

Appendix B: Comments Received in Response to the Consultation

This Appendix summarises all relevant and substantive comments received. Many respondents only filled out their personal details and either agreed or did not comment on any of the proposed changes.

Ward	Respondent	Comment
Brondesbury Park	Local Councillor, Gwen Grahl	I was elected in the Brondesbury Park by-election in May 2021. In this election I received feedback from a number of residents that the Bowling Club polling station in BP4 was not suitably accessible for disabled residents, in particular those who use a wheelchair. I would like to request that the arrangements for disabled residents were reviewed and appropriate adjustments made as I would not want disabled residents to feel alienated from the democratic process as a result of the council failing to make their polling stations accessible.
Cricklewood & Mapesbury	Local Councillor, Tariq Dar	Thanks for your email about polling station for forthcoming local elections in May 2021. I was talking to Rev Stephen Maclean Baptist Church Sneyd Rd Cricklewood. They would be interested to hire the Church for a Polling Station for Cricklewood Mapesbury ward in place of Anson School. Please write to them directly.
Cricklewood & Mapesbury	Existing Polling Place/Station	<p>Hello my local ward councillors and Anson road school ward councillors</p> <p>I just wanted to let you know - regarding this current Brent review of polling arrangements - myself and other governors of Anson primary school are sharing this around and asking where possible that our school, and all schools, not be used as default/automatic polling stations and in fact only be used if absolutely no other option available. Every single day of our children's education matters and especially the last two years they have missed a lot of classroom time.</p> <p>I hope you're all well and thank you for all the community work you do.</p>
Dollis Hill	Brent resident	It would be great to do at the subway station, elevator or wheelchair. I am a mother, so I know how difficult it is to bring a stroller with a child or always ask for someone. I wonder why this is not the case at the station. More than once I observe how people with disabilities have to take a bus to the nearest station and get on the subway there.
Kenton	Existing Polling Place/Station	We understand that the desire is to rationalise the polling stations but also confirm that Lindsay Park Baptist Church are willing to remain a location for a polling station if needed.
Kilburn	Brent resident	Use of Salusbury school causes far too much inconvenience to too many; suggest Kilburn library on Salusbury road would make more sense as an accessible polling venue
Kingsbury	Brent resident	Why is Kingsbury classed under Queensbury, we are two different areas.

Preston	Brent resident	When the current car park is re done where will the polling station be
Preston	Local Councillor, Daniel Kennelly	<p>As a ward councillor, I am keen to express concern over the proposed polling stations in Preston ward for the upcoming local elections. Although I am satisfied with the proposals for both NPR1 and NPR3, I have reservations surrounding the Council's proposed location for NPR2. I consider this location to be unsuitable for residents for the following reasons.</p> <p>My primary concern is the safety of local residents traveling to the area. The past year has regrettably shown the dangers of late night travel, particularly for young women. The current polling station is located in a temporary hut alongside G.E.C Sports Ground. The lighting in the area is inadequate and has been a long-standing safety concern. There are several blind spots and hiding places that have been used for Antisocial behaviour and the storage of dangerous weapons. I am worried that this will deter potential voters from both Edison Drive and Hirst Crescent voting on Election Day. In addition, Brent Council is currently undertaking a review of parking restrictions on Pellatt Road which would significantly impact upon the accessibility of this location. These proposals are likely to restrict local residents ability to park in sight of the polling station and will therefore negatively impact upon voter turnout.</p> <p>Secondly, the proposals have highlighted the potential use of the Century Bowling & Sports Club. I believe that this is misguided and will result in lower voter turnout. The front entrance to the club is located on Logan Road and would represent a significant increase in commute for residents on Blenheim Gardens, East Lane, Hirst Crescent and St. Augustine's Avenue. Although the club is accessible by car, it is not located near any public transport routes. Given Brent Council's commitment to reducing car usage for short journeys and the increasing number of residents who do not own a car, I believe strongly that this site would be inaccessible for a significant number of elderly and vulnerable residents in the ward. Overall, the entrance to the Century Bowling & Sports Club is obscure and located down a narrow side road. As this site is located a significant distance from the main road and public transport links, I believe that Brent Council must reconsider this location.</p> <p>Therefore I propose that a suitable alternative location would be Wembley Primary School. This is a well known landmark in Preston ward which is attended by many families in the local area. The school benefits from good public transport links on both East Lane and Preston Road allowing residents to easily travel from either Hirst Crescent, Logan Road or Walton Gardens. In addition, free parking is available to residents on both local roads and at Hirst Crescent shopping Parade.</p> <p>Currently Wembley Primary School is being proposed as a polling station for Wembley Hill ward. It has previously served as a polling station for Preston ward and has the facilities to accommodate an additional polling station. Brent Council has previously allowed multiple polling stations to be located at the same site. This has been the case in Fryant ward where polling district NFR6 shared Fryant Primary school with the Welsh Harp polling district CWH2. Given Brent Council has already established precedent for</p>

