

Appendix C - Summary of Submissions received by ward with Acting Returning Officer's comments by ward

Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2024	
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Amington Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments

No submissions were received.

Belgrave Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Lakeside Primary School	Belgrave	<p>We do not feel that a primary school is a suitable place for polling. It disrupts the day and restricts where the children can go around the school. Also stops staff from using the staff room.</p> <p>What is your alternative to the suggestion for a polling station? Another location</p>	<p>Schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school. Lakeside Primary School, like several other schools used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue. Therefore, no changes are proposed.</p> <p>This submission also lacks to identify another location within the area.</p>
10/09/24	Birdsbush Road	Belgrave	<p>There is no need to close Schools for voting. we always used the Club and this didn't interfere with our children's education.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? No suggestion submitted.</p>	<p>The polling station for this area is located within the Sports Centre at Tamworth Enterprise College. Tamworth Enterprise College is unaffected and does not close to pupils on polling days.</p>

Bolehall Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments

No submissions were received.

Castle Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
10/09/24	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	<p>I live on the Dunstall park estate, I find it a nightmare to go and vote somewhere which is not on our new build estate. Even a mobile one would be great and there is plenty of places to pop one for a day or 2.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Use a mobile or the new build school.</p>	<p>We are currently exploring the possibility of using the newly built Dunstall Park Primary School for the CA5 polling district.</p>
11/09/24	Sunset Close Community Centre	Castle	<p>The location of this polling station in a residential street with no additional parking other than minimal for residents leads to chaos on polling days - parking on pavements, on gardens, parking on double yellow lines, blocking residents in, etc. For those that do not make use of postal voting, I think it's fair to say people use their cars for in-person voting. Suitable venues with sufficient parking are needed & a small residential community centre is no longer suitable for the size of the ward with the expansion of housing areas covered by the Sunset Close Community Centre.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? The St John's Ambulance training centre or adjacent Army Cadet centre has a dedicated parking area off the Moor Street roundabout. The local primary schools (there's a new one on what was once the farming areas around Dunstall) are all within the Castle Borough. There are numerous empty shops or properties within the town centre itself.</p>	<p>Sunset Close Community Centre is a well-known and well used by the local community. It has recently, under gone some refurbishment. The building has suitable disabled access including ramps and has its own parking facilities including dedicated disabled parking facilities.</p> <p>The polling station is on a main bus route connecting different parts of the polling district. No comments have been received from electors at the recent polls. Therefore, no change is recommended with the exception of exploring moving the CA5 polling district to the newly built Dunstall Park Primary School. This should help alleviate parking issues that may occur round the Sunset Close Community Centre at peak times.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
13/09/24	Sea Cadet Centre	Castle	<p>Wheelchair access to this polling station not provided.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Kettlebrook short stay school, Tame Street.</p>	<p>There is a purpose-built ramp located at this polling station. Access into this building has been checked and is suitable for those in a wheelchair. No complaints have been received from electors regarding accessibility at recent polls.</p>

Glascote Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Stoneydelph Primary School	Glascote	The submission contained no comments.	No response required as no comments were made.
10/09/24	Oakhill Primary School	Glascote	<p>I think we should move away from using schools especially now families are being fined for removing their children from school.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? St Peters church and community centre would be a better place as its open and can be used instead of interrupting children's education.</p>	We are currently exploring the possibility of using St Peter's Church as an alternative.
11/09/24	Oakhill Primary School	Glascote	<p>It's a school, and pupils are missing a day's schooling. Perhaps move up the hill 200 hundred yards to St Peters Church.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? St Peters Church 200 yards up.</p>	We are currently exploring the possibility of using St Peter's Church as an alternative.

