



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

### **POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW**

#### **EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JULY 2014**

**Frances Rutter  
Acting Returning Officer  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
The Town Hall  
The Parade  
Epsom  
Surrey KT15 8BY**

**[www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)**

## ***Polling District and Places Review July 2014***

### **Background**

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Section 16) introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983 in respect of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken.

### **First Review**

The Act specified how frequently reviews should be undertaken and made it a requirement that relevant authorities (i.e. this Council) carry out a review every four years. The Council was required to conclude the first review by 31 December 2007. The review was duly undertaken in September 2007 and the outcome of the review reported to Council in December of that year.

### **Subsequent Reviews**

Notwithstanding the legislation, the Council regularly reviews its polling places but duly completed a second statutory review in December 2011.

The Electoral Registration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews and the next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.

Consideration was given to the timing of this new timetable. At the time it came into effect, the Council's small team of one full time and one part time member of staff were engaged in the canvass and dealing with the impact of the work required in the proposed transition to Individual Electoral Registration. However, certain matters required addressing prior to the European Elections in May 2014. The Council considered these in December 2011 and representations received during the previous review were taken into consideration.

## **Definition of a Parliamentary Constituency, a Ward, Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station**

To assist any interested party who may wish to make representations, the following definitions may be helpful:

### **a) Parliamentary Constituency**

This is an area designated by the Boundary Commission which is represented by a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. This cannot be changed by the review – it is the division of the constituency into polling districts and places that is under review.

### **b) Wards**

The Borough is divided into areas known as "Wards" which are represented by Borough Councillors.

## ***Polling District and Places Review July 2014***

### **c) Polling Districts**

A polling district is the area created by the division of a Ward into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is most suitable for the electors.

### **d) Polling Places**

A polling place is the building or area in which the number of polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

### **e) Polling Station**

A polling station is the room or area in which voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place that has been designated for the particular polling district. The number of polling stations to be accommodated within a polling place is the decision of the (Acting) Returning Officer.

## **Timetable for the Review**

The Council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review. This has been carried out by way of notices posted outside the Town Hall, Epsom, at Bourne Hall, at the Ebbisham Centre and on the Council's website. The timetable for the review is set out below:

Publication of notice	16 July 2014
Publication of consultation document	21 July 2014
Closing date for representations	16 September 2014
Consideration of all representations	16 - 24 September 2014
Report to Strategy and Resources Committee	11 November 2014
Report to Full Council	9 December 2014
Publication of notice of amendments to electoral register and intention to publish revised version of register (If necessary)	18 December 2014
Publication of revised version of register (if necessary)	2 January 2015

## **Criteria for Polling Places and Polling Districts**

The Electoral Commission has set out guidance to assist in assessing the current arrangements and any proposals for change.

As part of the assessment of the suitability of polling district boundaries, the following should be considered:

- Are the boundaries well defined? For example. Do they follow the natural boundaries of the areas? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
- Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g. steep hills, impassable major roads, railway lines, rivers?

There are also a number of factors that must be considered when reviewing existing polling places or assessing new polling places, including:

- The location: is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?
- Size: can the polling place accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development? Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

The Electoral Commission recognises that the choice of polling place will often be a balance between the quality of the building in terms of access and facilities and the proximity of the building to the electors it is intended to serve and that there may be circumstances, as in the case of College Ward, where the polling place might fall wholly or partly outside the polling district because suitable alternatives are not available in the relevant Ward.

Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, there may be locations where there are no other suitable premises in the area. For the purposes of elections, the (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to use free of charge, subject to covering the cost of heating, lighting and caretaking charges, schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made up of monies provided by Parliament.

## ***Polling District and Places Review July 2014***

In conducting this review, it is proposed that, in order to minimize the risk of queues at a polling place, as far as possible, around 1500 and no more than 2000 voters should be assigned to each polling station for local elections. It should be noted that the number of postal voters in each polling district is a relevant consideration in this regard. In the event of a combined and/or Parliamentary Election, given more complex arrangements and higher voter turnout, it may be necessary to review these numbers. In all circumstances, consideration is given to whether a polling place is capable of accommodating more than one polling station, if necessary.

Current practice, to avoid confusion and delays at polling stations and the Count, is not to locate polling stations from more than one Ward in the same building and this will be taken into consideration when considering any proposals.

Polling station staff are encouraged to make comments and observations regarding the suitability of polling places to which they are allocated and Polling Station Inspectors visited all polling stations during the recent elections in May 2014. Any comments have been taken into account when conducting the review.

### **The Role of the (Acting) Returning Officer**

Whilst it is for the Council to decide on the creation of polling districts and location of polling places, it is for the (Acting) Returning Officer to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling station and must allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks most conducive to the smooth running of polling day.

The Council is required to consult the Returning Officer for every Parliamentary Constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. The whole of the Borough falls within the Parliamentary Constituency of Epsom and Ewell there are no other Constituencies wholly or partly within its area.

Therefore the Council needs only to consult the (Acting) Returning Officer for Epsom and Ewell as part of the review and the (Acting) Returning Officer must comment during any review on both the existing polling districts and the polling stations and any proposed changes.

### **Other representations**

Any elector in the Constituency may make representations on the designation of polling districts or places.

The Council is also required to seek representations from those with an expertise in relation to access to premises and facilities for disabled people. Such persons must also be given the opportunity to comment on the representations made by the (Acting) Returning Officer (which are contained in this consultation document).

## **Summary of Consultees**

Set out below is a list of persons specifically notified about the review:

The Member of Parliament for Epsom and Ewell, Chris Grayling  
Epsom and Ewell Equality Forum  
Surrey Disabled People's Partnership  
Members of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
Surrey County Councillors representing divisions within the Epsom area  
Election agents who acted at the 2013 elections  
Candidates who stood in the 2013 elections  
Residents Associations  
Registered political parties who regularly field candidates in local and parliamentary elections in the Borough

## **Completion of the review**

After considering all of the representations, a report will be presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee. It is anticipated that this will be at its meeting on 11 November 2014. The Strategy and Resources Committee will consider the report and make recommendations as it thinks appropriate to full Council on 9 December 2014 at which the final decisions will be made.

The Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in respect of the designation of both polling districts and polling places and these will be published, together with the following information, on the Council's website and made available, on request, at the Town Hall, Epsom

- all correspondence sent to the Returning Officer in connection with the review
- all correspondence sent to any person who the Council thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;
- all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
- the minutes of any meetings held by the Council where details of the review have been considered;
- details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review; and
- details of where the results of the review have been published (as already stated above).

## **Challenging the Review**

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has failed to conduct a proper review on one of two grounds:

- that the Council has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e. the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met);

or

- that the Council has failed to take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

Representations based on any other grounds will not be considered by the Commission.

All representations made to the Commission must be in writing either by post, email or fax and should include the location and any other relevant information, stating specifically why it is inaccessible or does not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors.

## **Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?**

Section 18D (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, sets out who may make representations to the Electoral Commission namely;

- not less than thirty registered electors in the constituency (although electors registered anonymously cannot make a representation)
- a person (except the (Acting) Returning Officer) who made representations to the council when the review was being undertaken
- any person who is not an elector within the constituency but who the Electoral Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons in the areas or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons

The (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

## **What will the Electoral Commission do?**

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any representations and observations and may direct the relevant council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review. Should a Council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.

## **Proposals**

Set out in Appendix A are details of current polling districts and polling places for each of the 13 Wards within the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Appendix B contains a breakdown for each polling place with the details of any proposed changes and the comments of the (Acting) Returning Officer. A map is also attached showing the location of all the polling places identified in the Schedule.

Included in Appendix B are details of known proposed developments. The potential increase in the electorate in any affected polling districts is an estimate based on two eligible electors per property and full occupancy of the approximate number of proposed dwellings.

The electorate, broken down into polling districts, is based on the electorate as at 1 July 2014.

Any significant comments from polling station staff or polling station inspectors regarding the condition or accessibility of currently used polling places are included where appropriate.

A full review of polling places was last conducted in 2011 and a copy of the report to the Strategy and Resources Committee dated 15 November 2011, including comments on the proposals at the time, is available on request or can be downloaded from the Council's website. The recommendation to further investigate the feasibility of creating a new Polling District and Polling Place for voters in Ruxley Ward was acted upon and a report went to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 1 April 2008.

Certain matters required addressing prior to the European Elections in May 2014. Representations received during the previous review were taken into consideration when looking at alternative polling places and a report was considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 12 November 2013, subsequently ratified by Council on 10 December 2013.

There are no known plans which would affect the availability of those Council-owned premises currently used as polling places and the Council has had no indication that private venues currently used will not be available in future, apart from as indicated in Appendix B.

## **Representations**

Any persons wishing to make comments or representations regarding the proposals may do so. Any representations you wish to make should be **received by close of business (5pm) on**

**16 September 2014**

All representations must be made in writing either by post or email.

Representations by post should be sent to:

Electoral Services  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
The Town Hall  
The Parade  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT18 5BY

Representations by email should be sent to:

[electoralservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

For any queries, please telephone 01372 732000 and ask to speak to Electoral Services.

All representations will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after receipt. Even if you have already commented on the proposals, you may make further submissions in response to views and comments you see on the website.

The final decision will be taken by full Council at its meeting on 9 December 2014 and, if necessary, a notice of any alterations to the register will be published on the Council's website no later than 18 December 2014 and any new polling districts and polling places will become effective at all elections held after 2 January 2015.

**EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>POLLING DISTRICT</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>
<b>CUDDINGTON</b>	AA	Rowe Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cuddington Scout HQ, Salisbury Road, Worcester Park
	AB	St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, Worcester Park
<b>AURIOL</b>	B	Stoneleigh Methodist Church Hall, Stoneleigh Crescent, Ewell
<b>EWELL COURT</b>	CA	Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
	CB	Ewell Court House, Ewell Court Avenue, Ewell
<b>RUXLEY</b>	D	Epsom & Ewell High School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
<b>WEST EWELL</b>	EA	West Ewell Evangelical Church, Landsdowne Road, West Ewell
	EB	All Saints Church & Community Centre, Fulford Road, West Ewell
<b>COURT</b>	FA	Southfield Park Primary School, Long Grove Road, Epsom
	FB	Longmead Centre Hall, Sefton Road, Epsom
<b>STAMFORD</b>	GA	The Fellowship Hall, West Hill, Epsom
	GB	The Church Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom
	GC	The Wells Social Centre, Spa Drive, Epsom
<b>STONELEIGH</b>	HA	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh
	HB	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh
<b>NONSUCH</b>	IA	St Paul's Church Centre, Northey Avenue, Cheam
	IB	Wallace Fields Junior School, Dorling Drive, Ewell

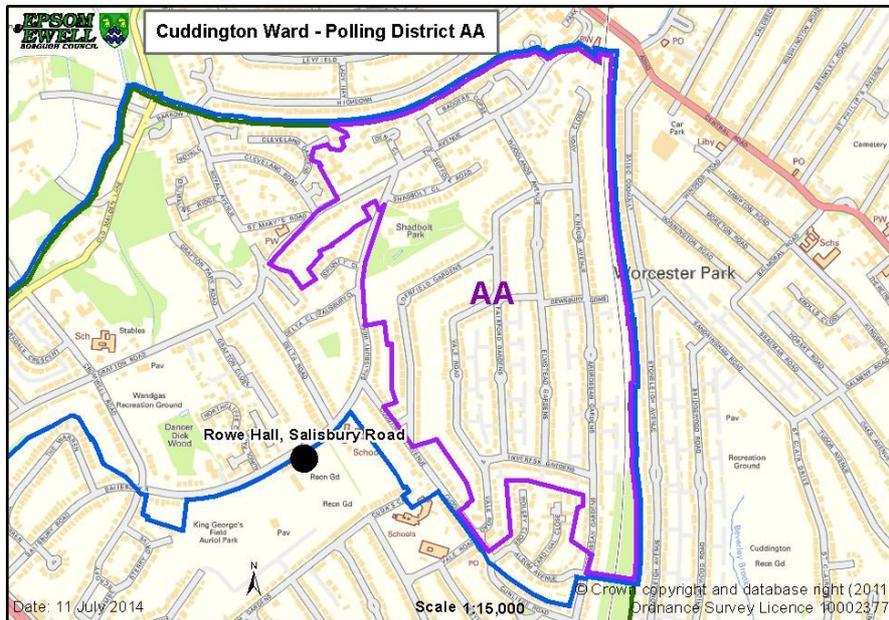
<b>WARD</b>	<b>POLLING DISTRICT</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>
<b>EWELL</b>	JA	Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell
	JB	Glyn School, The Kingsway, Ewell
	JC	The Forge R/O St. Martin's Scout & Guide HQ, Church Road, Epsom
<b>TOWN</b>	KA	The Ebbisham Centre, 6-7 Derby Square, Epsom
	KB	Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom
	KC	St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom
<b>COLLEGE</b>	LA	The Pavilion, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Epsom
	LB	The Church House, Church Street, Epsom
<b>WOODCOTE</b>	MA	Grace Baptist Church, 32 Dorking Road, Epsom
	MB	St Martin's C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom
	MC	Langley Vale Village Hall, Rosebery Road, Epsom

**EXISTING POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES AND (ACTING) RETURNING OFFICERS' REPRESENTATIONS**

**Cuddington Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Two  
 Number of Polling Places: Two  
 Electorate in Ward: **4650**  
 Postal Voters in Ward: **528**  
 Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>A(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District:</b>	<b>2552</b>
<b>Postal Voters:</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Scout Hut (Rowe Hall), Salisbury Road, Worcester Park
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.



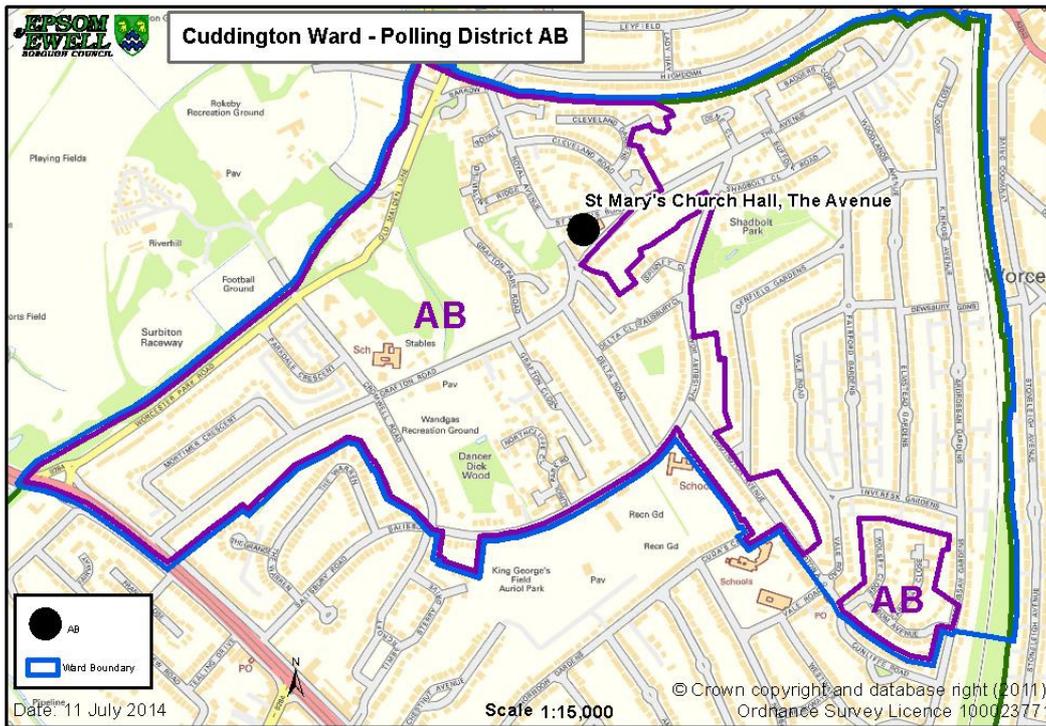
**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Cuddington Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>A(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2098</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, Worcester Park
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - off-street parking available on site. On-street parking also available around venue.



**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

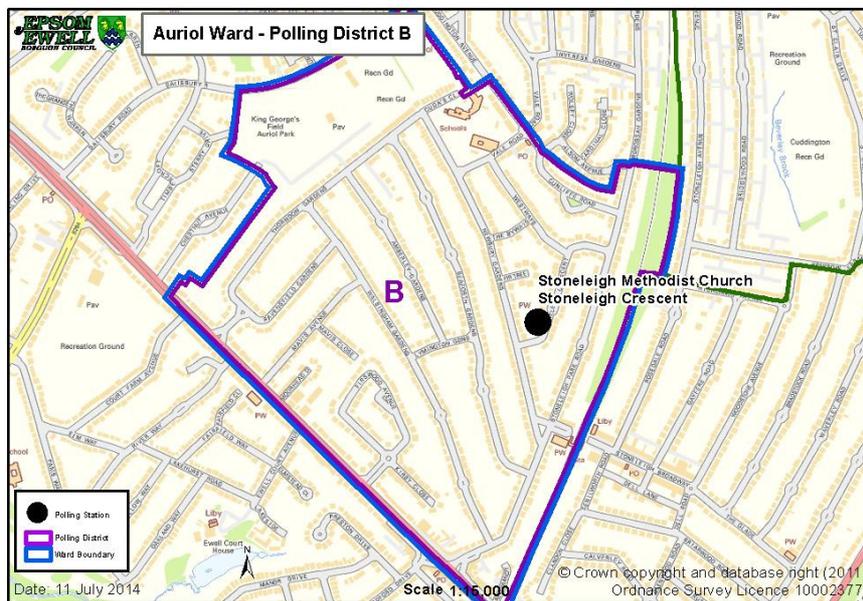
The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Auriol Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: One  
 Number of Polling Places: One  
 Electorate in Ward: **3107**  
 Postal Voters in Ward **319**  
 Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3107</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Stoneleigh Methodist Church Hall, Stoneleigh Crescent, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the polling district boundary or the polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ewell Court Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Two  
 Number of Polling Places: Two  
 Electorate in Ward: **4423**  
 Postal Voters in Ward: **552**  
 Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>C(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2715</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>339</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	4
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location - Good Disabled access - Good Parking – off-street parking available on site.



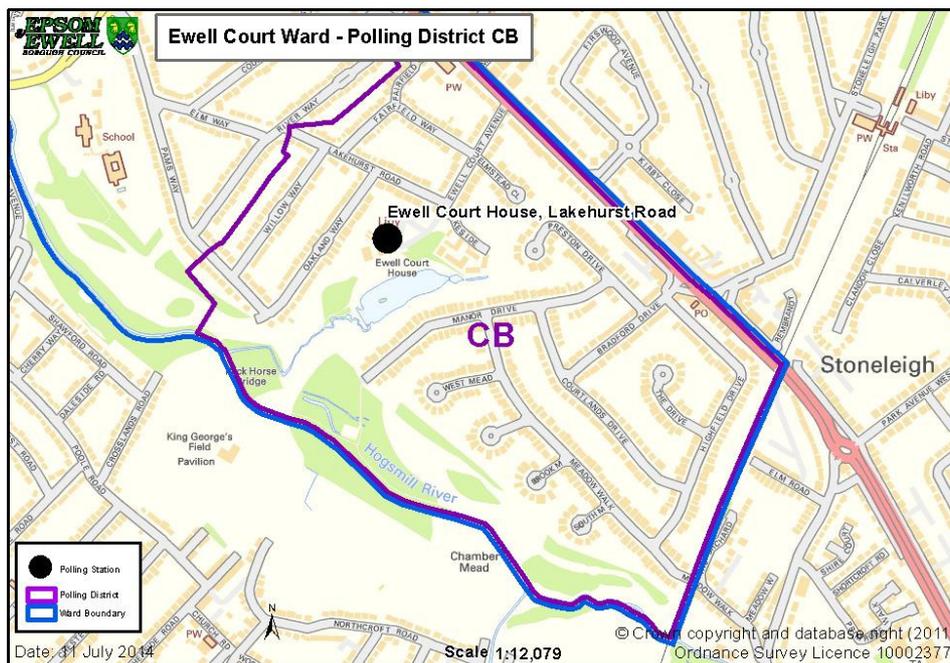
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

At the time of the previous review in 2011 it was reported that it was intended that a new Community Hall was to be built as part of the redevelopment of the church site. This development has now been completed and a site visit was undertaken. The hall at the premises is suitable for use as a polling station and the Church was designated as the polling place for C(A) in 2013. It was used for the European Parliamentary elections in May 2014 and no adverse comments have been received.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ewell Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>C(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1708</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Ewell Court House, Lakehurst Road, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - off-street parking available



**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

In December 2013 part of the building caught fire and affected the area used as a polling station. The building is undergoing refurbishment but will not be fully functional until the summer 2015.

