuse those electors in Bulwell Forest F who used to vote here. The venue is not large enough to accommodate both electors from Bulwell Forest F and Basford A voting there. The proposed polling place of Southwark Primary School is the same distance for electors around St Albans Road in the northeast of Basford A as Oakleigh Social Club. The Electoral Commission also recommends 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)". As Southwark Primary is within the proposed district, and fully accessible, it would not be possible to send electors to vote at a polling place in a different ward.</p> <p>We approached Our Lady of Perpetual Succour but they could not accommodate a polling station as they have groups on Thursday that they could not cancel. As elections are always held on a Thursday, this means using this venue was not feasible.</p>

				I appreciate you've written previously to say you can't have more than one polling station in a polling place, but having a look at the guidance it doesn't read as though it debars this.	
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Cllr Linda Woodings	BESC	The People's Church	None	There are five roads added in from BES B with commentary that it's easier for voters to get there. This looks like the Wendling Gardens area and it's not easier for these residents. It's being done to rebalance the polling districts, but won't be for the benefit of residents ease of voting.	We accept that it is easier for electors on Wendling Gardens to vote at Bestwood Park Church, so propose that the electors on this road and on Geraldine Close are not added to Bestwood C district, and remain in Bestwood B district as they are currently. The electors living on Dylan Thomas Road, Longfellows Close and Robbie Burns Road are also to remain in Bestwood B district, rather than being moved in to Bestwood C district.
Name of Respondent	Polling District	Polling Place	Suggested Alternative	Full Comment	Outcome/Response
Cllr Linda Woodings	BESD	District to be split between BESB (Bestwood Park Church) and BESE (Arnold Road Evangelical Church)	Top Valley Social Club	The commentary says this is being abolished because there's no suitable polling station. Electors have been placed in BES B taking it over the recommended limit and the remainder going in BES E (renamed BES D). You could instead take the remainder that are going into BES D and create a new polling district, which includes this bit, the Welsh estate, the new builds on Beckhampton and Ridgeway and have a polling station at Top Valley Social Club. This could be a good location for a joint polling station with Bulwell Forest voters, if you were minded to facilitate that, This vs the Arnold Road proposal would make no material difference to the voters at bottom of Bestwood Park around the Hartcroft area, it would be easier for Welsh Estate, Ridgeway voters and we think marginally	<p>The proposed electorate of Bestwood B is 2,587 which is only marginally over the recommended maximum. The polling place is large and can accommodate the extra electorate, with an extra polling station staff member assigned to the polling place to accommodate this.</p> <p>The proposal of Top Valley Social Club would only be conveniently located for electors living in the Welsh estate, which is not large enough to warrant its own polling station. The electors in this district voted at Bestwood Park Church at the Local Election in May 2023, with no negative feedback received from residents about using this polling place. This polling place is located next to local shops which are used by residents in this estate.</p>

				<p>better (not no significant difference) to new Beckhampton voters. It would also bring BES B back under the recommended maximum limit.</p> <p>You could if you wanted remove the bit of Arnold Road in this polling district to either BES E (renamed BES D in the proposals) or BES F (renamed BES E in the proposals) as this probably wouldn't work for them, and the current situation of having one road in three polling districts is a bit of a nightmare. There are benefits to either proposal - Bestwood Estate CC would mean each side of the road is in one PD, but that one is already big and Leen Valley is very small and probably marginally easier to get to.</p>	<p>The proposed polling place of Arnold Road Evangelical Church is more conveniently located for all electors living below Eastglade Road, which is why the district is to be split down the middle, with those in the north added to Bestwood B district and voting at Bestwood Park Church, and those in the south added to Bestwood E (renamed Bestwood D) district and vote at Arnold Road Evangelical Church.</p>
Name of Respondent	Polling District	Polling Place	Suggested Alternative	Full Comment	Outcome/Response