Mercian Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
13/09/24	Lark Hall Infant & Nursery Academy	Mercian	<p>The building is a school which causes stress and disruption to all parents and children who attend this school. I believe that polling stations shouldn't be held at schools, churches or community centres could be uses instead if people are unable to do a postal vote.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Postal vote or maybe Coton Green Community Centre.</p>	Coton Green Community Centre is already utilised as a polling station for the ME3 and ME6 polling districts.
13/09/24	Lark Hall Infant & Nursery Academy	Mercian	<p>They're schools which interrupts with child education. You have plenty of empty building such as the Coton Centre which could be made better use of. You use the incorrect buildings. Schools should not be accessible for anyone outside of schooling age or their parents or guardians.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Coton Centre.</p>	<p>It should be noted that although the Mercian Ward currently uses two schools as polling stations the schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
				<p>suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue.</p> <p>The Coton Centre is not within the borough boundary and therefore cannot be allocated as a polling station for this polling district.</p>
13/09/24	Lark Hall Infant & Nursery Academy	Mercian	<p>I don't think it's appropriate to keep disturbing children's education time when there are plenty of appropriate spaces to use as polling stations like churches and postal voting is also available. My view is that it is not ok for government to keep talking about the importance of children's attendance and but then also say well it's fine for schools to close for polling. There are other buildings available, such as churches for example St Francis Church on Masefield Drive and the Spital Church on Ashby Road also alternative buildings such as the tennis and</p>	<p>Please see comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>St Andrew's is currently has two polling stations allocated to it and cannot facilitate a third polling station.</p> <p>St Francis</p> <p>The Spital Chapel has been looked at previously and does not meet the</p>

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			<p>bowls club on Wigginton Road and the community centre once it's back up and running on Masefield Drive.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? All local churches could be used in the area, there are St Andrews which I know is already used but also St Francis, the Spital Chapel but there is also the Coton Centre and the community centre or children's centre on Masefield Drive. The tennis and bowls club on Wigginton Road. Maybe some local pubs would happily allow function rooms to be used such as the Wigginton Arms and the Tam O Shanter.</p>	<p>accessibility requirements required for polling stations.</p> <p>The Coton Centre is not within the borough boundary and therefore cannot be allocated as a polling station for this polling district.</p> <p>The location of the tennis and bowls is too far away from the population of the ME2 polling district to be considered as an alternative.</p> <p>Contact will be made with St Francis Chapel and Leyfields Community Centre to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
13/09/24	Lark Hall Infant & Nursery Academy	Mercian	<p>The school has to shut and the children miss out on learning and parents have to find alternative arrangements or have to take leave from work. They shouldn't be held in schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Community halls</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>

Spital Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Would prefer another location was used as it means a school has to shut.</p> <p>What is your alternative to the suggestion for a polling station? A local church building.</p>	<p>Schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a</p>

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				polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue. Therefore, no changes are proposed.
11/09/24	Anker Valley Primary Academy	Spital	<p>Although easy to find, I don't feel that primary schools are suitable for polling stations, it is negatively affecting our children's education.</p> <p>What is your alternative to the suggestion for a polling station? Church halls, community centres, bars, restaurants.</p>	Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>They're schools which interrupts with child education. You have plenty of empty building such as the Coton Centre which could be made better use of. You use the incorrect buildings. Schools should not be accessible for anyone outside of schooling age or their parents or guardians.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Coton Centre.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>The Coton Centre is not within the borough boundary and therefore cannot be allocated as a polling station for this polling district.</p>
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Children are kept out of school. Needs to be different places like pubs or social clubs not school.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Social clubs Church halls</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>

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13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Other premises available to use rather than closing schools. I would rather schools were not used.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Coton Centre could be used.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>The Coton Centre is not within the borough boundary and therefore cannot be allocated as a polling station for this polling district.</p>
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>My child is missing out on her education and there are plenty of other places you can use. Children's education is important and there are plenty of other buildings you could use.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Spital tennis club, church halls, local pubs.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Children are losing out on education when there are more suitable premises nearby. I do not understand why a school would be chosen this is detrimental to the children who attend this school. Surely a local building that is not in use for such important work would be a better location. Necessary but need to be more practical in location.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? St Francis Church - Masefield Drive Leyfields Community Centre - Masefield Drive St Andrew's Methodist church - Milton Ave Coton Centre - Comberford Road</p>	Please see first comment.
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	I don't think it's appropriate to keep disturbing children's education time when there are plenty of appropriate spaces to use as polling stations	