Alternative temporary arrangements were made to use a room in the library for the European Parliamentary Elections in May 2014. The location and size of the room was adequate and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections. However, the layout of the room will require to be reconfigured, subject to consultation with the occupiers, for use during next year's elections.

It is the intention to revert back to the previous location within Ewell Court House once the refurbishment works are complete.

**Subject to my comments above, I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ruxley Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: One

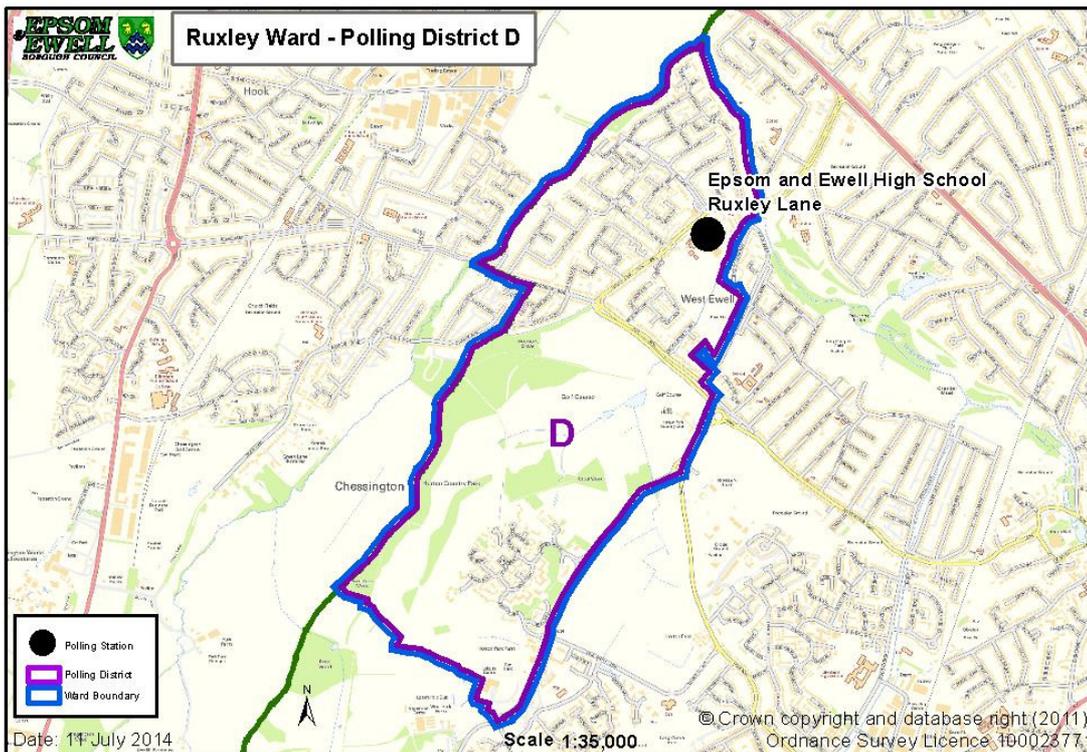
Number of Polling Places: One

Electorate in Ward: **4612**

Postal Voters in Ward **580**

Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>4612</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>580</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Epsom & Ewell High School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – off-street parking available</p> <p>Since the previous review, the room in the North Annexe has been converted into an I.T. suite. The North Annexe is separate from main school building and the School remains open on polling day. Other parts of the Annexe are still used by the school on polling day.</p>



**Ruxley Ward (cont)**

**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

A representation has been received from a resident of the Clarendon Park area stating that they believed the distance of the polling station from Clarendon Park was potentially a deterrent to voters.

It is recognised that the location of the current polling place in Ruxley Ward is not entirely satisfactory but enquiries have failed to identify any premises suitable for designation as a polling place in the southern half of the Ward and there would be a significant cost implication in providing temporary accommodation.

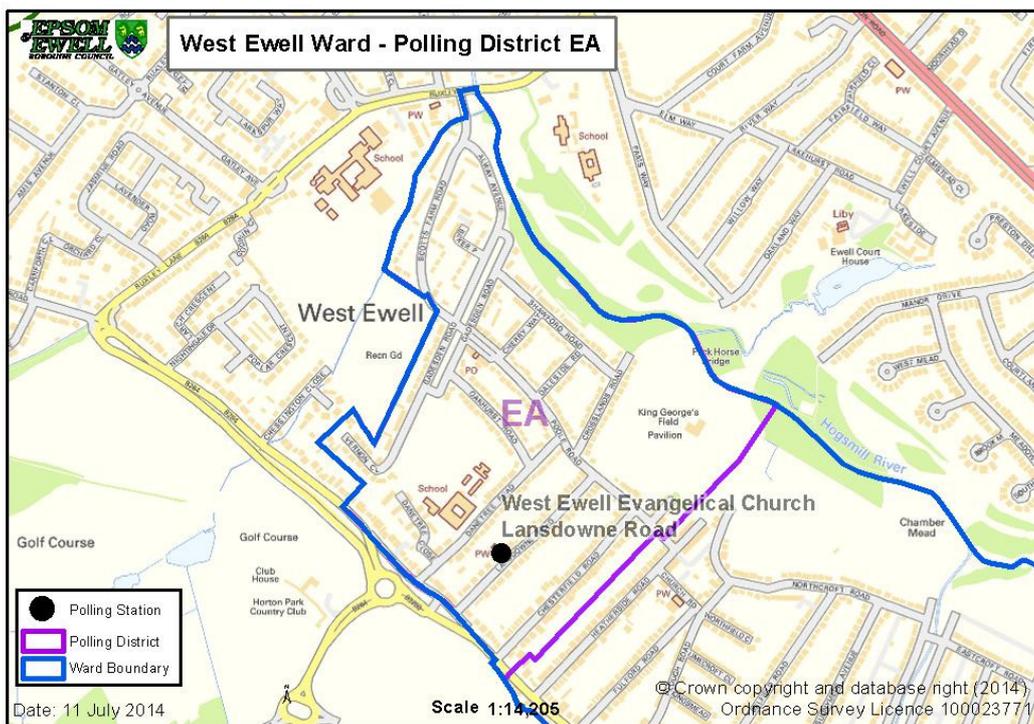
The size of the polling district is still within acceptable tolerances. The number of voters potentially voting at each station is just over the recommended tolerance set by the Electoral Commission and there is possible scope for increasing the number of polling stations at the premises.

**In the absence of any alternatives, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**West Ewell Ward**

Number of Polling Districts Two  
 Number of Polling Places Two  
 Electorate in Ward **4741**  
 Postal Voters in Ward **389**  
 Notes There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>E(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1508</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	West Ewell Evangelical Church, Lansdowne Road, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	7
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - satisfactory                  Parking – Limited off-street parking on site; on-street parking on residential road.</p> <p>First used as a polling place in 2013. These premises are used as an alternative to Danetree School</p>



**West Ewell Ward EA (cont)**

**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

Danetree School had been a designated polling place for many years. In the past, the School had closed on polling day but had latterly chosen to remain open. Although there were no reported problems, this was not ideal.

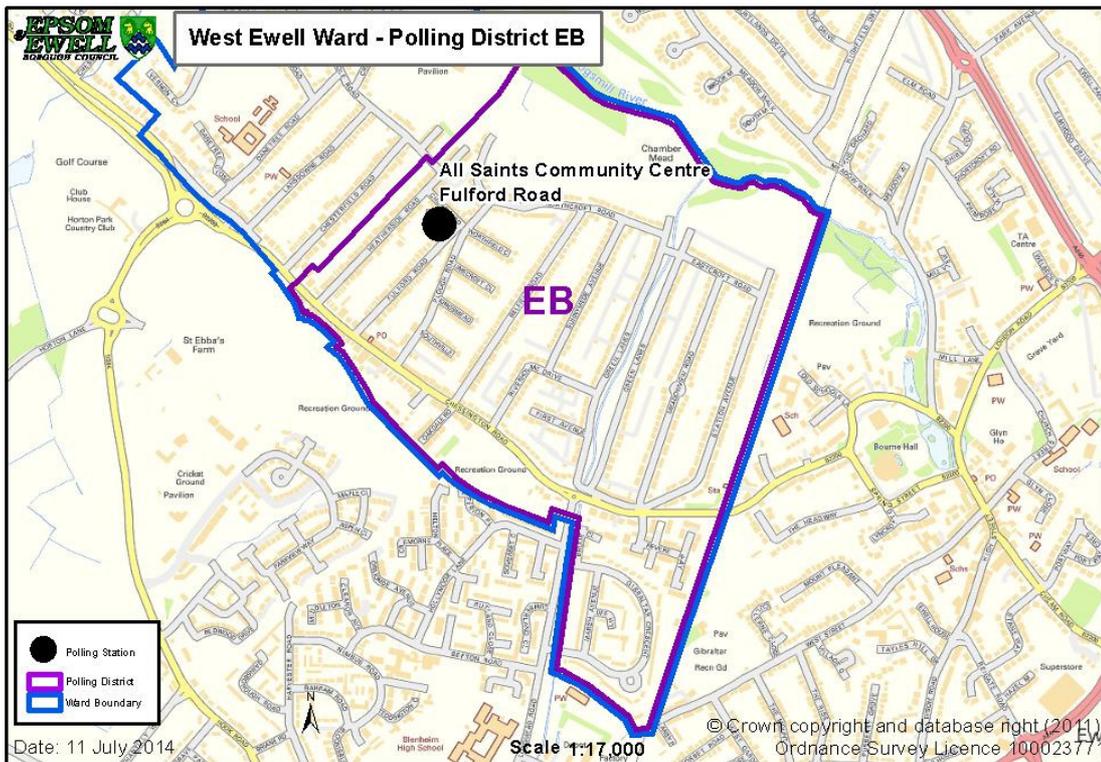
The School was keen that alternative premises should be found and suggested premises in Lansdowne Road (belonging to the West Ewell Evangelical Church). These were investigated and considered suitable for use. Accordingly, the Council has been given special permission by the church leaders to use the Church Hall for this purpose and the Church was designated as the polling place for E(A) in December 2013.

