

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffrey Room,  
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on  
Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 6:00 pm.

**George Candler  
Chief Executive**

**AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES
5. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
6. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS  
THE CHAIR TO MOVE:  
"THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF SUCH CATEGORIES OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED BY SECTION 100(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS LISTED AGAINST SUCH ITEMS OF BUSINESS BY REFERENCE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH OF SCHEDULE 12A TO SUCH ACT."

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## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Monday, 18 March 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sargeant (Chair); Councillor Kilbride (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Aziz and Marriott

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sargeant, Parekh, Beardsworth and Cali.

#### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

#### 4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

#### 5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There were none.

#### 6. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2019

The Electoral Services Manager explained that a statutory review of polling districts took place every 5 years and that this review would look to amend the number and/or siting of polling stations, specifically mobile polling stations. It was expected that these changes would happen before local elections in 2020, however no changes would be implemented before the review was concluded in November 2019.

In response to questions, the Electoral Services Manager stated that the changes would affect Police Crime Commissioner Elections; Hunsbury residents would be using a new community centre instead of a mobile unit. She explained that where no alternative was available, mobile polling stations would be used.

#### RESOLVED:

That the timetable for the Polling District and Polling Place Review be noted.

#### 7. RETURNING OFFICER FEES AND EXPENSES

The Electoral Services Manager submitted a report and elaborated thereon. It was

explained that the report sought approval for the scales of election fees paid to the Returning Officer for any Borough or Parish Council elections during 2019/20. Members noted that whilst there was no formal consensus of fees between the Northamptonshire Local authorities, the proposed NBC fees were in line with Daventry District Council, which would increase each year in line with annual pay awards.

**RESOLVED:**

That the scale of election fees for 2019/20 in relation to any Local by-elections or Referendums be adopted.

The meeting concluded at 6:12 pm

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 17 September 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sargeant (Chair); Councillor Kilbride (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Aziz, Marriott, Beardsworth and Cali

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Parekh

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Parekh.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019, will be taken for approval at the next meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

There were none.

**5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

There were none.

**6. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Chair, Councillor Kilbride asked the Electoral Services Manager to present the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places report.

The Electoral Services Manager presented the recommendations of the Local Returning Officer in relation to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. She further explained that the introduction of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each local authority to carry out a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places every fifth year after 1 October 2013. Subsequently, the next compulsory review needs to be completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (incl.).

**RESOLVED:**

1. Noted the representations of the Local and Acting Returning Officer and the public consultation that will now take place as set out in Appendix 1.
2. Noted the final recommendations will be brought to a meeting of the Committee on 5 November 2019.

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Appendices  
3



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Committee Meeting Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Borough Secretary
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Phil Larratt

### 1. Purpose

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- 1 To present to the Committee the final recommendations from the Local Returning Officer relating to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places under The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and seek the Committee's approval.
- 2 The following report outlines proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places in Northampton following formal consultation with the public and interested parties.
- 3 Attached appendices show the recommended Polling Districts and Polling Places.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That the Committee approves the recommendations of the Local Returning Officer and that the recommendations come into effect for any election that is called after the date of this committee.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The introduction of The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each local authority to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places every fifth year after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013.
- 3.1.2 The scope and methodology of the review and consultation was agreed by General Purposes committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- 3.1.3 The attached proposals have also been shaped by representations made around the May 2019 elections, reports from Polling staff at the May 2019 elections, informal preparatory consultation, and inspections of existing and potential Polling Places. The process of consultation and inspection will continue during the rest of the review period.

## **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 As stated in the recommendations ( Appendix 1)

## **3.3 Choices (Options)**

- 3.3.1 As stated in the recommendations (Appendix 1)

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 None

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 Additional resources will be required to manage and run any additional Polling Stations. European, National, Police, County and Parish elections, ballots and referendums are not funded by the Borough Council but costs are reclaimed from the responsible body. The Borough Council is responsible for its own elections and for specified local ballots such as Community Planning Referendums or any Mayoral Referendum.
- 4.2.2 The number of Polling Stations within each Polling Place is a matter for the discretion of the Returning Officer at each election. In the attached recommendations a number of Polling Districts are identified as potentially having two Polling Stations.
- 4.2.3 The costs of establishing a larger number of Polling Places, with attendant increase in Polling Stations, will depend on the nature and costs of the Polling Places used and the size of the Polling Stations. Under Electoral Commission guidance there are minimum staffing levels depending on the number of voters in person at each Polling Station. It does not therefore follow that one Polling Station becoming two is double the cost, it is usually less than double.
- 4.2.4 The arrangements proposed in this paper will be reviewed again in 2023, or when the new Parliamentary Boundaries or Unitary Wards come into effect.



### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 It is a statutory requirement to carry out Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places every five years. Formal guidance from the Electoral Commission is being followed for the review which ensures that all parts of the legislation are adhered to.

### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 Advice has been sought from specialist groups and agencies relating to access needs of protected groups, specifically those with a disability.

4.4.2 Full inspections of Polling Places have taken place which included accessibility and incorporated any initial advice given by the groups above.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 Consultation has been carried out informally and will now be carried out formally in relation to these proposals.

4.5.2 Compulsory consultees are stated in the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and include the following:

- Candidates and agents for the parliamentary, local and Parish elections
- Elected representatives (County Councillors, MEP's etc)
- (Acting) Returning Officers from neighbouring authorities (e.g. South Northamptonshire)
- Electors
- Council officers with relevant experience

### **4.6 Environmental Implications (including climate change issues)**

4.6.1 Mobile Units use fuel generators, however there is no suitable alternative option.

### **4.7 Other Implications**

4.7.1 None

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places files and records, held by the Borough Secretary's department.

**Francis Fernandes**  
**Borough Secretary and Local Returning Officer**  
**Telephone 01604837334**



**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER  
TO NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The following report outlines proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places in Northampton following formal consultation with the public and interested parties.

The proposals attached are presented to the Council's General Purposes Committee for the Committee to resolve upon. These recommendations will then go to further consultation.

Attached appendices show the recommended Polling Districts and Polling Places. The following narrative explains the reasons for these recommendations.

**General Comments**

The structure of Polling Districts used in any election needs to take account of the legal requirements laid down in Statute and the requirements of the Electoral Commission.

In addition, polling districts need to be set in such a way that the Electoral Register can be structured to deliver any individual election. Polling Districts are the basic building block of the Register and therefore are always the smallest division of electors in the Register.

This means that the boundaries of Polling Districts are firstly determined by the boundaries of the Borough, Parliamentary Constituencies, County Council Divisions, and then by Borough Council Wards, Parish Councils, and Parish Council Wards where applicable. It is not possible to establish a Polling District that, for example, crosses the boundary of a County Council Division as this would mean that the Register would not be, as required, capable of delivering a County Council election in those Divisions.

As a result, many Polling District boundaries are effectively determined by these higher-ranking geographies. Areas which fall between these boundaries may be sub-divided into Polling Districts on the decision of the Borough Council (subject to the right to appeal to the Electoral Commission) and this should be considered with due regard to making Polling Places and Polling Stations accessible and convenient for voters in person. The exact shape or size of a Polling District can be affected by the availability of suitable Polling Places.

Polling Places are locations within which a Polling Station is to be established by the relevant Returning Officer for an election. Polling Places may, if possible, contain more than one Polling Station and serve more than one Polling District.

The Electoral Commission has guided that no Polling Station may have more than 2,500 voters in person assigned to it. This does not mean that a Polling District cannot be larger than 2,500, but if so then it will need a number of Polling Stations, which may of course be in the same Polling Place.

## Appendix 1

As mentioned above, public consultation has been carried out in preparing these draft recommendations. All comments have been considered where relevant and a summary of the comments made is attached in the appendices to this document.

In addition, a programme of inspecting actual and potential Polling Places has been undertaken in order to inform these recommendations. As far as possible, alternative proposals have been subjected to inspection.

Proposals are presented, for ease of reference, Borough Council Ward by Borough Council Ward. Details of Polling District boundaries and projected numbers of voters in person are contained within the Appendices.

Changes to the interim recommendations at 17 September are highlighted in yellow

### **Abington Ward**

Abington Ward currently has 6 Polling Districts. One Polling District falls within the Northampton South Constituency.

The current designated Polling Places are: Abington Avenue Reformed Church, Stimpson Avenue Academy (for 2 Polling Districts), Old Northamptonians, Barry Road School and Vernon Terrace Community Centre.

We received representations regarding Barry Road School. Following inspection, it is proposed to use a Mobile polling station in the Co-op Car Park on Barry Road for polling district NNAB5. At present NNAB2 and NNAB3 vote at Stimpson Avenue Academy. We looked at including them in the mobile at Barry Road, however, the electorate would be too large to accommodate a triple station in the mobile. We have not been able to find an alternative venue in the area therefore **Stimpson Avenue remains the designated polling station.**

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Abington Ward and are recommended on that basis.

### **Billing Ward**

Billing Ward contains a number of Parish Wards. As a result there is limited discretion as to the arrangements within this Ward.

There are currently four Polling Districts and four Polling Places in this Ward and it is proposed to make no change to this.

The Polling Places are: The Institute in Great Billing, St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School, Bellinge Community Centre, and All Saints Church. All of these Polling Places are currently used at elections.