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			<p>like churches and postal voting is also available. My view is that it is not ok for government to keep talking about the importance of children's attendance and but then also say well it's fine for schools to close for polling. There are other buildings available, such as churches for example St Francis Church on Masefield Drive and the Spital Church on Ashby Road also alternative buildings such as the tennis and bowls club on Wigginton Road and the community centre once it's back up and running on Masefield Drive.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? All local churches could be used in the area, there are St Andrews which I know is already used but also St Francis, the Spital Chapel but there is also the Coton Centre and the community centre or children's centre on Masefield Drive. The tennis and bowls club on Wigginton Road. Maybe some local pubs would happily allow function rooms to be used such as the Wigginton Arms and the Tam O Shanter.</p>	
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>It's a school. Therefore, it has to shut to pupils which means they lose a day's education but yet we as parents get fined for taking them out of school or low attendance. It isn't acceptable. There are plenty of other local building that could be used for example church, pubs etc. They shouldn't be held in schools. Majority will and can do it online</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Currently there is no provision within electoral law to allow for online voting. Every elector has the choice to cast their vote in person at a polling station or by</p>

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			<p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? No comment left.</p>	<p>applying for an absent vote e.g. postal vote.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Invisible disruptive to pupils to close the school, there are enough polling stations close enough without disturbing the school. They should be a least disruptive to the community as possible.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? St Andrews, QEMS as they have out buildings.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>QEMS is already utilised as a polling station.</p>
13/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>I do not believe that schools should be used as a polling station. My son attends this school and causes several difficulties when arranging childcare to look after him.</p> <p>This also will/may have a negative impact on his educational development. And speaking on behalf of some families. This may cause a negative impact on their finances as they may have to take unpaid special leave with their employment and/or pay excessive childcare fees.</p> <p>It's very frustrating when I know there is a poll coming up knowing that my son's school is being used.</p> <p>I completely disagree with schools being used based on the above points that I have raised. I get there has to be a vote. However, I feel in my opinion that there is no respect for the families that are encouraged to vote. The people that vote are those whose lives are impacted by those who are voted into office. It seems like</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>The hours of poll are set in legislation as 7am to 10pm. Unfortunately, there is no way that these can be amended. It is similar with polling days. Local elections always take place on the first Thursday in May. All other elections, including by-elections and unscheduled polls such as Parliamentary elections have a defined timescale of 25 days in which to set up and run the poll.</p> <p>The location of polling stations should be within the polling district unless there are no suitable venues within it. It is not possible to use locations such as the Castle Grounds or other locations within the town centre. Tamworth College is in the process of being decommissioned from its</p>

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			<p>there's no respect in that sense due to families being financially and mentally, impacted by the situation of closing the school for the purpose of voting.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Firstly, if schools are to be used then this should be done out of school hours.</p> <p>Secondly, I'm sure there are numerous halls/offices that be used instead of affecting children's education.</p> <p>The college whereby childcare isn't necessarily an issue.</p> <p>Setting up gazebo's in the town centre/castle grounds.</p> <p>I'm sure that there are numerous other options that should be considered before impacting all those people's lives whereby raising a child is hard enough.</p>	<p>current site and is therefore not a suitable location.</p>
14/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Because it is a school and therefore it is forced to close resulting in our children missing out on education, yet the government can fine us for taking our children on holiday. So therefore, I think the school shouldn't be used. I think schools should not be used for these days as there is other places that can be used.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Contact will be made with St Francis Church to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>

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			<p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? There are other places such as St Francis Church and other buildings that has nothing in when polling is going on.</p>	
15/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>You continue to use schools for polling stations when there are plenty of other free alternatives such as community centres or churches.</p> <p>This results in the children being out of school unnecessarily and additional pressure placed on working parents to take a day off work or find alternative childcare arrangements.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Find alternative locations - churches/community centres/council offices anything other than schools!!</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>
15/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>The fact that 3 schools close within a two-mile radius that I know of. Is far in excess of what is required as far as I'm concerned. Not only do we have to find childcare for inset days after school holidays (personally they should be done in the school holidays) but also polling days. We have a child at Ashcroft so I'd rather that remain open too. Why not utilise church halls, community centres or the use of portacabins for example? Therefore, keeping all schools open!! Better for the children and better too for parents.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Portacabins, church halls and community centres are a simple solution.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>

