

Responses to the Consultation Exercise

1. Email sent on 26 May 2011 by the Clerk to Ongar Town Council.
2. Email sent on 2 June 2011 by the Clerk of Theydon Bois Parish Council.
3. Email sent on 2 June 2011 by Brentwood and Ongar Liberal Democrats agent.
4. Email sent on 5 June 2011 by a Buckhurst Hill local resident.
5. Email sent on 6 June 2011 by District Councillor Brian Sandler.
6. Email sent on 14 June 2011 by District Councillor Gary Waller.
7. Letter dated 22 June 2011 from Brentwood Borough Council.
8. Email sent on 22 June 2011 by the Clerk of Loughton Town Council.

Wendy Macleod

From: Clerk Ongar Town Council <clerk@ongartowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 May 2011 19:15
To: Wendy Macleod
Subject: RE: Polling district and polling station review 2011

Dear Wendy,

The Town Council are happy with the current arrangements.

Many thanks

Afmi Middlehurst
Clerk to Ongar Town Council
Bansons
Bansons Way
Ongar
Essex
CM5 9AS
Email: Clerk@ongartowncouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01277 365348
Fax: 01277 362315
www.ongartowncouncil.gov.uk

From: Wendy Macleod [<mailto:WMacleod@eppingforestdc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 26 May 2011 11:59
To: Fyfield PC; Clerk Ongar Town Council; Lambourne PC; Stapleford Abbots PC; Stapleford Tawney PC; Willingale PC; High Ongar PC; MBL Group; Theydon Garnon PC
Subject: Polling district and polling station review 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places, Polling Stations

Under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, the Council is required to undertake a review of Polling Districts/Places/Stations every four years.

With EU Parliamentary and County Council elections in 2009, the UK Parliamentary election in 2010 and the recent Referendum on the Voting system, all the polling stations throughout the District have been used during each of the last three years. As a result of this, The Returning Officer has no plans to change any polling districts or alter any of the current polling places or polling stations.

Attached are the up to date lists of polling stations for your relevant Parliamentary Constituency.

Any comments or observations on the polling stations for your Parish/Town Council area should be submitted in writing to: Wendy MacLeod, Senior Electoral Services Officer, EFDC, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping, CM16 4BZ Or by email to elections@eppingforestdc.gov.uk by 25 June at the latest.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Macleod

From: Theydon Bois Parish Clerk <parishclerk@theydon.org.uk>
Sent: 02 June 2011 13:45
To: Wendy Macleod
Subject: RE: Polling district and polling station review 2011

Dear Wendy

I acknowledge receipt of your email and confirm that we have no comments.

Regards

Sally Crone, Parish Clerk, Theydon Bois Parish Council

From: Wendy Macleod [mailto:WMacleod@eppingforestdc.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 May 2011 11:55
To: Buckhust Hill PC; Chigwell PC; Loughton TC; Epping Upland PC; Epping TC; Waltham Abbey TC; Theydon Bois PC
Subject: Polling district and polling station review 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places, Polling Stations

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Yours faithfully

Wendy MacLeod
Senior Electoral Services Officer

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This email is for the use of the intended recipients only. Any opinion or advice it contains is that of the sender and does not bind the authority in any way. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender

Wendy Macleod

From: Charles Myers
Sent: 02 June 2011 19:47
To: Jon Whitehouse; Wendy Macleod
Subject: Review of Polling Stations & Districts

Hi Jon,

I have received a letter from Wendy MacLeod on this topic. She enclosed a list of the Polling Districts and Stations within Epping Forest District Council and which are part of Brentwood & Ongar Constituency.

Wendy says that they are not planning any changes to this list, which of course you know well. It is listed in the part of the EARS data that you manage. She also says that if I have any comments to make she should receive them by 25th June.

~~I have no comments that I wish to make~~ but if you with your local knowledge have any comments rather than send them to me, you could send them direct to Wendy and just copy me in. I am sure she would be happy with that, but I will copy this email to her.

Thanks for your help.

Charles

Wendy Macleod

From:
Sent: 05 June 2011 12:42
To: Epping Forest Elections
Subject: Polling stations review

Sir,

I have recently seen on your website that a review of polling station is underway. As such I would make the following observation / suggestion.

With Regard to Buckhurst Hill East Ward, there are 2 polling stations AA & AB. The siting of AA at the Woodard center sits well for the electorate who can get to this center with relative ease (thinking of less able bodied persons).

However with regard to the AB polling station sited at the Roding Valley center this is much more difficult being at the furthest point in the ward from most voters who have to either walk a long way or travel by car. This situation could be remedied by moving the polling station to be more central for all voters and I would commend moving it to Health center in Buckhurst Way.