We received representations regarding the use of St Andrew's CEVA Primary School and suggestions to use The Bipin Brook. Following inspection of these premises it is proposed that this become the designated polling station for NSBL2

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Billing Ward and recommended on that basis.



## Appendix 1

### **Boothville Ward**

Boothville Ward currently contains two Polling Districts with two Polling Places.

The Polling Places in this ward are: King's Meadow School and Boothville Community Centre, both currently in use at elections.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Brookside Ward**

Brookside Ward currently contains three Polling Districts at three Polling Places.

The Polling Places are Lings Primary School, Lumbertubs Primary School and Arlbury Road Community Room.

We received representations regarding the use of Lings Primary School and suggestions to use Brookside Hall. Following inspection of these premises it is proposed that this become the designated polling station for NNBR2.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Brookside Ward and recommended on that basis.

### **Castle Ward**

Castle Ward currently contains seven Polling Districts and five Polling Places.

The current Polling Places are: Castle Community Hub, The Guildhall, Victoria Road Congregational Church, Mounts Baths, Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (for 3 Polling Districts)

The Castle Community Hub is no longer available and it is proposed that Spring Boroughs Hub will become the designated polling station for NSCT1.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Castle Ward and recommended on that basis

### **Delapre and Briar Hill Ward**

Delapre and Briar Hill Ward currently contains of eight Polling Districts served by six Polling Places with a total of seven Polling Stations.

Delapre and Briar Hill is a geographically dispersed and large ward. The area to the west of Briar Hill is a distinct Polling District with a more local Polling Place. This can only be achieved by the use of a mobile unit, and the location of this is at the junction of Hunsbarrow and Ironstone Road. The area to the east will continue to be served by Briar Hill Community Centre.

The area to the south of the ward has Polling Places of Gloucester Avenue Nursery School and a Polling District with a Polling Place at The Abbey Primary School

## Appendix 1

To the north-east of the ward is served by a Polling Place at a mobile unit in Asda's Car Park on London Road/Ransome Road.

The remaining three Polling Districts are served by a Polling Place at Far Cotton Recreation Centre. Whilst the Centre could accommodate four Polling Stations it is not considered likely that this will be needed before next review.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **East Hunsbury Ward**

East Hunsbury Ward contains six Polling Districts with five Polling Places.

The current Polling Places are Collingtree Golf Club, Blackymore Community Centre (2), East Hunsbury Primary School and Abbey Centre Baptist Church (2).

In relation to the Polling Station at Collingtree Golf Club, we have identified Greens Restaurant as a suitable venue. The Polling Place will remain as Collingtree Golf Club to give flexibility in the event the restaurant is not available.

The polling district currently at East Hunsbury Primary School will be allocated to Blackymore Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in East Hunsbury Ward and recommended on that basis.

### **Eastfield Ward**

Eastfield Ward has three Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

Two Polling Districts are served by St Albans Jubilee Hall which sits on the boundary between the two Districts, as the Polling Place.

The other Polling District is served by Eden Close Community Room as the Polling Place.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Headlands Ward**

Headlands Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current arrangements in this ward are Headlands United Reformed Church and Abington Community Centre.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

## Appendix 1

### **Kings Heath Ward**

King's Heath Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

One Polling District covers the King's Heath Estate and Dallington Heath. The other covers the Ryehill area. These arrangements match the topography of the area and the location of the Polling Place on the Estate is a good central location for that District.

The two Polling Places are Montague Crescent Community Room and King's Heath Community Centre, both of which are currently used. The Polling Station at Kings Heath can be split into two Polling Stations if this becomes necessary.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Kingsley Ward**

Kingsley Ward currently has three Polling Districts operating from three Polling Places.

This Ward contains an area that falls in a different County Division. The land involved is currently undeveloped and expected to remain so. This Polling District will therefore have no voters in person and for technical purposes only will be allocated to the Polling Place at the Pioneer Public House.

The three Polling Places are: The Pioneer Public House, Kingsley Primary School and Kingsley Park Methodist Church.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Kingsthorpe Ward**

Kingsthorpe Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places. The boundary between these Polling Places is determined by a County Council Division boundary.

It is proposed to retain the current arrangements until a further review is done for the Unitary Authority with the facility to have two Polling Stations at Kingsthorpe Community Centre if necessary at any election. The other Polling Place is The Pastures Community Centre.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Nene Valley Ward**

This ward is geographically widely spread. It currently contains six Polling Districts with three Polling Places and five Polling Stations.

For Parish election reasons, and for accessibility, there are Polling Districts at Hardingstone and at Collingtree which will need to remain in place.

The Polling Place at Hardingstone is the Village Hall, and at Collingtree the Village Room. Both are currently used.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.