I am not aware of any adverse feedback regarding the use of these premises.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**West Ewell Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>E(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District:</b>	<b>3233</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	All Saints Church Community Centre Fulford Road, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – limited off-street parking available on site otherwise on-street parking in residential road.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the polling district boundary or the polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

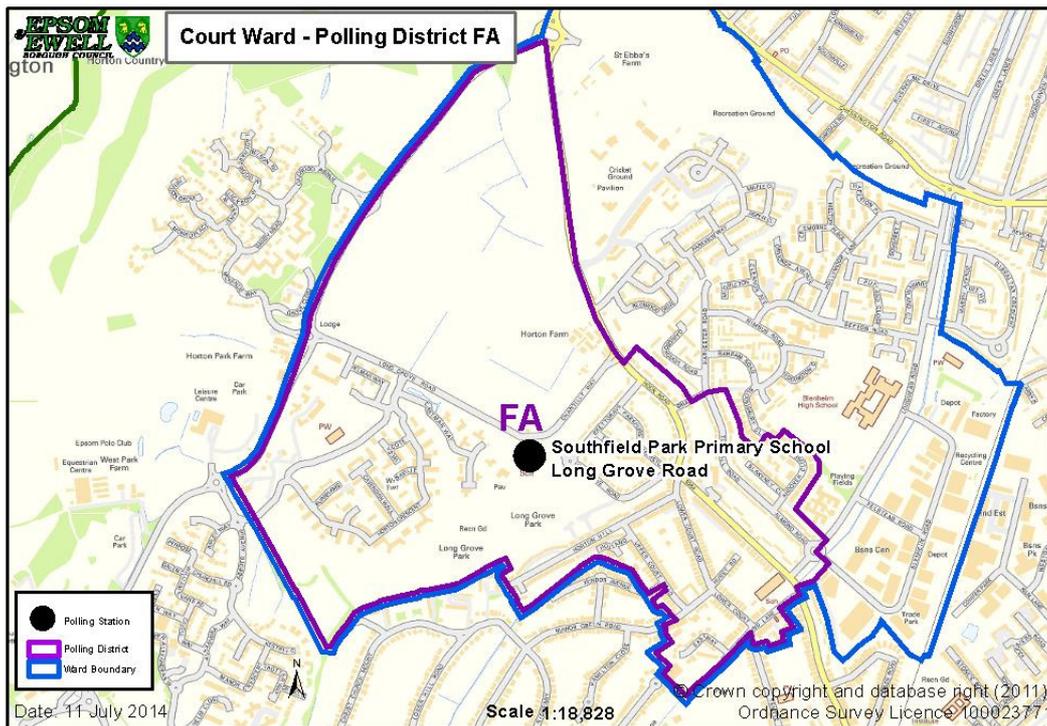
**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Court Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Two  
 Number of Polling Places: Two  
 Electorate in Ward: **5118**  
 Postal Voters in Ward **496**  
 Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>F(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2794</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Southfields Park Primary School, Long Grove Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – off-street parking available on school premises.</p> <p>These premises are considered to be in a more central location for voters in this polling district than the previous polling place (Epsom County Primary School, Pound Lane), particularly bearing mind the redevelopment in the area.</p> <p>This school closes on election day.</p> <p>Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, it is considered that there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day.</p>

**Court Ward FA (cont)**



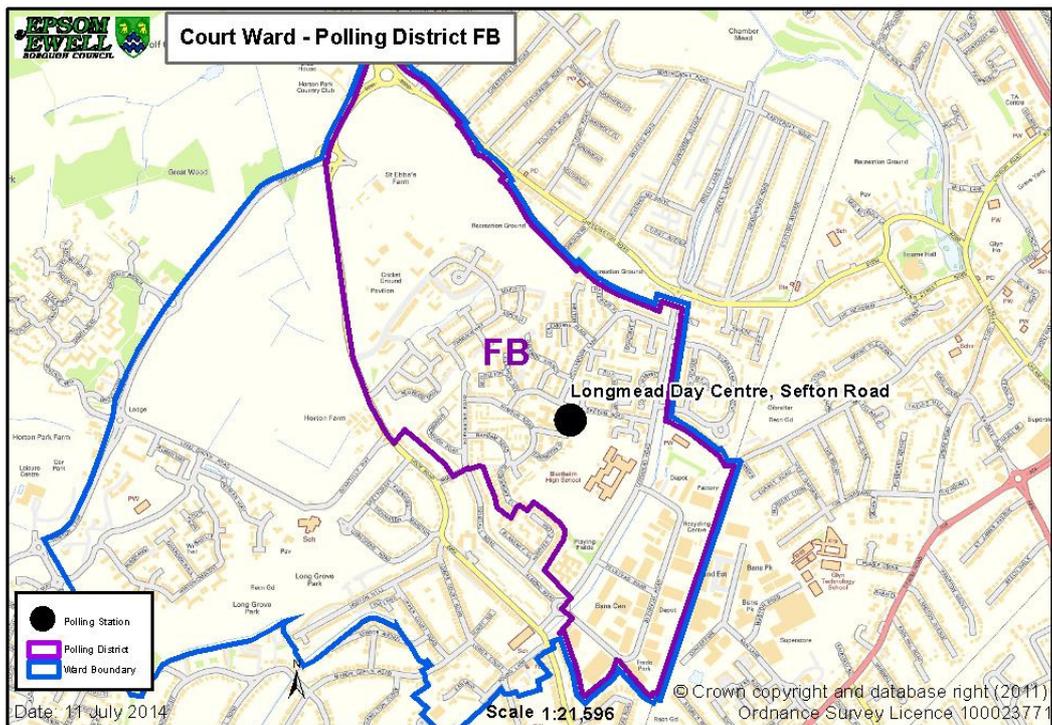
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

In 2011, at the time of the previous review, it was noted that acceptance of submissions made in relation to the County Division boundaries in the Court Ward area to the Local Government Boundary Commission would necessitate the redrawing of the polling district boundary between F(A) and F(B). The Boundary Commission’s recommendations were subsequently approved and the redrawing of the polling district boundary was approved by the Council in December 2011.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>F(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2324</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Longmead Centre, Sefton Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site.  The polling station is located in the main hall.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

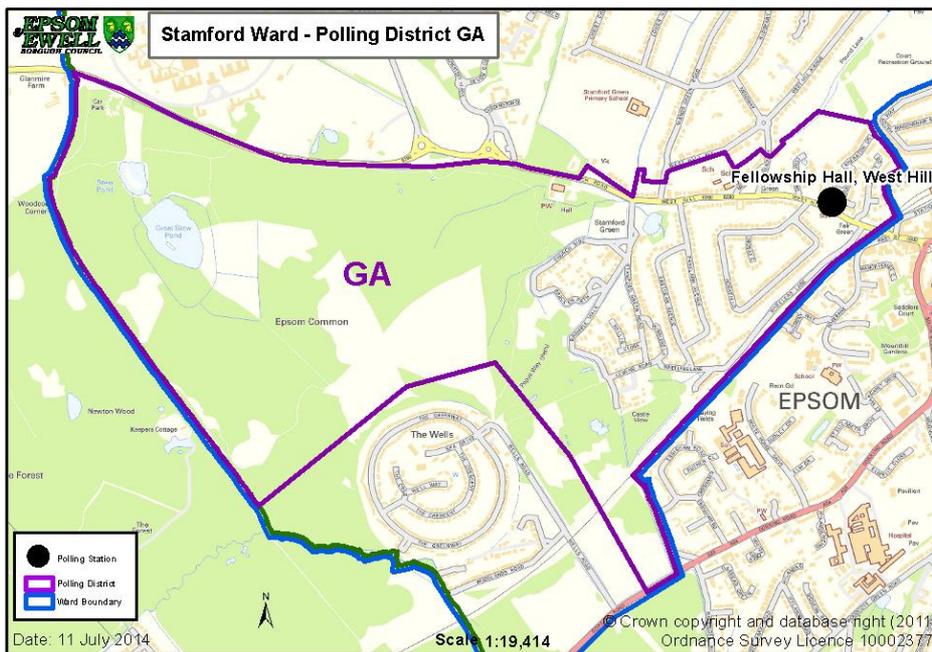
The St. Ebba’s development is now complete. Since the date of the previous review, the electorate has increased from 1828 to 2324 and the number of postal voters has increased from 122 to 215. However, taking into account postal voting trends, I consider that the size of this Polling District is still within acceptable tolerances and there is scope to create another polling station at the polling place, if necessary. The location of the St. Ebba’s redevelopment means that the polling place is reasonably accessible to new residents.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Stamford Ward**

Number of Polling Districts Three  
 Number of Polling Places Three  
 Electorate in Ward **5059**  
 Postal Voters in Ward **545**  
 Notes The West Park redevelopment is still on-going. It was estimated in 2011 that it would result in a likely increase of an estimated 900 voters in the Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>G(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1477</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Fellowship Hall, West Hill, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - adequate Parking – small public car park opposite, no on-street parking available close to venue.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