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15/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>Because children are missing days of education. I don't agree with having them in schools as there are plenty of halls and churches.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? The church near by.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>
16/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>This is a school. If we take a child out school for 1 day it effects their education however a day off school for voting don't seem to affect their education my son's grandma passed away and he lost attendance to go to her funeral after having 100% attendance however he can have a day of for people to vote it's very hypocritical.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Leyfields family hub or churches in the area.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Contact will be made with Staff Francis Chapel and Leyfields Community Centre to see if these would be viable for use as polling stations.</p>
20/09/24	Flax Hill Junior Academy	Spital	<p>There are plenty of other places that could be used to vote, local pubs with function rooms/ separate entrance, local churches etc. I think it's appalling that a school has to close for the day due to safeguarding issue as it's open to the public. Please stop closing schools for voting stations.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Local pubs, churches, centres etc.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>

Stonydelph Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Stoneydelph Primary School	Stonydelph	The submission contained no comments.	
10/09/24	Pennymoor Community Centre	Stonydelph	<p>I don't think school should be used. Some Tamworth schools were closed for 3 days during the last school year. October -MP, May - local elections, July - General election.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? I suggest church halls or social clubs could be used. Instead of closing schools.</p>	<p>Schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the schools. Lakeside Primary School, like several other schools used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a</p>

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				<p>requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue. Therefore, no changes are proposed.</p> <p>This submission also lacks to identify another location within the area.</p>
11/09/24	Name of polling station not left	Stonydelph	No comment left.	

Trinity Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Dorcas Centre	Trinity	<p>When my children were younger and were going to Two Gates Primary school and it would be closed for elections that there was other places where they could have used different venues and at the same time that my address even though I live in Two Gates I didn't vote there and had to go to Dosthill.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Instead of the school at Two Gates I would use the Tamworth Community Hub And Masjid ,Greatmead ,Kettlebrook ,B77 1DL. For the Dorcas centre I cannot think of anywhere which is as suitable as the Dorcas centre.</p>	<p>Schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school. Lakeside Primary School, like several other schools used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a</p>

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				<p>polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue. Therefore, no changes are proposed.</p> <p>Park Farm Community, Greatmead is not within the Trinity ward and is already utilised as a polling station for the BE4 polling district which is part of the Belgrave Ward.</p>

Wilnecote Ward

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
09/09/24	Heathfield Infants School & Wilnecote Junior School	Wilnecote	<p>Polling stations should be accessible and not impact on the daily lives of others. It does not make sense to have two separate stations when either school is big enough for both areas and when there are other local options.</p> <p>What is your alternative to the suggestion for a polling station?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilnecote working men's club. • Wilnecote church / associated buildings • Wilnecote parish hall - on old a5 near mc Donald's / Wilnecote motors • Wilnecote cricket club • Overwoods Arms / Queen's Head - could put a cabin on both car parks. • Wilnecote scout hut opposite MHR carpets on old A5. • Cabin on public land off Tamar Road. 	<p>Polling place electorate ratios are recommended by the Electoral Commission. They have set this at 2,500 electors. Due to this it not advisable to have a polling station with more that 2,500 electors. Both polling places are just under this threshold and therefore, it is not possible to create one polling station that would cover the majority of the electorate in the ward.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the school are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst school must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue</p>

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				<p>and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p>

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				<p>Wilnecote Cricket Club is an unsuitable location as there is an uneven ground and no step free access into the cricket pavilion.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.</p> <p>Therefore, at the present time I am proposing no changes are made to the current polling districts, polling places or polling stations.</p>
10/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	Voting should not be held in school premises. Children losing a day every year because of it.	Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.