Cllr Linda Woodings	BESE	Arnold Road Evangelical Church	Leen Valley Community Centre	<p>This is really problematic. It's a merging of two polling districts and changing the polling station to make it completely inaccessible to residents in the flats. These are the residents most likely in the ward to not drive and to have significant disabilities or health conditions. They're also (the ward councillors think) the most likely to not bother with a PV because it's too much effort, but they might pop into the polling station whilst at the shop. This was the polling district with the highest turn out last election - it's usually the lowest - because ward councillors did a lot of work to encourage people to go. They just wouldn't go to the church. There isn't an ideal polling station here, only one at each side, but the other side of the polling district has much higher car ownership. You have stated that it is accessible by bus, in fact this means residents would have to get the 15 or 16 to Rise</p>	<p>The geography of the district means the two suitable polling places are in the east and west of the district not centrally located. This means that either option results in some electors having to travel to the opposite side of the district to the polling station. The electors in the east of the district have travelled to the west to vote at Leen Valley Community Centre for a number of years. With the changes in the rest of Bestwood ward, using Leen Valley Community Centre is no longer feasible as the electors being added from Bestwood D in to the district, could not be made to travel to Leen Valley Community Centre. The electorate would also be too small for just the electors around Belconnen Road and Cairns Close continuing to vote there.</p> <p>We take on the feedback, and therefore propose that the electors currently in BESE living around</p>

				<p>Park (in which they will walk past their old polling station), get off, change on to the 89, and then walk to the church. If they wanted to walk, this would add a half an hour round trip to their journey. Along with the proposal above about what to do with BES B and D, we would suggest keeping BES E as it is. It's a small polling station, but as stated in all previous reviews, there's not really an ideal solution and this is the best one</p>	<p>Belconnen Road and Cairns Close are added to Bestwood F district instead. These electors will vote at Bestwood Community Centre on Gainsford Crescent. Electors will be able to take the number 15 bus from Hucknall Road to this polling station, or walk 0.5 miles to the station.</p>
Name of Respondent	Polling District	Polling Place	Suggested Alternative	Full Comment	Outcome/Response
Cllr David Mellen	DALC	Greenway Community Centre	St Christopher's Church Hall	<p>Although I have no specific problem with what is suggested, it is changing arrangements in the Sneinton part of the ward after just 2 elections with the current arrangements of using St Christopher's Church for Dales B and having a Dales H block which has voted at the Dales Centre library. The proposed new changes will involve some residents moving to a 3rd different Polling Station in 4 years. If you live on St Christopher's St for example you will have previously voted at the Old Library on Sneinton Boulevard, currently vote at St Christopher's Church hall and will under these proposals vote at the Greenway Centre. This is a lot of change with very little gained except for there being 1 less Polling Station in the ward. Over the last elections, we have people returning to what they consider to be their usual place to vote, then after being turned away, not bother to vote. Too many changes suppresses the vote in my opinion.</p>	<p>We accept there have been a number of recent changes in the ward, but this has largely been forced by changes in the availability of buildings.</p> <p>We accept that residents living around St Christopher's Church Hall have faced a number of changes in recent years so agree to continue to use St Christopher's Church Hall as the polling place for Dales C instead of Greenway Community Centre.</p> <p>Although a lot of residents will still face a change in polling station, as the polling districts are configured differently to before hopefully this will limit the changes moving forward.</p>
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Cllr Michael Edwards and Cllr Eunice Regan	MEAA	Our Lady and St Patrick Church	None	We are disappointed at the loss of a polling station proximate to the voters living in the south-west of The Meadows. The south-west of The Meadows is often overlooked and we believe their polling station should be more proximate than the church hall off Laundry Street.	The previously used communal room at Briar Court is no longer available to be used. A communal room at Willowbrook Court was used at the Local Election in May 2023, however we received feedback that the venue was not suitable, and residents were not happy at its use. There are no suitable venues available for use in the southwest of the Meadows, with the proposed venue being the most conveniently located, along the tram line which has been used as a natural boundary to divide the ward.
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Cllr Michael Edwards and Cllr Eunice Regan	MEAB	Queens Walk Community Centre	None	We intend to see the large new numbers of people living in the north-east of the ward (348 apartments on Queens Road becoming available now) to be able to vote in a nearby polling station.	There is no suitable venue in the northeast of the district around the new apartments that can be used as a polling station. The closest venue is the proposed Queens Walk Community Centre, which can be easily accessed via either walking or tram from the new apartments.