## Appendix 1

### **New Duston Ward**

New Duston Ward currently has seven Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by five Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain the Polling Districts in their current configuration. This reflects the different boundary requirements and also the geography of the ward.

The Polling Places are: Mobile Unit on Errington Park (2 Districts), Mobile Unit at Bordeaux Close, Mobile Unit at Park Lane Island, Duston Community Centre, and Duston Eldean Primary School (2 Districts).

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Obelisk Ward**

Obelisk Ward contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places. One District, is determined by County Council Division boundaries.

The current polling places are Reynard Way Evangelical Church and Sunley Conference Centre.

Reynard Way Evangelical Church is a very well located and accessible central point in the Polling District that includes it. The Polling Place can take two Polling Stations and this may be necessary at some elections.

The other Polling Place was the Sunley Management and Conference Centre at the University which has been demolished. It is proposed to use All Saints CEVA Primary School for this polling district, they are able to provide a room that doesn't involve the closure of the school.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Obelisk Ward and recommended on that basis.

### **Old Duston**

Old Duston Ward currently has five Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by three Polling Places.

The current polling stations are Duston Community Centre, Chiltern Primary School, Duston United Reformed Church and Lyncrest Primary School.

The Polling District NSOD5 served by Lyncrest Primray School is defined by County Council Division and Parish boundaries and is bounded by major roads. The only premises identified in this District are those at the Primary School.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.



## Appendix 1

### **Park Ward**

Spring Park Ward currently has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current Polling Places St Peter's Church Hall, and Bridgewater Primary School.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements

### **Parklands Ward**

Parklands Ward currently has three Polling Districts served by three Polling Places.

One Polling Place is Boothville Community Centre as there are no suitable alternatives within the District.

The two other Polling Places are Parklands Community Centre and Parklands Nursery School and Childrens Centre. It is proposed to use Parklands Learning and Care Centre instead of the Nursery School which will mean the school are able to stay open. The groups normally in the Care Centre on polling day will be covered by the school.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Parklands Ward and recommended on that basis.

### **Phippsville Ward**

Phippsville Ward is divided into two Polling Districts with the boundary between them determined by a County Council Division. These are served by two Polling Places.

The Polling Places are: St Matthew's Parish Centre, and Cedar Road Primary School. There was representation that the school should not be used due to disruption to its operation but no suitable alternatives have been identified.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Rectory Farm Ward**

Rectory Farm Ward is currently made up of three Polling Districts. One is determined by Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. These are served by two Polling Places.

Two Polling Districts are served by Rectory Farm Community Centre as their Polling Place.

The other Polling Place is Growing Together Blackthorn Good Neighbours.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Riverside Ward**

Riverside Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served from a single Polling Place, Standens Barn Community Centre. We have been informed that Standens Barn Community Centre has now closed (Appendix 3) and may not be available in the future. This polling station covers 3000+ electors therefore it is not possible to accommodate those electors in a mobile polling station. The only alternative venue we have been able to identify is Standens Barn Primary School. We have visited the school and discussed this with them.

It is proposed that Standens Barn Primary School be designated as the Polling Place for Riverside Ward.

### **Rushmills Ward**

Rushmills Ward is currently divided into four Polling Districts. One District is determined by the Parish of Great Houghton and a Parliamentary Constituency boundary. These are served by four Polling Places. The ward is geographically widespread. The current polling places are Bridgewater Primary School, Mobile Unit Old Scouts and Vernon Terrace Community Centre.

The Polling Place at Great Houghton is Parsons Memorial Hall.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Semilong Ward**

Semilong Ward currently contains four Polling Districts, significantly affected by Parliamentary Constituency and County Council Division boundaries. These are served by three Polling Places.

The Polling Places for Semilong Ward are Holy Trinity Church Hall (2 Districts), Semilong Community Centre and Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre.

We had a suggestion of a mobile unit in either ASDA or ALDI Car Park, however, ASDA was not suitable due to the incline and ALDI have refused to accommodate. Northgate School, as a special needs school are unable to close and are unable to accommodate us with the school open

It is therefore proposed to retain the existing arrangements.

### **Spencer Ward**

Spencer Ward currently contains three Polling Districts, two using Spencer Dallington Community Centre as the Polling Place and mobile polling station at Dallington Park Road

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Spring Park**

Spring Park Ward currently contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

This Polling District is served by The Pastures Community Centre and if necessary at elections in the future will have two Polling Stations. No changes to boundaries or Polling Places are proposed. The other Polling District is served by St Mark's Church Hall.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **St David's Ward**

St David's Ward currently contains three Polling Districts each based at one Polling Place.

The current polling places are Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School, St David's Church Room and The Liburd Rooms

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **St James Ward**

St James Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places.