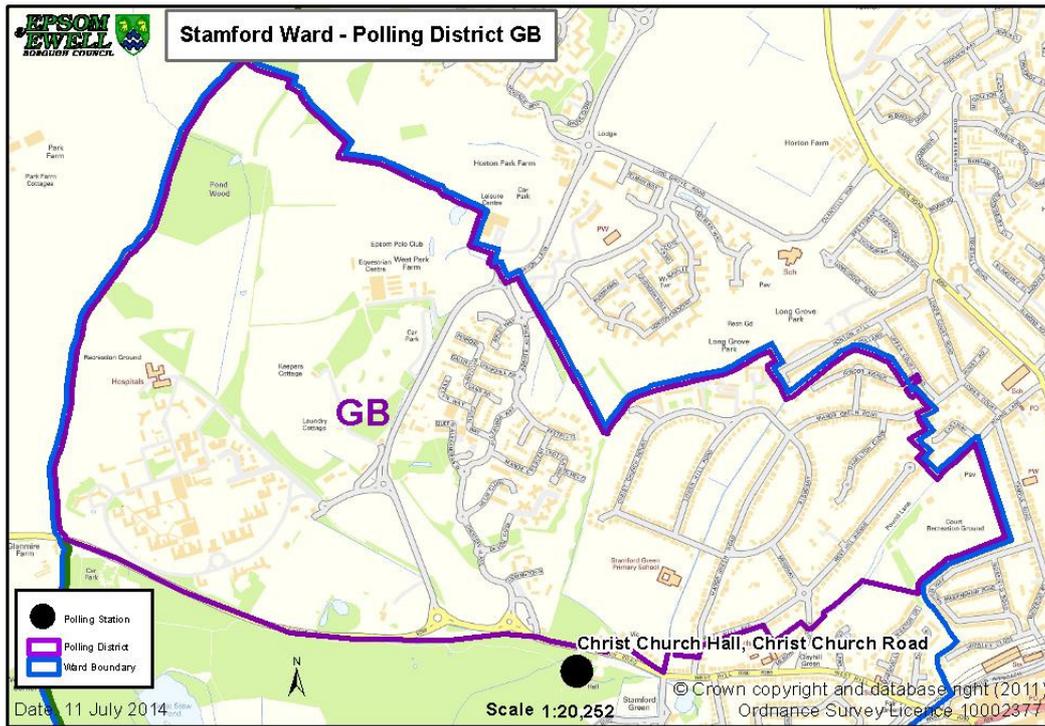
The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the polling district boundary or the polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Stamford Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>G(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2565</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>333</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Church Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Road Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises satisfactory. Location – adequate Disabled access - adequate Parking – car park available on site but not immediately adjacent to building.</p> <p>Although the building is on the edge of the Polling District boundary, it is considered overall to be a more 'central' location for voters than Stamford Green School and is in line with Council policy to avoid the use of schools whenever possible. There are two pedestrian crossings on the main road either side of Christ Church Hall.</p> <p>The school indicated on a number of occasions that it would prefer not to be used and had chosen to remain open on polling day. The location of the polling station was not ideal because it had to be self contained with no unsupervised access to the main building. Disabled access could only be gained through the main school entrance security doors, not visible from the polling station, a potential problem after school hours when the school office next to the main school entrance was not manned.</p>

**Stamford Ward GB (cont)**



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

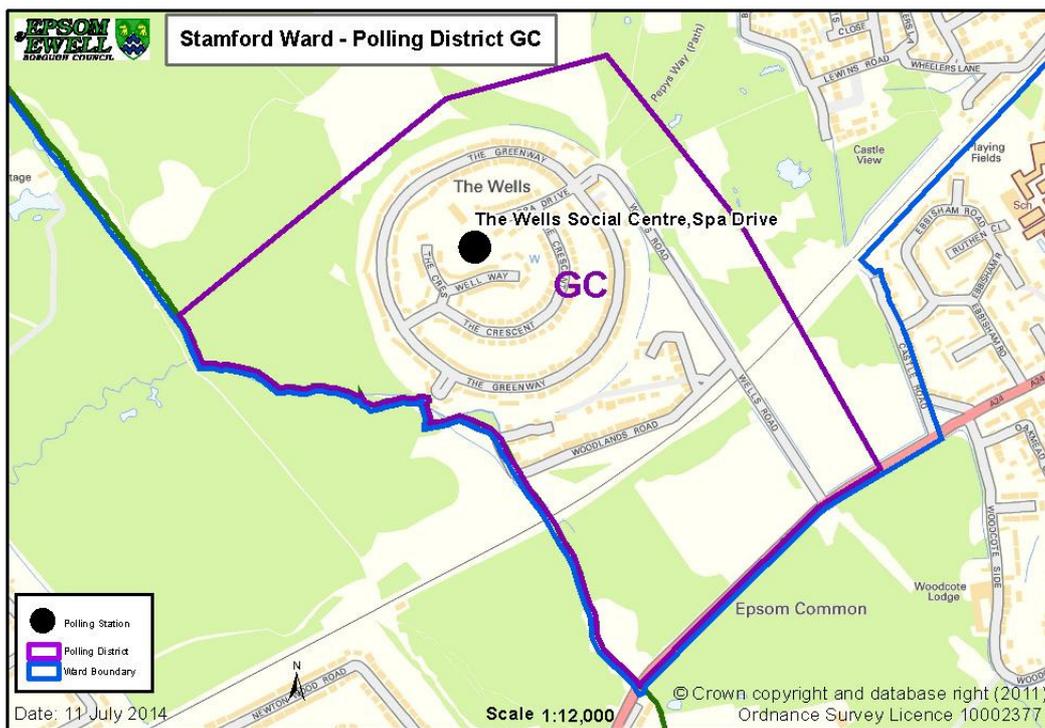
The West Park Development is still on-going. Since the previous review, the electorate has increased from 2072 to 2565 and the number of postal voters has increased from 253 to 333. However, taking into account postal voting trends, I consider that the size of this polling district is still within acceptable tolerances and it is my intention to create an additional polling station at this polling place for the 2015 elections.

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that these premises are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Stamford Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>G(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1017</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Wells Social Centre, Spa Drive, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access – Good during Centre opening hours (otherwise adequate) Parking – good – car park on site.  The polling station is located in the Spalding Hall



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Stoneleigh Ward**

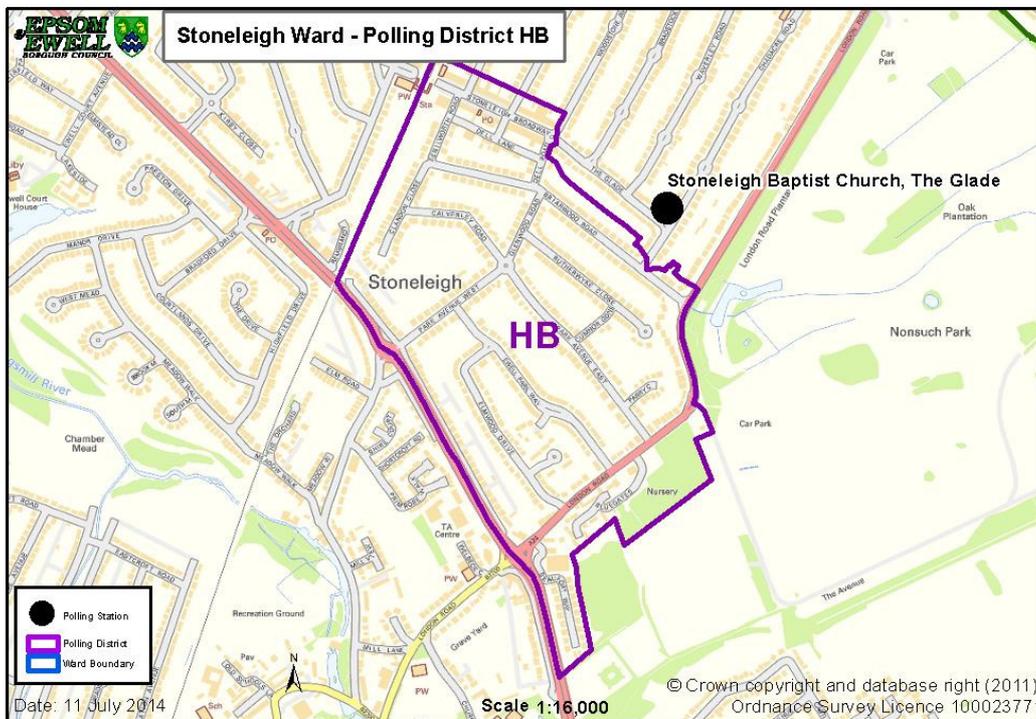
Number of Polling Districts: Two  
 Number of Polling Places: One  
 Electorate in Ward: **3723**  
 Postal Voters **398**  
 Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>H(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1885</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – limited off street parking available. On-street parking available around venue



**Stoneleigh Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>H(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1838</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - limited off street parking available. On-street parking available around venue.



**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

In 2007 it was suggested that H (A) and H (B) should be merged into a single polling district. Since this would have no affect on the number of polling places, it was considered that this would be an administrative exercise of no direct benefit to the electorate in the Ward and the Council resolved in December 2007 to retain the status quo.

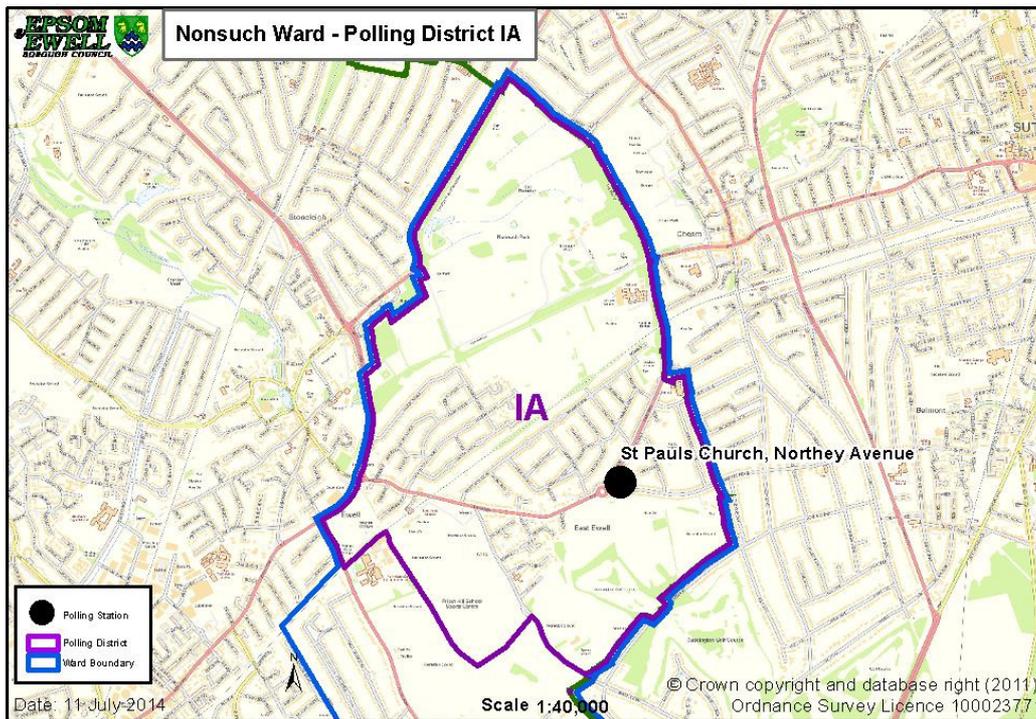
This is a busy polling place but the previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that a merger was desirable or that the premises were unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling districts and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Nonsuch Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Two  
 Number of Polling Places: Two  
 Electorate in Ward: **4416**  
 Postal Voters **520**  
 Notes: There is a proposal to redevelop land at NESCOLT on the Reigate Road which would result in a likely estimated increase of 332 voters.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>I(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3542</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Paul's Church Centre, 15 Northey Ave, Cheam
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue



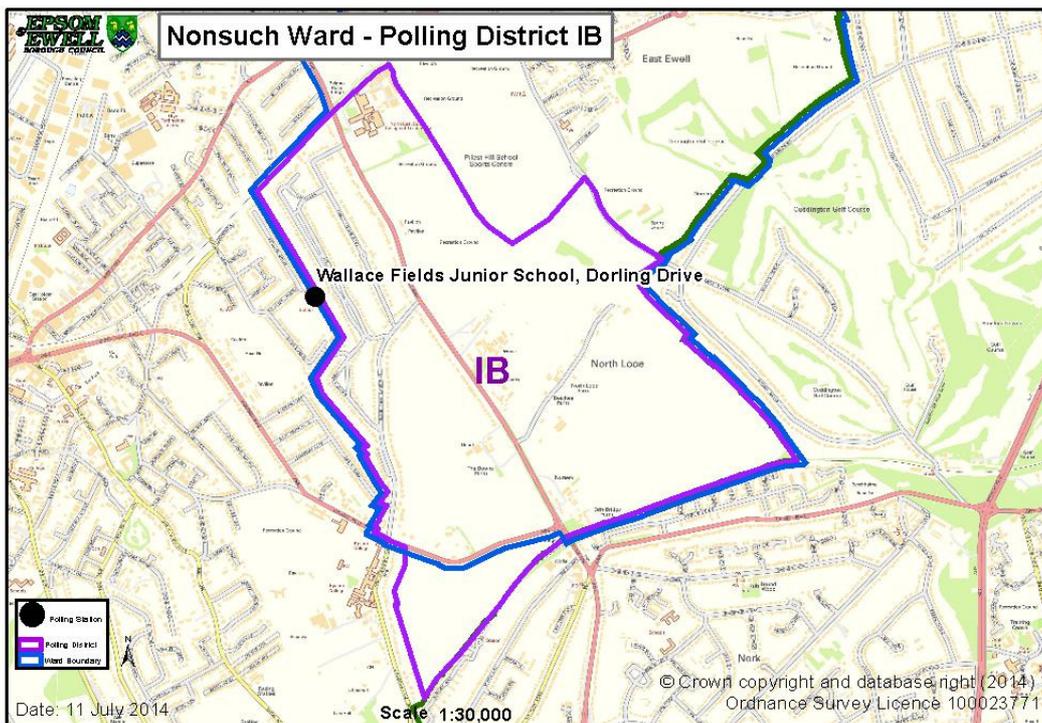
**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Nonsuch Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>I(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>874</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Wallace Fields Junior School, Dorling Drive, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – off street parking available on school premises and on-street parking available close to venue.</p> <p>Although the Polling Place is not actually located within the Nonsuch Ward boundaries, it is immediately adjacent to the Ward and it has worked very well for many years.</p> <p>This school closes on election day.</p> <p>Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, it is considered that there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day.</p>



**Nonsuch Ward IB (cont)**

**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

At the time of the previous review, I noted that, although the Council has a policy to avoid the use of schools and the school is closed on election days, there was no more conveniently sited alternative to Wallace Fields Junior School. I also noted that NESCOT had been approached in the past but responded at the time, that, because of the intensity of use of the site, they could not make any accommodation available unless an election falls in a half term or vacation period (which is unlikely).

A further site visit undertaken to NESCOT in 2011 established that there was in fact no suitable accommodation available for the purposes of polling on this site. In any event, significant redevelopment of the site is now pending and its location in the polling district is not ideal, being across the busy Reigate Road.

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the polling district boundary or the polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ewell Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Three

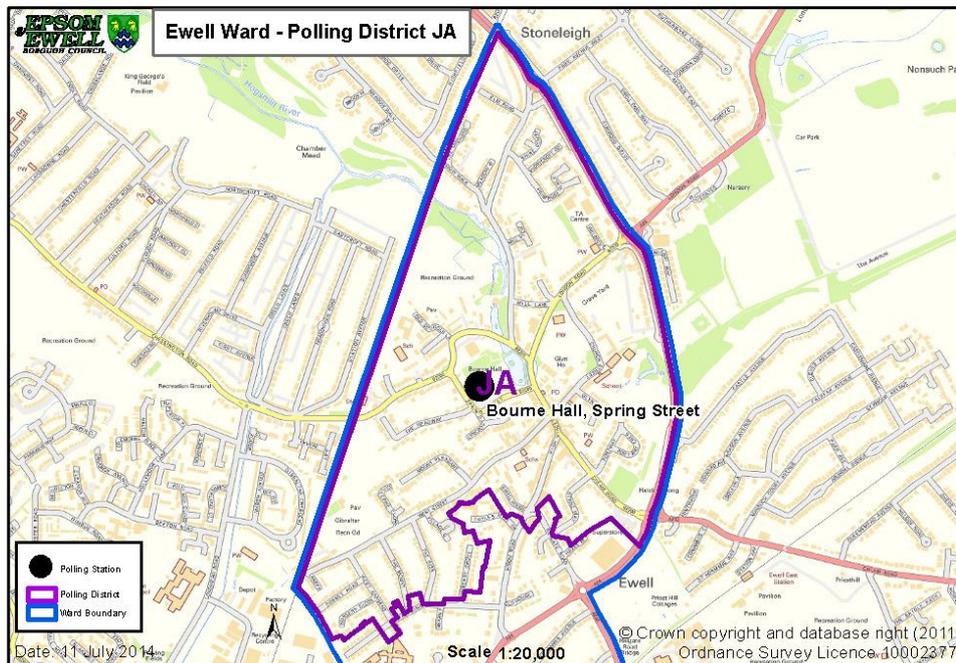
Number of Polling Places: Three

Electorate in Ward: **4434**

Postal Voters **513**

Notes: There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>J(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2670</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available (public car park).  The polling station is located in the Rose Room.



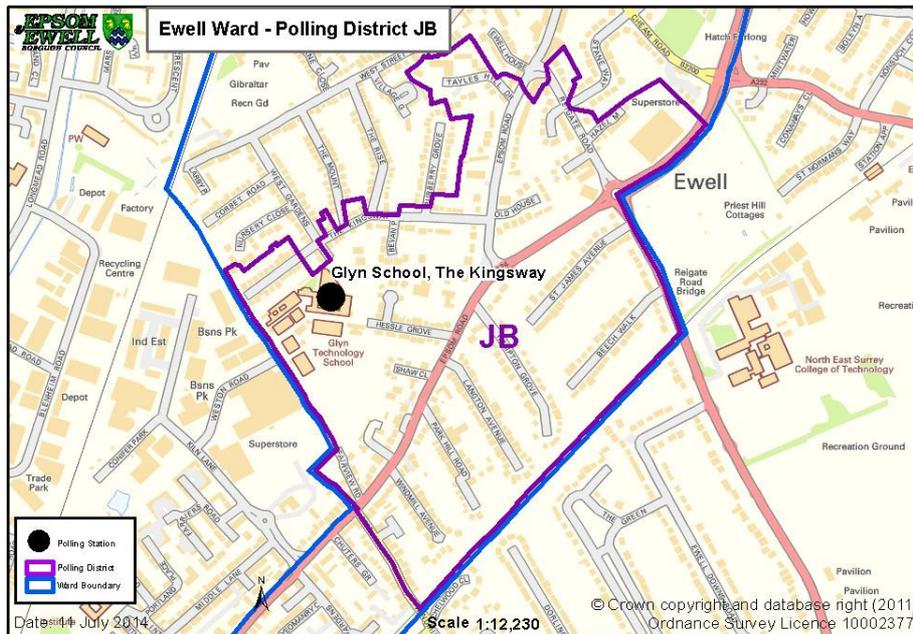
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Ewell Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>J(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1221</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Glyn School, The Kingsway, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – limited off-street parking available on school premises. On-street parking available close to venue.</p> <p>The polling station is currently located in Classroom X1.                  The School to remains open on polling day.</p>



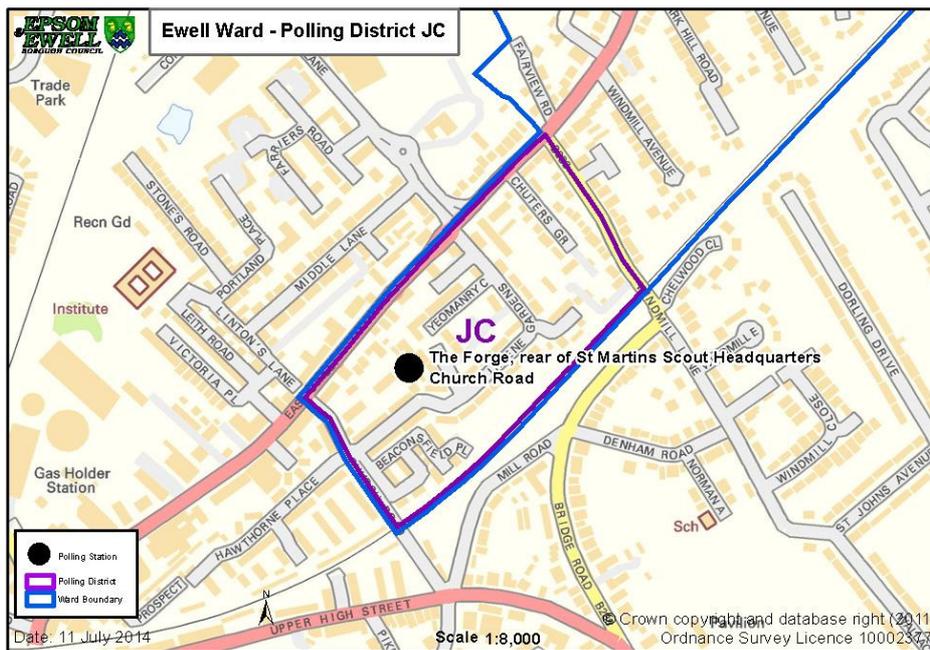
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Ewell Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>J(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Forge R/O St. Martin's Scout & Guide HQ, Church Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>CONTINUED USE OF THE FORGE</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory  Disabled access - adequate  Parking – limited off-street parking on site</p> <p>It was stated during the previous review that if the Linton's Centre were to be redeveloped and no longer suitable for use as a polling place, the best alternative location (St John Ambulance Hall, Hook Road) would not be large enough to accommodate voters from Town K(A) &amp; Ewell J(B1).</p> <p>The review of County Council Division Boundaries meant that J (B1) could not be merged with J(B) but had to be retained as a separate Polling District J(C) The comments in relation to the suitability of the St John Ambulance Hall remain valid and it was necessary to find alternative premises.</p> <p>Sainsbury's Supermarket was mooted as a possible alternative location during the 2011 review. This had been looked into previously in 2003 but with little success at the time. This was mainly due to limited suitable space on the ground floor that could be partitioned off from non-election customers. The store has since been expanded and there is no longer space on the ground floor. The café is located on the first floor so not very visible and access is by stairs or (small) lift.</p>

**Ewell Ward JC (cont)****(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

At the time of the previous review in 2011, I was satisfied with the proposal that polling district J(B1) be merged back with the rest of J(B) for administrative reasons.