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			<p>There is a church hall nearby or use a container as you do in many other locations.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Church next door to Wilnecote Junior Academy. Or working man's club. A container voting station on a green space around the Wilnecote infant academy.</p>	<p>To move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Also, the generators that the temporary stations use tend to be loud and can cause difficulties for those that are hard of hearing as well as being unpleasant for polling staff. Conversely, if the Authority was to turn down the use of an accessible building in favour of one that is not as suitable for use by disabled people this could also increase the risk of a claim for disability discrimination.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p> <p>Contact will be made with Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy / Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>I think using a school for voting is ridiculous when you fine people for taking their kids out of school but feel it is fine to shut for voting. There are plenty of halls/ public houses you could use.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote Parish Hall</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p>
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>The use of this building closes both the infants and juniors schools. The only room used for voting is the school hall. This is a massive</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			<p>inconvenience for the school pupils, staff and parents. These should not take place in schools. Church halls, community centres, pubs with rooms to rent should be sourced.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Rent a room at the Overwoods pub or use a portable polling station like the one used on Peel Drive in Wilnecote or the Scout hut on Watling Street.</p>	<p>To move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Also, the generators that the temporary stations use tend to be loud and can cause difficulties for those that are hard of hearing as well as being unpleasant for polling staff. Conversely, if the Authority was to turn down the use of an accessible building in favour of one that is not as suitable for use by disabled people this could also increase the risk of a claim for disability discrimination.</p> <p>Contact will be made with the Overwoods Public House to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Makes no sense to close TWO schools for voting. Disrupts children and working parents have to find childcare. No issues, but do not agree with schools being used.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote Parish Hall Belgrave Sports & Social Club</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Belgrave Sports and Social Club is not within the Wilnecote Ward and therefore is not suitable based on its location.</p>
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>I have stated no as I don't believe children should have a day off due to voting. This has an impact on children's education as well as the</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p>

Date	Polling Station	Ward	Comments	Acting Returning Officer's comments
			<p>impact on parents trying to find alternative childcare. This also isn't fair on parents who are fined when they want to take their children out of school in order to create memories for their children, but it is okay for councils to implement these voting days! Shouldn't be allowed in schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? A youth club, church or somewhere that doesn't involve children having the day off.</p>	<p>There is no youth club in the locality. Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Because it means the school has to close to the children which affects their education but you don't see it's fair enough for us to give our children a day off. One rule for one, one rule for another.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? What about the Wilnecote hall? Or library? Never understood why you would use a school and make children go without.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Wilnecote Library is located within Wilnecote High School and is not has very limited opening hours due to this. There is limited open space to house two polling stations and therefore, this premises would not be suitable.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Closes the schools for the day. Other places could easily be used without affecting thousands of people. I don't believe schools should be used.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Church building, Scouts building.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p>

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				<p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p>
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>It needs to be varied to other premises. Unfair to children and parents to be expected to continually miss work/ school. Another site should be used i.e. Wilnecote High School/ Wilnecote Juniors. Fine if used fairly.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote High School. Wilnecote Juniors. Dosthill Primary school.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Junior School is already used as a polling station. Dosthill Primary School is not within the Wilnecote Ward and therefore is not a suitable alternative location.</p>
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>There are many other buildings that could be used that would not disrupt our children's education by closing of the schools each time there is a polling day. I think there is no need for us to use educational areas to hold the polling stations. As just mentioned, there are plenty of other buildings in the area which could be used to hold the stations without disrupting our children's education each time a vote is held.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote working men's Club, Wilnecote Parish Hall, a Wilnecote Church, Wilnecote Cricket Club.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Wilnecote Cricket Club is an unsuitable location as there is an uneven ground and no step free access into the cricket pavilion.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p>