The current polling places are Heroes Room, Franklin Gardens and the Doddridge Center

It is proposed to retain these arrangements

### **Sunnyside Ward**

Sunnyside Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served by two Polling Places. One Polling District is determined by the County Council Division boundary.

Representations were made that the Polling Place at Hinton Road Community Rooms was too small and inaccessible at the time of the elections. The Sunley Centre at the University has now been demolished.

The proposal is that Polling District NNSU1 and NSSU2 would vote at Hinton Road Community Centre and NNSU3 at Green Oaks School. NNSU1 previously voted in Obelisk Ward, the new arrangements will keep them voting within the correct ward.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Sunnyside Ward and are recommended on that basis.



## Appendix 1

### **Talavera Ward**

Talavera Ward currently consists of six Polling Districts served by six Polling Places. One Polling District is required to meet Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and the Ward is also affected by County Council Divisions.

The current polling stations are Thorplands Primary School, Southfields Primary School, Lodge Farm Community Centre, Mobile Unit Goldings Shopping Centre, Growing Together Blackthorn Community Centre and a Mobile at Rectory Farm.

Lodge Farm Community Centre there are concerns with the recent anti-social behavior including boarded up windows and overgrown surroundings. We have contacted Community Spaces to see if this can be addressed. We also visited Woodvale Primary Academy however due to safeguarding issues they would need to close the school and this would impact on their statutory timetable. We will continue to investigate a possible alternative to Lodge Farm in the next consultation period and will report this back in the final report in November.

We have had further representations (Appendix 3) regarding Lodge Farm including a petition. While it is proposed to designate the polling place as Lodge Farm it is proposed to site a mobile polling station by the road at the entrance to Lodge Farm. We have received permission from the leaseholders to do this. It is felt this will offer more visibility and security for voters. This area falls within the boundary of Lodge Farm.

It is proposed that NSTV6 will vote in Rectory Farm Community Centre not the mobile outside.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Talavera Ward and are recommended on that basis.

### **Trinity Ward**

Trinity Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current Polling Places are: The Newton Building at the University Avenue Campus, and Holy Trinity Church Hall

The Newton Building have already told us that it will not be available in May 2020 and we have had issues with availability at previous elections.

It is proposed that Bethany Homestead be used instead of the Newton Building.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Trinity Ward and recommended on that basis.

### **Upton Ward**

Upton Ward currently consists of five Polling Districts served by four Polling Places. The boundary of one Polling District was affected by a Parish boundary. The polling Districts of SNUP1 and SNUP2 are now both in Hunsbury Meadows Parish

## Appendix 1

The existing polling places are Mobile Unit, Banbury Lane, The Elgar Centre, St Crispin Retirement Village and St Crispin Social Club.

It is proposed to use Pineham Barns Primary School at Hunsbury Meadows for polling district SNUP2 instead of the mobile unit at Banbury Lane.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Upton Ward and are recommended on that basis

### **West Hunsbury Ward**

West Hunsbury Ward consists of two Polling Districts served by Parsons Mead Community Room and a mobile unit at Ladybridge Park.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements.

### **Westone Ward**

Westone Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served by three Polling Places.

To improve accessibility it is proposed to assign James Lewis Court, Community Hub instead of Headlands United Reformed Church as the polling station for NNWT2, thus all the polling stations are within in the Westone Ward.

The other Polling Places are: Weston Favell Parish Hall, and a Mobile Unit at Northampton College.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Westone Ward and are recommended on that basis.