However, following publication of the previous review, the Council received confirmation of the Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations in respect of County Council Division boundaries in Surrey and these were subsequently approved. It was therefore necessary for the Council to retain and expand J(B1) because it was now part of a different Division to the rest of Ewell Ward for County Council election purposes and accordingly, the Council approved the creation of a new Polling District J(C) in December 2011.

This did not change the fact that the current polling place at that time (The Linton's Centre) was considered generally unsatisfactory and its location not ideal (although off-street parking and disabled access was considered acceptable) and it was therefore proposed that the polling place's designation, whether it be for a merged J(B) and J(B1) or newly created J(C), be changed to Glyn School. Unfortunately, since the 2011 review, the Lecture Theatre previously used at Glyn School has been modified and it is considered that there is insufficient space available for two polling stations in the new room.

One of the alternative locations investigated in 2011 was the St. John's Chandler Hall in Church Road, Epsom (East Street end). It transpired that the premises were, and are, used for commercial purposes and therefore not available for hire. The 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Hall behind the St John Chandler Hall was also considered but also found to be unavailable.

**Ewell Ward JC (cont)**

A further site visit was made to the St. John's Chandler Hall location in 2013 and "The Forge", a building located behind the Scout Hall, and owned by the Scouts, evaluated for suitability. This building located at the rear of the site is large enough to accommodate the small number of electors eligible to vote in polling district J(C) and it is available for hire. Parking is available, although limited, and access is not ideal but all other requirements have been met. As the options for polling station accommodation in this area are very limited, its use was trialled as a polling place during the European Elections in May 2014.

A representation has been received from a voter regarding inadequate signposting of the polling station and my staff have undertaken to provide alternative signs if feasible. However, I do not believe that the location was a deterrent to voters: there was a 24% turnout at the station (the overall turnout at polling stations for the whole Borough was 26.78%) and no other comments or complaints were received by the Elections team.

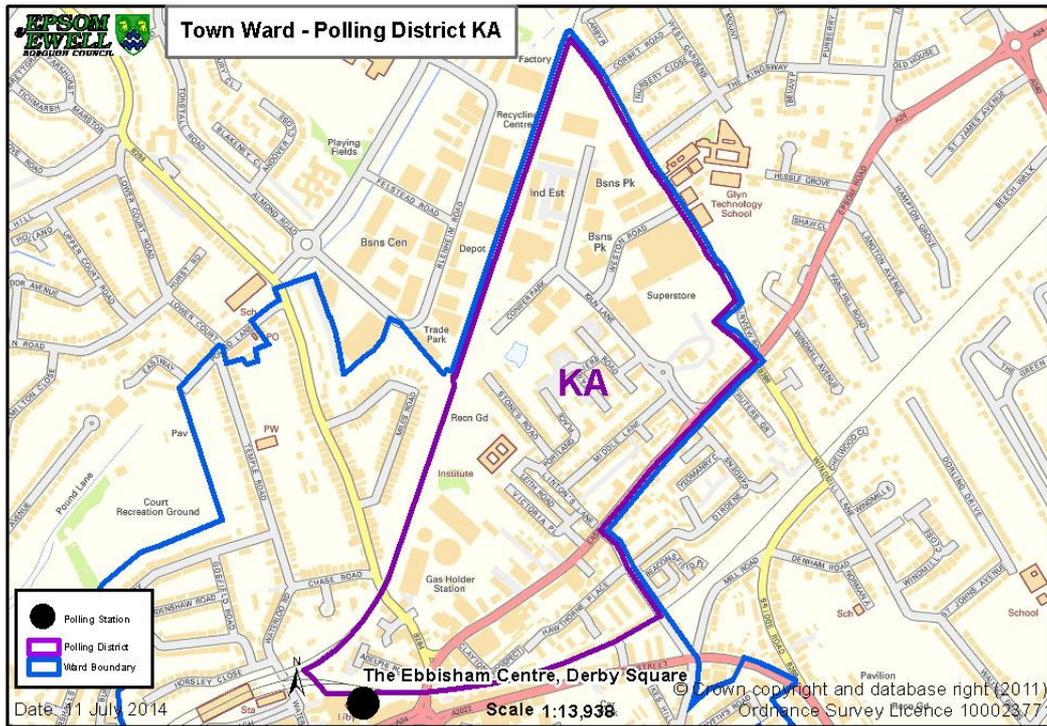
**In the circumstances, I consider the polling district and polling place adequate.**

**Town Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate in Ward	<b>4955</b>
Postal Voters	<b>668</b>
Notes	The proposed Lintons Centre development will result in a likely estimated increase of 106 voters.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(A)</b>
<b>Electorate</b>	<b>1204</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Ebbisham Centre 6-7 Derby Square, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>CONTINUED USE OF THE EBBISHAM CENTRE</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – off-street parking available in NCP Car Park</p> <p>The Linton’s Centre had also been the designated polling place for voters in Polling District K(A). It had been hoped to return to using the St. John’s Ambulance Hall in Hook Road, Epsom but unfortunately, the Council was informed that the St John’s Ambulance Hall was unavailable in May 2014. Availability of these premises can prove problematic and they cannot accommodate more than one polling station on the ground floor with disabled access to the upper floor not ideal.</p> <p>The Ebbisham Centre was designated as the Polling Place for K(A) on a trial basis in 2013 and was used at the elections in May 2014. It was queried whether consideration had been given to the use of the Quaker Chapel in Prospect Place for voters in Polling District K(A). Further investigation revealed that the premises in Prospect Place are no longer in use as a place of worship. They are in private business ownership and not available for hire.</p> <p>The polling station is located in the Activity Room.</p>

**Town Ward KA (cont)**



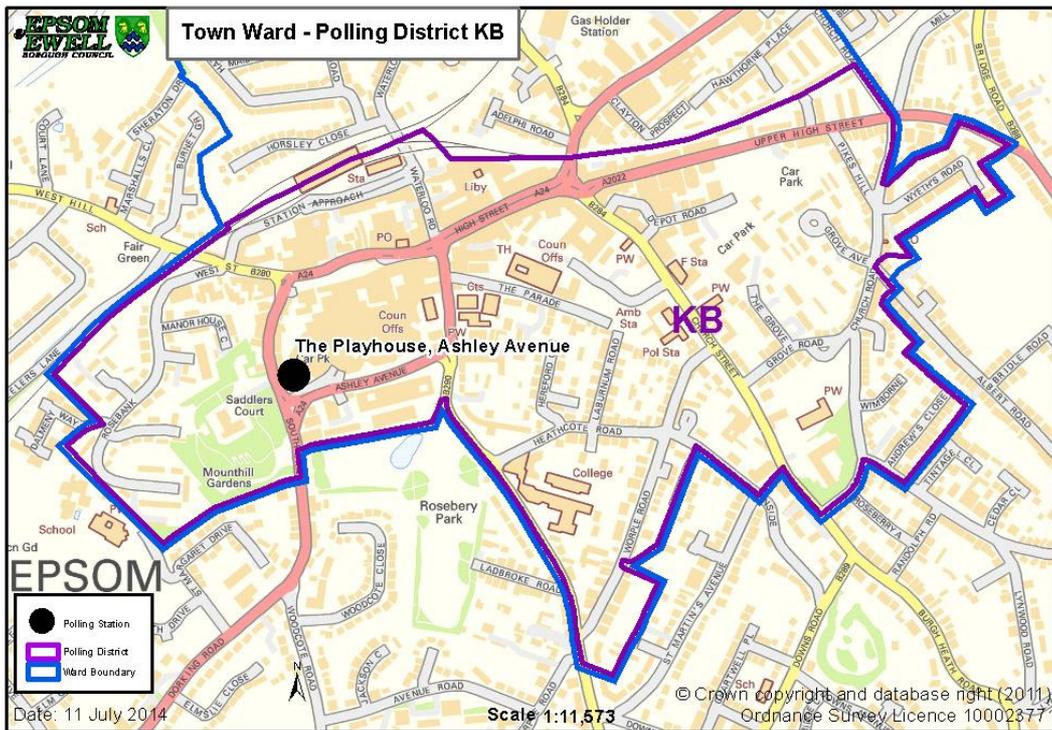
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

When trialed back in 2001, The Ebbisham Centre was not a popular choice with the electorate owing largely to the issue of parking (there is no free or convenient on-street parking in the vicinity of the building). However, this would apply to the majority of locations in the Town centre. The options for polling station accommodation in this area are very limited and no other suitable premises have been located.

**In the current circumstances, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Town Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2580</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - Multi storey public car park adjacent to Playhouse. No on-street parking close to venue.  The Polling Station is located in the Myers Hall.



**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

Taking into account postal voting trends and the fact that the electorate has not substantially increased (and has in fact slightly decreased) in this polling district since the last review, I consider that the size of this polling district is still within acceptable tolerances.