The benefits of doing so are;

That it is in the middle of the ward

Voters would have equal (ish) distance to travel to vote.

It would be fairer.

Voters with disabilities would be more encouraged to go out and vote.

It would encourage more voters to come out and vote even in inclement weather.

It would be closer to the residential homes in the area and be beneficial for these elderly voters. etc.

I look forward to hearing your response on these thoughts and recommendations especially as there are district and Parish election due next May

Regards

Mr M Vance

Wendy Macleod

From: BPSandler@aol.com
Sent: 06 June 2011 19:12
To: Wendy Macleod
Subject: Faversham Hall Chigwell Row

Dear Wendy

I write with deep concern about the possible future of the Polling Station in my Ward Chigwell Row. As you are aware Faversham Hall which is situated in the centre of Chigwell Row is the only Hall that can be used at Polling Day. It was mentioned about a year ago that EFDC housing who own the Hall might consider converting it to two flats. I suggested/requested that if housing no longer had the need for this Hall then it should be passed over to Chigwell Parish Council so that it could still be used by the residents of Chigwell Row for social gatherings and also continue to be used as our Polling Station. This is being considered by Alan Hall but to date I have still not received an answer as to the future of Faversham Hall.

Seeing as you are carrying out a review of all the Polling Stations my I ask for your assistance in keeping Faversham Hall as a Hall for the residents of Chigwell Row. Chigwell Parish Council is very happy and prepared to take over the running of this Hall so there would be no expence to EFDC.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Cllr. Brian P Sandler

Phone: 020 8500 1665

Wendy Macleod

From: Gary Waller <gary.waller@which.net>
Sent: 14 June 2011 16:29
To: Epping Forest Elections
Subject: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations

To Wendy MacLeod, Senior Electoral Services Officer

Dear Wendy

I'm submitting herewith my observations on the Lower Sheering (CZ) polling station at the Railway Hotel, in connection with the current Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations.

Lower Sheering is unusual in that it does not have any school, village or church hall or similar community facility within its boundaries. For this reason it was necessary in the past to erect a portakabin - type structure for use as a polling station until a change in the law made it possible to use licensed premises. The use of part of a pub for this purpose is still sufficiently uncommon to be a talking point.

It has to be said that the Railway Hotel is not ideal as the location of a polling station, for a number of reasons:

- i) it is just outside the boundary of the ward, albeit by only a short distance;
- ii) it is about 2 miles from the furthest extremity of the ward and in the vicinity of Sheering Road, Harlow, from where electors who wish to vote in person have no choice other than to travel by car because there is no convenient bus service and no safe route for pedestrians;
- iii) the fact that there are 2 entrances to the Railway Hotel, some considerable distance apart from each other, makes it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for a single teller to intercept all electors, tending to undermine part of the democratic process practised by the political parties to encourage electors to use their vote;
- iv) there may be some intending voters who have adopted a principled stance which makes them unwilling to enter licensed premises.

Despite these perceived disadvantages (and I have to say that, while the situation would almost certainly have been different some years ago, no one recently has indicated to me that they have any objection to entering a pub to vote) the use of part of the bar area at the Railway Hotel is currently the best available option and certainly preferable to the alternative of a portakabin. The extension of postal voting eligibility has made it easier for those who live some distance from the pub to exercise their right to vote. I therefore support a continuation of the current arrangements.

Councillor Gary Waller



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Mrs W. Macleod
Senior Electoral Services Officer
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping
Essex CM16 4BZ

Date: 22 June 2011
Our reference: C.T-B

Dear Wendy

Statutory Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations - 2011

With reference to your letter of 31st May 2011. I write to confirm our agreement with your proposals to keep the polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Brentwood & Ongar Constituency unchanged.

Yours sincerely

Carole Tatton-Bennett
Electoral Services Manager
Electoral Services Dept
Telephone: 01277 312752
Email: carole.tatton-bennett@brentwood.gov.uk

Wendy Macleod

From: Enid Walsh <Enid.Walsh@loughton-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 June 2011 18:32
To: Epping Forest Elections
Cc: Wendy Macleod
Subject: Review of polling districts etc 2011

Dear Wendy

With reference to your email message dated 26 May, I can confirm that having considered the matter at a meeting on 8th June 2011, the Town Council does not wish to make a comment under this review.

Kind regards
Enid

Note: We are experiencing temporary difficulties with our email service. If you reply to this message and receive an error message in return, please resend using the same address. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Enid K Walsh, BSc, LRAM, MILCM
Town Clerk

Loughton Town Council, 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ

Tel: 020 8508 4200

Fax: 020 8508 4400

E-mail contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

Web: www.loughton-tc.gov.uk

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