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Appendix 2

Ward	Polling District	Polling Station
Abington	NNAB1	Abington Avenue Utd. Reformed Church
	NNAB2	Stimpson Avenue Academy
	NNAB3	Stimpson Avenue Academy
	NNAB4	Old Northamptonians Association, Billing Road
	NNAB5	Mobile Co-op Car Park, Barry Road
Brookside	NNBR1	Lumbertubs Primary School
	NNBR2	Brookside Hall, Billing Brook Road
	NNBR3	Arlbury Road Community Room Arlbury Road
Boothville	NNBV1	Kings Meadow School, Manning Road
	NNBV2	Boothville Community Centre, Booth Lane
Eastfield	NNEF1	St Albans Jubilee Hall, Mayfield Road
	NNEF2	St Albans Jubilee Hall, Mayfield Road
	NNEF3	Eden Close Community Hub, Eden Close
Headlands	NNHD1	Headlands United Reformed Church, Church Hall
	NNHD2	Abington Community Centre, Wheatfield Road South
Kingsley	NNKG1	Pioneer Public House, Fulford Drive
	NNKG2	Kingsley Primary School, Wallace Road
	NNKG3	Kingsley Park Methodist Church, Milton Street
Kingsthorpe	NNKT1	The Pastures Community Centre, Acre Lane
	NNKT2	Kingsthorpe Community Centre, Mill Lane
Obelisk	NNOL1	Reynard Way Evangelical Church, Reynard Way
	NNOL2	All Saints CEVA Primary School
Phippsville	NNPH1	St Matthew's Parish Centre, 27A The Drive
	NNPH2	Cedar Road Primary School, Cedar Road East
Parklands	NNPL1	Parklands Community Centre, Devon Way
	NNPL2	Parklands Learning and Care Centre, Spinney Hill Road
	NNPL3	Boothville Community Centre, Booth Lane North
Rectory Farm	NNRF3	Growing Together Blackthorn Good Neighbours, Longmead Court
St Davids	NNSD1	Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School, St David's Road
	NNSD2	St David's Church Room, Eastern Avenue
	NNSD3	The Liburd Rooms, Whilton Rd/Holdenby Rd
Semilong	NNSM1	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Edinborough Road
	NNSM2	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Edinborough Road
Spring Park	NNSP1	The Pastures Community Centre, Acre Lane
	NNSP2	The Pastures Community Centre, Acre Lane
	NNSP3	St Mark's Church Hall, St Mark's Crescent
Sunnyside	NNSU1	Hinton Road Community Centre, Hinton Road
	NNSU2	Hinton Road Community Centre, Hinton Road
	NNSU3	Green Oaks Primary School
Trinity	NNTR1	Bethany Homestead, The Chapel, Kingsley Road
	NNTR2	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Edinborough Road
Talavera	NNTV1	Thorplands Primary School, Farmfield Court
	NNTV2	Southfields Community Centre, Farnhill Road
	NNTV3	Lodge Farm, Off Crestwood Road
	NNTV4	Mobile Unit Goldings Shopping Centre, Prentice Court

Appendix 2

	NNTV5	Growing Together Blackthorn Community Centre, Longmead Court
Westone	NNWT1	Mobile Unit, Northampton College, Booth Lane
	NNWT2	James Lewis Court Community Hub
	NNWT3	Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South
Abington	NSAB6	Vernon Terrace Community Centre, Stockley Street
Billing	NSBL1	The Institute, High Street
	NSBL2	The Bipin Brook
	NSBL3	Bellinge Community Centre, Fieldmill Square
	NSBL4	All Saints Church, Church Lane, Little Billing
Castle	NSCT1	Spring Boroughs Hub, St Peters House, Bath Street
	NSCT2	The Great Hall, The Guildhall
	NSCT3	Victoria Road Congregational Church
	NSCT4	Mounts Baths, Upper Mounts
	NSCT5	Northampton Music Trust, Clare Street
	NSCT6	Northampton Music Trust, Clare Street
	NSCT7	Northampton Music Trust, Clare Street
Delapre & Briar Hill	NSDB1	Mobile Unit, Hunsbarrow Road/Ironstone Lane
	NSDB2	Briar Hill Community Centre, The Springs, Briar Hill
	NSDB3	Far Cotton Rec. Centre, Towcester Road
	NSDB4	Mobile Unit Far Cotton ASDA, London Road
	NSDB5	Far Cotton Rec. Centre, Towcester Road
	NSDB6	Far Cotton Rec. Centre, Towcester Road
	NSDB7	Gloucester Nursery School, Camborne Close
	NSDB8	The Abbey Primary School, Winchester Road
Kings Heath	NSKH1	Montague Crescent Community Room Montague Crescent
	NSKH2	Kings Heath Community Centre, North Oval
New Duston	NSND1	Mobile Unit Local Centre Car Park, Bordeaux Close, off Weggs Farm Road
	NSND2	Mobile Unit Errington Park, Off Ryeland Road
	NSND3	Mobile Unit, Park Lane, Island Opposite 218/220 Park Lane
	NSND4, NSND7	Duston Eldean Primary School, Main Road
	NSND5	Mobile Unit Errington Park, Off Ryeland Road
	NSND6	Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road
Old Duston	NSOD1	Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road
	NSOD2	Chiltern Primary School Hall, Chiltern Way
	NSOD3	Duston United Reformed Church, Main Road
	NSOD4	Duston United Reformed Church, Main Road
	NSOD5	Lyncrest Primary School, Lyncrest Avenue
Park	NSPK1	St Peter's Church Hall, High Street
	NSPK2	Bridgewater Primary School, Bridgewater Drive
Rectory Farm	NSRF1	Rectory Farm Community Centre, Olden Road
	NSRF2	Rectory Farm Community Centre, Olden Road
Rushmills	NSRM2	Bridgewater Primary School, Bridgewater Drive
	NSRM3	Mobile Unit, Old Scouts, Car Park Opposite, Rushmere