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				Contact will be made with Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.
11/09/24	No polling station name	Wilnecote	<p>Stop closing school and use working mens clubs or function rooms. Shouldn't be in schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? No suggestion left.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>My child's school is Wilnecote Junior and I find it extremely annoying that Wilnecote Junior school and Heathfields infant school both have to be used as polling stations alternate every time a polling day occurs. There is no need for both to be used at the same time with the close proximity of each school.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Not for schools to be used. Churches or community halls should be used instead, the children should not suffer. We aren't allowed to take the kids out of school but the council can use the schools at a drop of a hat. Totally not fair.</p>	<p>Polling place electorate ratios are recommended by the Electoral Commission. They have set this at 2,500 electors. Due to this it not advisable to have a polling station with more that 2,500 electors. Both polling places are just under this threshold and therefore, it is not possible to create one polling station that would cover the majority of the electorate in the ward.</p> <p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy & Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	It is not appropriate to close two schools at either end of the same road to allow for voting. Children's education is more important. If we take our children out of school for a day due to a holiday then we get fined. Yet the council choose to disrupt our children's education for	Polling place electorate ratios are recommended by the Electoral Commission. They have set this at 2,500 electors. Due to this it not advisable to have a polling station with more that 2,500 electors. Both polling places are just under this threshold and therefore, it is not

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			<p>however many days due to polling and that's ok? Double standards.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Churches, community centres or social clubs should be the venues not schools. Wilnecote church, Wilnecote library, Wilnecote working men's club.</p>	<p>possible to create one polling station that would cover the majority of the electorate in the ward.</p> <p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Wilnecote Cricket Club is an unsuitable location as there is an uneven ground and no step free access into the cricket pavilion.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p> <p>Contact will be made with Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>It would be less disruptive if an alternative location could be found, to avoid the need to close the school for more polling days. As above, it would be preferable if an alternative polling place could be found, to avoid school closures.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? No comment left.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>No alternative venue has been specifically identified by the submission.</p>

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11/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>It's a school. Children need to go to school. Need to be open outside of school hours and not held at schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Should be a community centre / library. There are plenty more suitable options locally please.</p>	Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy & Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>This site should not be used as it is a school and this disrupts children's education and parents work commitments. There are plenty of other spaces that could be used such as the scout hut or clubs/pubs library etc. Do not use schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Scout hut Wilnecote library Working men's club Overwoods arms Mobile unit in a car park</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>To move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Also, the generators that the temporary stations use tend to be loud and can cause difficulties for those that are hard of hearing as well as being unpleasant for polling staff. Conversely, if the Authority was to turn down the use of an accessible building in favour of one that is not as suitable for use by disabled people this could also increase the risk of a claim for disability discrimination.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p>

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				<p>Wilnecote Library is located within Wilnecote High School and is not has very limited opening hours due to this. There is limited open space to house two polling stations and therefore, this premises would not be suitable.</p> <p>Contact will be made with the Overwoods Public House and Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if these would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
11/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy & Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Because it means closing the school to our children's education which is not correct. They should be un-intrusive to education and could utilise many more suitable locations.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? There should be a mobile unit in designated car parks around the district which may provide more accessibility for others.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>To move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Also, the generators that the temporary stations use tend to be loud and can cause difficulties for those that are hard of hearing as well as being unpleasant for polling staff. Conversely, if the Authority was to turn down the use of an accessible building in favour of one that is not as suitable for use by disabled people this could also increase the risk of a claim for disability discrimination.</p>
12/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy & Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	The main reason being the schools have to be closed for students on polling days. Many families have two working parents and struggle	Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.

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			<p>to find childcare when schools are closed for polling. There are lots of other buildings within the community which could be used. Schools should not be used when there are other buildings to be utilised which wouldn't disrupt the school day.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote Parish Hall Scout Hut (Nine Foot Park)</p>	<p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p>
12/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Stop using schools as polling stations. There is plenty of space for pop up stations and empty buildings to be used. The council fine us for taking our children out of school as their education is SO IMPORTANT then children miss school so people can vote. There is plenty of other options. Other councils prioritise children's education and do not shut the schools. STOP USING SCHOOLS AS POLLING STATIONS.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Pop up stations on the field on Orkney drive, doctor's car park, high school field.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>To move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination. Also, the generators that the temporary stations use tend to be loud and can cause difficulties for those that are hard of hearing as well as being unpleasant for polling staff. Conversely, if the Authority was to turn down the use of an accessible building in favour of one that is not as suitable for use by disabled people this could also increase the risk of a claim for disability discrimination.</p>