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Cllr Samuel Gardiner, Cllr Cheryl Barnard and Cllr Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall	BUFB	Top Valley Community Centre	St Philip's Church	We agree that the known location and facilities of Top Valley Community Centre are good but we note that the increased distance, by the removal of St. Philips Church on Knights Close as a Polling Place, may be problematic and we just wanted that noting. For example, residents on Torkard Drive were previously served by St.Philips Church as a Polling Place which was a 4min walk on Google Maps, under the new proposals, residents on Torkard Drive will now have to commute to Top Valley Community Centre which will result in a longer and more inconvenient commute totalling 9mins by foot.	We agree that some electors will have further to travel, however there is extensive parking and also public transport options for those living in the northeast of the district. Many may also be travelling to the area to visit businesses such as the large supermarket adjacent to the polling place.
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<p>Cllr Samuel Gardiner, Cllr Cheryl Barnard and Cllr Sarita-Marie Rehman-Wall</p>	<p>BUFC</p>	<p>Bulwell United Reform Church</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>INCREASE ELECTORATE: The concern is that Cantrell Road, Broomhill Road et al have been cut in half in terms of the polling district boundary which only serves to confuse neighbours on where the polling district will be. Geographically, the boundary doesn't make much sense with residents having to walk further and longer than would be necessary. The total electorate within the newly proposed BUFC will be 2,465 which is lower compared with BUFD which will be 2,596 (higher). Our suggestion would be to widen the BUFC Boundary to include the following 11 streets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belmont Ave, - Northolme Ave, - Carlise Ave, - Cantrell Road(In Full), - Durham Crescent, - Padley Close - Latimer Close, - Henrietta Street, - Clarges Street - Nansen Street - and the completion of Broomhill Road. <p>The additional benefit is that it is geographically closer to the URC Church polling place making it more convenient for residents to vote.</p> <p>We appreciate this proposal may upset the electorate balance between the polling places but any remediations with the re-drawing of the boundary line between C & D, especially remediating streets, electorally, being cut in half, would provide greater clarity and more convenience for residents voting in this area.</p>	<p>We understand the responses regarding electors nearby to Bulwell United Reform Church having to travel further.</p> <p>So we propose to redraw the boundary. All of the existing Bulwell Forest B district will be added in to this district. The new boundary will run down Highbury Road and then between Broomhill Road and Ingram Road, allowing these electors to continue to vote at Bulwell United Reform Church.</p>
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Name of Respondent	Polling District	Polling Place	Suggested Alternative	Full Comment	Outcome/Response
Ann Whitfield	Bulwell Ward	Whole ward	None	<p>I don't live in the city so not familiar with the wards and can't make informed comments. Are there any published reasons for the changes? Population management? In any way linked with yesterday's declaration of bankruptcy?</p> <p>I note that Bulwell, for example, has many changes- I work with Bulwell on the ICB Transforming community care programme. Presumably they will be fully aware of impending changes?</p>	<p>The Polling District and Places Review is a statutory process that must take place every 5 years and whilst conducting the review there are several factors that influence whether there is a change in the polling district boundary or polling place. Largely, these stem from either the building of new residential properties which increase the electorate in a district, or the current polling place no longer being available. We also collect feedback from staff who work in the polling stations as well as from candidates after an election, to ensure that the venues we use continue to be suitable and will look for alternative venues if we feel that any venues are no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Electoral Commission recommends that the electorate for a polling district does not exceed</p>

					<p>2,500 electors, and where possible, we have tried to use larger more centrally located venues to accommodate electorates closer to the recommended maximum. This is because these larger venues are more well known in the community – Bulwell Riverside for example – and are often more suitable as they have better facilities. There are also the added benefits from using locations such as libraries and shared service centres as people who attend these venues for other purposes can vote at the same time, making voting more convenient for the voters, which in turn will hopefully increase turnout.</p> <p>Re-aligning our boundaries to use these types of venues have resulted in a reduction in the number of polling stations, but this was not the primary objective of the review, with the suitability of venues for all electors the primary factor influencing decisions.</p> <p>We have asked colleagues in Neighbourhoods and Communities to share the proposals with those in their distribution lists, and as you will know the proposals were shared with all Cllrs at the start of November. They are also available to view on our website, and we welcome feedback from anyone on the proposals.</p>
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