Appendix 2

		Road
	NSRM4	Vernon Terrace Community Centre, Stockley Street
Riverside	NSRV1	Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court
	NSRV2	Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court
	NSRV3	Standens Barn Primary School, Flaxwell Court
St James	NSSJ1	Heroes Room, Franklins Gardens, Northampton Saints
	NSSJ2	Doddridge Centre, 109 St James Road
Semilong	NSSM3	Semilong Community Centre, Norfolk Terrace
	NSSM4	Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre, 2 Adelaide Street, Semilong
Spencer	NSSP1	Mobile Unit, Dallington Park, Dallington Park Road
	NSSP2	Spencer Dallington Community Centre, Tintern Avenue
	NSSP3	Spencer Dallington Community Centre, Tintern Avenue
Talavera	NSTV6	Rectory Farm Community Centre, Olden Road
East Hunsbury	SNEH1	Collingtree Golf Club, Windingbrook Lane
	SNEH2	Blackymore Community Centre, Butts Croft Close
	SNEH3	Blackymore Community Centre, Butts Croft Close
	SNEH4	Blackymore Community Centre, Butts Croft Close
	SNEH5	Abbey Centre Baptist Church, Overslade Close
	SNEH6	Abbey Centre Baptist Church, Overslade Close
Nene Valley	SNNV1	Hardingstone Village Hall, High Street
	SNNV2	Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill
	SNNV3	Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill
	SNNV4	Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill
	SNNV5	Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill
	SNNV6	Collingtree Village Room, High Street
Rushmills	SNRM1	Parsons Memorial Hall, Leys Lane
Upton	SNUP1	Mobile Unit Banbury Lane
	SNUP2	Pineham Barns Primary School
	SNUP3	The Elgar Centre, 1A High Street
	SNUP4	St Crispin Retirement Village, St Crispin Drive
	SNUP5	St Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston
West Hunsbury	SNWH1	Parsons Mead Community Hub, Parsons Mead
	SNWH2	Mobile Unit, Ladybridge Drive, West Hunsbury

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Appendix 3

Final Consultation

Lodge Far Community Centre

Sally Keeble

I am writing yet again about the proposed use of Lodge Farm as a polling station.

It seems there's been more vandalism there. The door to the community centre has been broken, and as a result for some reason the windows have had to be boarded up. Presumably at some stage it will be repaired, although apparently the cost is put at £5,000.

This building is not suitable for use as a polling station - it's clearly subject to repeated vandalism, in addition to the dark and the appalling access.

As I have suggested before, there is the Jehovah Witness carpark, or the flat concreted surface opposite it. either would be suitable for a mobile unit. If you could get the county council to turn the lights on, that would further improve things.

Cllr Danielle Stone

I totally support this proposal. Safe access must be a priority.

Cllr Janice Duffy

Along with complaints about unsuitability of lodge farm as a polling station, may I also repeat what I have already previously emailed about this location, inasmuch that residents do not like to use lodge farm for clubs etc because of the area's neglected appearance and lack of light.

Vandalism of the dog ramp recently can be blamed most probably on these outstanding issues too and lodge farm in its present state gives lots of opportunities for anti social and negative activities

Sally Keeble

Attached are two pages of a petition opposing the use of Lodge Farm as a polling station.

One of the things to note about this is that the people who have signed are mostly those who live just across the road from the building, and know how difficult it is for people who go there at night. Even those who have used it previously as a polling station during light summer evenings have said they would not want to go there after dark

I think this underlines the importance of finding a different venue. One person remembered that the Jesus Centre (now JW centre) was used previously. I think then the building was used rather than just the car park. The other suggestion was that there is a flat concrete base at the side of Lodge farm which would probably be suitable for a mobile polling station - with some lighting around the front.

However, I think this emphasises the need to make more suitable arrangements.

Please let me know if you need more signatures. It didn't take very long to get these - but I am quite busy just now. Please could you make sure that this petition is made available to any meeting that considers polling stations or the review of them.

### Appendix 3

The problem isn't with the inside of the building during the daytime, which I'm familiar with. The problem is the externals and getting there. It's not acceptable. I've attached some pictures and bear in mind these were taken in early evening long before polls would close and before the clocks change.

Try driving there after dark, even that is impossible, there's no lightning and no signage.

If you look on my Facebook page people have said they won't go there.

To put a polling station there is to directly prevent people from exercising their right to vote.

The borough must provide a safe alternative, such as a mobile unit.

Hello All

This is Lodge Farm. The pictures were taken in the early evening several weeks ago - so before the evenings drew in and the clocks changed. You can see clearly the level of street lighting and also the security lighting. You can see the access routes which are unmarked, unlit and unsafe.