		combining polling districts at a single location, I believe this proposal should be approved.
Queens Park	Brent resident	Agree with the new polling station suggestions for Salusbury Primary school and Ark Franklin. QPCS should no longer be used as a polling station, 1,300 children are inconvenienced by the school closure for polling
Queens Park	Brent resident	I agree with changing from schools as polling stations to libraries and churches. Schools have to close on polling days impacting their education. Libraries and churches and other community venues are better suited to polling stations
Queens Park	Brent resident	Kilburn Library will be a great replacement for Salusbury Primary School. Really close location and it will allow children to attend school on the election day. Schools should be replaced by new polling stations to avoid children missing class
Queens Park	Brent resident	I agree that Polling Stations should be taken out of schools where possible. This will minimise disruption to education. Use of Libraries and Community Centres may raise their profile and bring new visitors. Opportunities for other services e.g. Benefits advice may be possible alongside voting.
Queens Park	Brent resident	Please change the polling station so it is not necessary to close the large local primary school. There are many other options nearby, not least Kilburn Library. Stop disrupting our children's education. The issue of Salusbury school being used as a polling station has been raised repeatedly. It is time to stop it, as it's not fit for purpose, since the entire school has to close to use one room. Our children have had enough disruption in recent years.
Queens Park	Brent resident	Library is a much better option than the school
Queensbury	Local Councillor, Sandra Kabir	<p>Following are my comments regarding the proposed polling stations in Queensbury ward:</p> <p>Polling stations 1 and 2 are located in close proximity, ie one on Beverley Drive and the other on Waltham Drive.</p> <p>The above proposal will entail residents from Edgware Road, Stag Lane, Holyrood Gardens, upper end of Beverley Drive, Cobham Close, etc. having to walk or drive to Polling Station 2 on Waltham Drive which is a considerable distance and does not have public transport.</p> <p>A location between Polling Station 1 on Beverley Drive and Edgware Road would be much more suitable and accessible.</p>

Sudbury	Local Councillor, Thomas Stephens	<p>As the local Councillor for the ward, I'm writing to respond to the polling district review proposals as they pertain to Sudbury ahead of tomorrow's consultation deadline. I attach the Sudbury proposals for ease of reference.</p> <p>I am concerned about the proposals to move the polling station for the eastern part of the ward (previously NSU5) from St John's Community Centre to the south to Vale Farm sports centre to the West. In addition to being much further away for many residents, this poses a risk to residents attempting to vote late in the night, particularly women, who are now being asked to walk through the park – a recognised location for ASB - late in the evening.</p> <p>I would support a modified proposal which provides another polling station for the eastern part of NSU3 including Harrowdene, Sudbury Avenue and their offshoots. Consideration could also be given to including a part of Charterhouse, Eton and Rugby in this area, perhaps east of the intersection with Repton Avenue. There are three options for a polling station:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The most desirable option is to provide another polling site towards the northern end of Harrowdene or Sudbury Avenue, in one of the community buildings there (there is a Seventh Day Adventist site there which might be considered, although I'm unsure if they would agree to it). 2. A temporary polling station could be created, perhaps in the eastern end of Vale Farm right next to Sudbury Avenue, as there is ample green space there and it is much less of an ASB risk. 3. They could continue to go to the polling station at St John's Community Centre, as I think the convenient and safer location of this polling station would be worth the inconvenience of having a polling station outside of the ward. <p>As an additional proposal, on top of the above, I would also support the northern part of NSU2 (the triangle north of Harrow Road and south of Watford road) being transferred to NSU3, as the Vale Farm Sports Centre is a more convenient polling location for them. However, I would also ask that consideration be given to keeping the polling station at Sudbury Primary School, as this area is more convenient, less of an ASB risk, and more familiar to residents.</p>
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Sudbury		<p>I have seen the proposals for 3 polling stations for the new Sudbury Ward.</p> <p>As someone familiar with the area I the current proposals would make access to a polling station difficult for many people.</p> <p>Just to highlight some issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LNER club house is not easy to access from the top end of Harrow Road (Medway Gardens has a road closure by Maybank Avenue, you cannot turn into Maybank Avenue from the top end of Harrow Road and trying to access via Greenford Road etc is too long a journey. A better Polling station for this area remains the Methodist Church in Harrow Road. The Methodist Church could also be used by residents of Watford Road and Homefield Avenue (as the journey to the Baptist Church is a long way away. 2. Vale Farm is also not an ideal location for a Polling station as too far away from Harrowdene Road and Sudbury Avenue. A better location for this whole area would be the former WASP pavilion off Repton Avenue (this was used before some years back. The site has a car park where portacabins could be placed should the building not been available. 3. The exact boundaries of the polling districts could be amended but the ideal number of polling stations would in my view be 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LNER club in Maybank Avenue 2. Baptist Church in Station Approach 3. Sudbury Methodist Church in Harrow Road 4. Wasps Sports Pavillion off Repton Avenue
Wembley Central	Brent resident	<p>There are voters who will not take part because the venue is a church hall as they hold a different belief.</p> <p>Having attended a Mela at Brent Indian Association it attracted diverse group of people. There is also a bus station near by so it is accessible. Plus as a community centre used by all groups, age, ethnicity, people with disabilities, sex, belief it plays a key role in the area. Also it is distinguishable by its mural and has accessible facilities. I am aware that it is easier for Brent Council to use its existing facility however it needs to consider the implications of using the church as part of its impact assessment in light of the demographics.</p>
Wembley Central	Local Councillor Wilhelmina Mitchell Murray	<p>I see no issues with processed polling station because these locations have been used in the past and disabled friendly.</p> <p>My concern is for residents after the triangle. Apologies if I have missed this but how are these electorates being served? Are looking at Park Lane school?</p>
Brondesbury Park	Local Councillor, Tony Ethapemi	<p>My view is that the nearest local libraries to each ward and church hall, mosques nearest to each ward should be used as polling stations. For convenience polling stations should be increased to accommodate those that cannot travel far to vote.</p> <p>As I am not familiar with all the new wards, I cannot be specific on locations for polling stations. In my current ward which is Brondesbury Park ward. The polling station used at the last election was Christchurch on Willesden Lane and Willesden Library.</p>

Willesden Green	An existing Polling Place/Station	Pakistan Community Centre is a polling station for the past many years. It is so convenient with disable access and free car parking. This particular venue must continue to be a polling station for many years to come.
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