

Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022 - Recommendations

Polling district and polling place	Current polling station	Comments	Recommendations included as part of the review	Summary of consultation responses and, if applicable, alternative facilities considered	Final recommendation
B-BSC Bradfield St Clare	Bradfield St Clare Village Hall	The building is not accessible as the entrance door is narrow and a person in a wheelchair may not be able to access the building.	Explore alternative facilities in the polling district. If an alternative is not available, combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Bradfield St George).	<p>The District Ward Councillor raised concerns regarding polling in a neighbouring polling district and proposed that the Bradfield St Clare Church be explored. The parish council also suggested that the church be used as a polling station.</p> <p>The opportunity for use of the church as a polling station was considered but unfortunately was not suitable for polling due to wheelchair access and space for polling booths.</p>	Polling Place for B-BSC Bradfield St Clare to be confirmed as Bradfield St George Village Hall.
W-STR Stradishall	St Margaret's Church	The footpath to the church is not accessible due to the steep incline on mud and stone. It would be very difficult for a person in a wheelchair or with limited mobility to be able to get to the church door from the parking area at the church gate. In addition, there is poor external lighting and no running water or toilet facilities on site.	Explore alternative facilities in the polling district or close to the polling district boundary. If an alternative is not available, combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Denston).	<p>The parish council raised concerns regarding the loss to the community of not having a polling station in the parish but did not suggest an alternative. The parish council also advised that a project is underway to improve the facilities at the church for use as a community hub.</p> <p>Two options were explored, Café 33 which is within the polling district and Stirling House which is outside of the polling district in the Great Thurlow Parish.</p> <p>Café 33 was not suitable due to the requirement for café customers access to the toilets via the room used for polling and the use of coffee making facilities in the room used for polling.</p> <p>Stirling House was considered suitable for polling with excellent facilities and good accessibility.</p>	<p>Polling Place for W-STR Stradishall to be confirmed as Stirling House.</p> <p>Signpost the parish council and Church to potential funding opportunities and review again at statutory review in October 2023.</p>

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S-POS Poslingford	St Mary's Church	The footpath to the church is not accessible due to the steep incline on mud and stone. It would be very difficult for a person in a wheelchair or with limited mobility to be able to get to the church door from the parking area at the church gate. In addition, there is poor external lighting and no running water or toilet facilities on site.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with a polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Clare or Stansfield).	The District Ward Councillor advised that the parish council holds its meetings at Stansfield Village Hall.	Polling Place for S-POS to be confirmed as Stansfield Village Hall.
W-WES Westley	Westley Club	There are two large steps at the front so a person in a wheelchair would not be able to access the building. It may also be difficult for someone with limited mobility.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Bury St Edmunds – Minden (Westbury)).	Westley Parish Council opposed the proposal to poll in a neighbouring polling district but did not suggest an alternative option. The parish council referred to Electoral Commission guidance stating that councils are required 'so far as is reasonable and practicable to designate as polling places only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled'. The parish council also advised that they would be willing to begin discussions with the Westley Club regarding provision of disabled access, subject to funding be obtained. The District Ward Councillor and eight Westley residents also raised their concerns with the proposal. The church in the Westley Village was also considered but was not accessible.	Polling Place for W-WES Westley to be confirmed as The Westbury Community Centre. Signpost the sand Westley Club to potential funding opportunities and review again at statutory review in October 2023.
B-AMP Ampton, B-LLI Little Littermere and B-TIM Timworth	Ampton Social Club	Village social club which is not used regularly and therefore neglected. Not accessible due to the condition of the pathway to the building and external and internal steps. The building clerk advised that there are no plans to make the building accessible.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Ingham).	The District Ward Councillor advised that no alternative facilities are available in Ampton, Timworth and Little Livermere and that the more naturally associated village for polling would be Great Livermere which is in the same ward.	Polling Place for B-AMP, B-LLI AND B-TIM to be confirmed as Great Livermere Village Hall.
W-FMA Fakenham Magna	St Peter's Church	The footpath to the church is not accessible due to a gravel and bark path. It would be very difficult for a person in a wheelchair or with limited mobility to be able to get to the church door from the gate. In addition, the entrance to the porch has a raised threshold and the only suitable area of the church for polling has a raised platform.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Sapiston).	The parish council responded to raise concerns regarding the impact of polling in a neighbouring village and to suggest that the accessibility problems could be resolved by using matting for the path and ramps for the external and internal steps.	Polling Place for W-FMA to be confirmed as Honington and Sapiston Village Hall. Engage with the parish council and church regarding potential mitigations at the Church and review again at statutory review in October 2023.

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W-LK-SF Lakenheath (Sedge Fen)	Baptist Church Hall	Polling station not available on 4 May 2023 due to building works.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with polling station in a neighbouring polling district (Lakenheath).	<p>A parish councillor responded to ask about electors that may not be able to drive to the neighbouring village. Advice given regarding alternative voting methods such as postal voting.</p> <p>Two District Ward Councillors responded to support a temporary change with one suggesting polling at the Lakenheath Methodist Church.</p>	Polling Place for W-LK-SF to be confirmed as Lakenheath Methodist Church and then reviewed again at statutory review in October 2023.
W-BEC2 Beck Row Part 2	Holywell Row Village Hall	Polling station not available on 4 May 2023 due to building works.	Alternative facility not available in the polling district. Combine with polling station in neighbouring polling district (Beck Row).	<p>The parish council responded to ask if the Baptist Chapel in Holywell Row had been considered. Advice given that it had been considered for polling but was not accessible.</p> <p>Parish council advised that if the Baptist Chapel was not a suitable option then the Beck Row Parish Hub would be a suitable alternative.</p>	Polling Place for W-BEC2 to be confirmed as Beck Row Parish Hub and then reviewed again at statutory review in October 2023.
W-GWR and W-LRW Great Wrating and Little Wrating	Portacabin at Hall Fam, Great Wrating	Portacabin polling station which has caused significant logistical issues at previous elections and supply of an accessible portacabin cannot be guaranteed.	Explore alternative facilities in Great and Little Wrating. If not available, combine with a polling station in neighbouring polling district (Kedington).	<p>Great Wrating Parish Council responded to raise concerns regarding the impact of polling in a neighbouring village and to suggest alternatives as the marquee behind the Red Lion Pub and also an office at the Hall which is owned by Thurlow Estate.</p> <p>The parish council advised that Thurlow Village Hall would be a suitable alternative for polling if a facility could not be identified within the parish.</p> <p>The Red Lion pub was considered but assessed as not suitable for polling due to accessibility and the marquee was also considered and not suitable due to its current use for storage and inadequate heating and lighting.</p> <p>Thurlow Estate was contacted but the office space was only available short-term as it would be let out for commercial use.</p>	Polling Place for W-GWR Great Wrating and W-LWR Little Wrating to be confirmed as Thurlow Village Hall.