It is inconceivable that people would brave these conditions to go and vote and it is completely unreasonable to expect them to do so.

Sally Keeble



## Appendix 3

### Final Consultation

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Sally Keeble



























Google Maps Northampton, England



Image capture: Jul 2015 © 2019 Google



Street View - Jul 2015



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Appendix 3

Good morning

The use of Standens Barn as a Polling Station has been put to the Board of Trustees for consideration, pending their decision I have detailed below the current situation with the building.

The building is due to undergo extensive refurbishment work, some of which has already started; with asbestos being removed in the next week, once this is complete work throughout the building will begin, (this includes removal of ceilings, some walls and sanitaryware) which will make it unsafe for the general public to use. The planned work is estimated to take 12 weeks, in view of this it may be prudent for you to source an alternative venue as a polling station should a snap election be called during this period.

Use of the building as a Polling Station once the Foundation has opened will be dependent on the timetable of programmes being delivered during the day. Our daytime programme participants will be some of the most vulnerable in the town, our responsibility to safeguard their anonymity and wellbeing is our priority.

Once I have the Board's decision, I will let you know.

Kind regards

*Rachael Hayward*



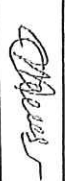






Charity Secretary and Project Development Manager  
The Frank Bruno Foundation

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# Lodge farm polling station

We the undersigned object to the Lodge Farm community building being used as a polling station. We would not be able to go there after dark because of the poor access, lack of lighting and security concerns. We therefore demand that Northampton Borough Council provides us with a safe, accessible polling station so we can exercise our democratic right to vote.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
SUSIE DUNKLEY	3 CRESTWOOD CLOSE NN3 8NR	
MARGALENA MACIASZEY-BAMBARD	9 CRESTWOOD CLOSE NN3 8NR	Margie Bambard
CHRIS BANKS	11 CRESTWOOD NN3 8NR	
VIRGINIA VASILIAUSKAITE	21 CRESTWOOD CLOSE NN3 8NR NORTHAMPTON	
LORRAINE UNDERWOOD	25, Crestwood Close NN3 8NR	Mildredwood.
Alexandra Evans	31 Crestwood Close NN3 8NR	
Ava Maria Pitt	39 Crestwood Close	
Dean Miller	43 Crestwood Close	
Sarah Young	55 Crestwood Close	
JONATHAN MERRAD	42 CRESTWOOD CLOSE	
PAUL CHICK	36 CRESTWOOD CLOSE	





*JK*

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NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
LOUISE UNDERWOOD	16 WESTWOOD CLOSE	<i>Underwood</i>
SUE PRITCHETT	49 Crestwood Gardens	<i>S.M. Pritchett</i>
Phil Jones	46 Gestwood Gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>
Fiona Mills	42 Crestwood Gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>
L. Mae.	41 Crestwood Gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>
K. Richards	40 Crestwood Gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>
R. Williams	24 .. ..	<i>[Signature]</i>
W. Tomney	25 Crestwood gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>
G. Smith	94c Crestwood Eden's	<i>[Signature]</i>
E. Faulkner	3 Crestwood Gardens	<i>[Signature]</i>



# Operation Viper tackles serious organised crime

## Main article content

## Navigation

### [News](#)

10:00 17/10/2019

Police officers are today conducting searches of open areas of land in Northampton as part of Operation Viper, the Northamptonshire Police crackdown on serious organised crime.

Led by specialist search experts, the teams are searching in the Blackthorn area for illegally held weapons including firearms and drugs which may have been hidden by criminals.

The searches are being carried out based on information received from within local communities regarding the caching of these items in easily-accessed areas of land.

Detective Chief Inspector Lee McBride, who leads on Operation Viper for the force, said: "Today's searches are all intelligence-led to try to locate weapons or drugs.

"As well as posing a risk to those who may inadvertently and innocently come across them, these items both enable and incite serious violence that we as a force will not tolerate.

"There have been two shootings in the wider area in the past year, with these incidents illustrating just how important it is that we do all we can to take illegal firearms out of circulation in order to protect people from harm.

"Our work today shows no stone will be left unturned as we pursue those involved in serious organised crime. Our message to those who have access to these items is that we know where and how you may try to hide them, and we will find them and we will take action against you over them.

"To our communities, I hope these searches illustrate that we act on the information you provide to us. Thank you for telling us what you know, and be reassured that we use that intelligence to take the fight to the criminals proactively and robustly.

"If you have any information at all that could help us, please report it directly to the Force by calling 101, or let the independent charity Crimestoppers know anonymously by calling 0800 555111."

Tackling serious organised crime, including serious violence and drug-related activity, is a priority for Northamptonshire Police. Read more about [Operation Viper here](#).