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13/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Due to it being a school and having to close on polling days. I think ALL school-based polling stations need to find alternative venues (other than schools) due to the children missing days in education. Especially now that fines have been increased for parents taking their child out of school during term time. This feels like hypocrisy at its best!</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote Working Mens Club</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>Contact will be made with Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>
15/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>Because it results in unnecessarily closing of the school so our children cannot attend. I believe there are enough unoccupied buildings that could be utilised during the day for a polling station without closing schools and disrupting learning and making it more difficult for parents who have to work.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Scouts hall, mobile voting station.</p>	<p>Please see first comment above regarding the use of school buildings.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p>
16/09/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>School shuts for a day which doesn't help working parents or the impact to the children's education. These should be in community centres or even churches and should not impact schools as it's an inconvenience to parents and also impacts children's education. Plus, very hypocritical that you can shut a school for political reason but kids can't be taken out of school by their parents to go on holiday which has a benefit to a child's wellbeing and potential education depending on destination, which</p>	<p>Polling place electorate ratios are recommended by the Electoral Commission. They have set this at 2,500 electors. Due to this it not advisable to have a polling station with more that 2,500 electors. Both polling places are just under this threshold and therefore, it is not possible to create one polling station that would cover the majority of the electorate in the ward.</p>

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			<p>leads to parents getting fined. Do the councils get fined for shutting schools!!?</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? community centres, churches, parish halls, working men's clubs</p>	<p>It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the school are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst school must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review</p>

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				<p>the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Wilnecote Cricket Club is an unsuitable location as there is an uneven ground and no step free access into the cricket pavilion.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all</p>

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				<p>voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.</p>
18/09/24	Heathfields Infant Academy & Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>As a working parent, with a child at this school it's hugely inconvenient to have to seek childcare for polling days on such regularity on top of school holidays, which I appreciate you can do nothing about.</p> <p>Surely there are more appropriate spaces given the changing demographic of the voting population. When they were set up most mums stayed at home, this is no longer the case. It also disadvantages those children as they miss days of education.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Church hall. The actual church. Parish hall. Scout hut. A gazebo, like you do on the valley drive estate(!)</p>	<p>Polling place electorate ratios are recommended by the Electoral Commission. They have set this at 2,500 electors. Due to this it not advisable to have a polling station with more that 2,500 electors. Both polling places are just under this threshold and therefore, it is not possible to create one polling station that would cover the majority of the electorate in the ward.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the school are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst school must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning</p>

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				<p>Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue.</p> <p>The newly build Scout Hut adjacent to Ninefoot Park just falls into the Belgrave</p>

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				<p>Ward. At present there is an uneven surface in the car park and there is no dedicated disabled parking bay. The car park is also utilised by the local businesses so parking in this location could potentially be an issue.</p> <p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Wilnecote Cricket Club is an unsuitable location as there is an uneven ground and no step free access into the cricket pavilion.</p> <p>Wilnecote Church is not a suitable location because as there is no step free entrance into the church grounds or the church.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are only used where there is no suitable alternative in the locality. Although, temporary stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of temporary stations, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area and access issues from paths across uneven/muddy ground which is exacerbated if the weather is poor on or around polling day. If the Authority was to move away from a perfectly accessible</p>

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				building in favour of a temporary station so that the location is slightly more convenient it could open the door for a claim regarding disability discrimination.
27/09/24	Temporary booth	Wilnecote	<p>Schools should not be used as it is a burden on families to find childcare.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Churches, community halls or temporary booths.</p>	A temporary polling station is currently utilised by the WI3 polling district as there is no alternative viable location in the area.
01/10/24	Wilnecote Junior Academy	Wilnecote	<p>It affects the children's education. They should not be in schools.</p> <p>What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)? Wilnecote parish hall Wilnecote working men's club</p>	<p>It should be noted that although the Wilnecote Ward currently uses two schools as polling station the school are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst school must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school and in fact several schools that are used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.</p> <p>Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010.</p>

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				<p>Wilnecote Village Hall is too far away from the main population of the ward and there are no bus routes that would help facilitate the electorate to travel there.</p> <p>Contact will be made with Wilnecote Working Men's Club to see if this would be viable for use as a polling station.</p>