**Town Ward KB (cont)**

I am aware of representations made during the previous review regarding the fact that some voters had to walk past a polling station on their way to Myers Hall and requested consideration being given to using The Church House in Church Street (currently a polling station for College Ward) for some of the Town Ward voters who live in the area around that polling station – Wimborne Close, Church Road, Church Street, Andrews Close, College Road, Grove Road, The Grove etc. However, I am conscious of the increased possibility of confusion and delays occurring where polling stations for more than one Ward are allocated in the same building. In any event, the suggestion in the particular instance cited would involve the creation of a new polling district which is not considered an acceptable use of resources for the number of electors involved.

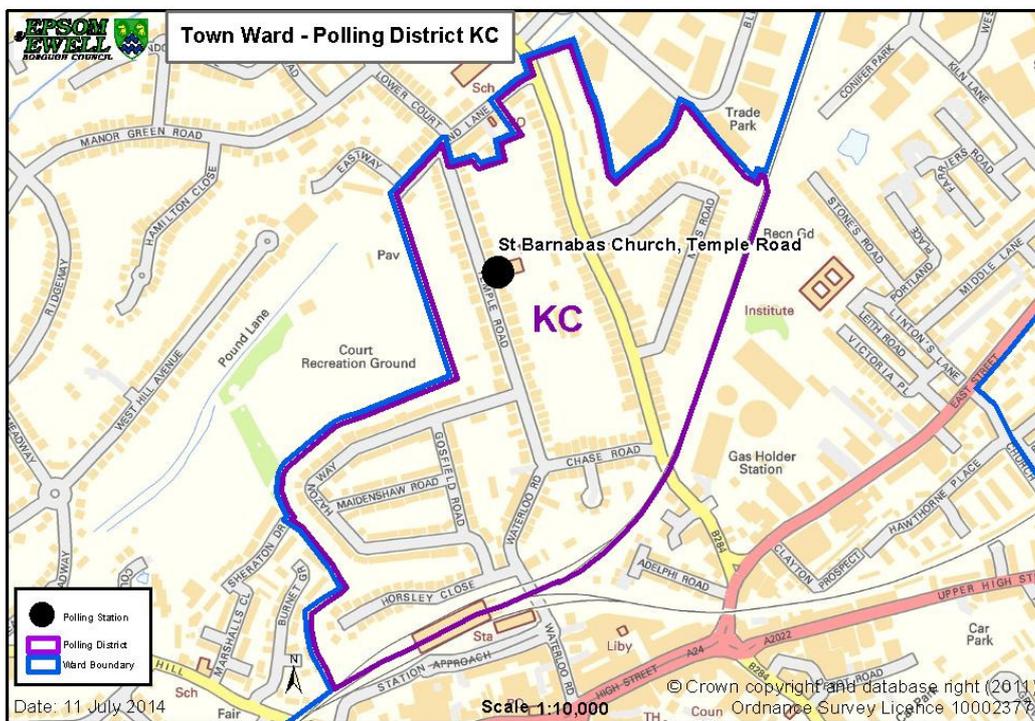
I am also aware that representations were made regarding the use of Epsom Methodist Church as a polling place. Following publication of the previous consultation I understand that a site visit was made to the Methodist Church. Although the accommodation looked suitable, the church is located on a busy main road and off-street parking would be an issue. Parking is at a premium on the site. On balance, The Myers Hall is therefore considered much more suitable.

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I therefore consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Town Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1171</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location good Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

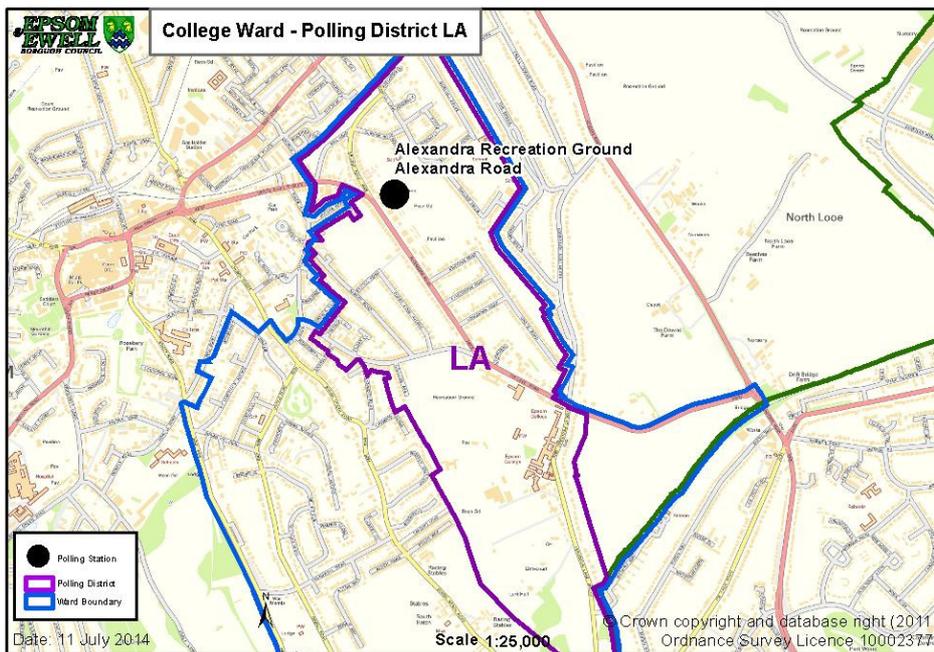
The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**College Ward**

Number of Polling Districts Two  
 Number of Polling Places Two  
 Electorate in Ward **4379**  
 Postal Voters **609**  
 Notes There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>L(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2203</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Pavilion, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - Adequate Parking – close to pavilion for staff & disabled. In main car park for other voters.



**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

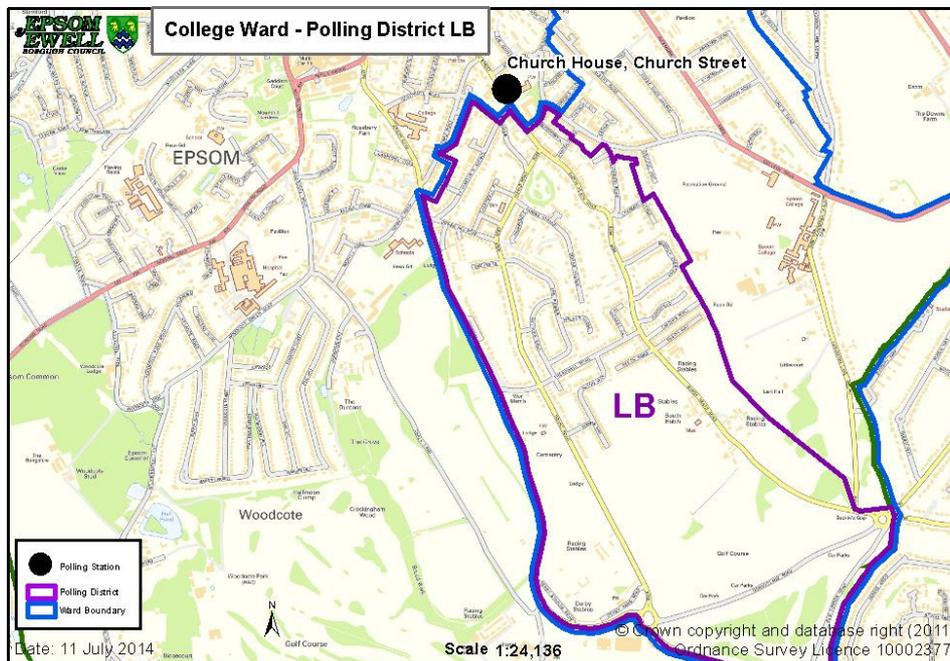
The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

*Epsom and Ewell Borough Council*

**College Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>L(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2176</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Church House, Church Street, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - good                  Parking – off-street parking available on site. No on-street parking close to venue.</p> <p>Although the Polling Place is not actually located within the College Ward boundaries, it is immediately adjacent to the Ward and it has worked very well for many years.</p> <p>As far as the Council is aware, there are no other suitable premises (halls etc) within the College Ward/Polling District boundaries.</p> <p>The polling station is located in The Wisley Room.</p>



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

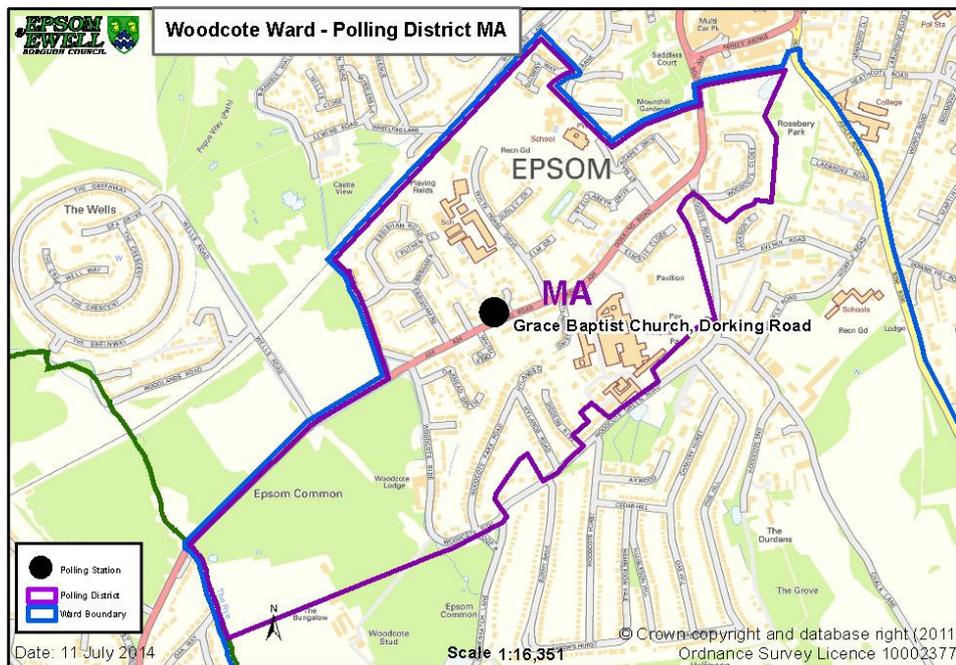
The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Woodcote Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate in Ward	<b>4573</b>
Postal Voters	<b>645</b>
Notes	There are no planned developments which would significantly affect the electorate of this Ward.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1680</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Grace Baptist Church, 32 Dorking Road, Epsom (formerly known as Dorking Road Baptist Church)
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - adequate Parking – limited off-street parking on site



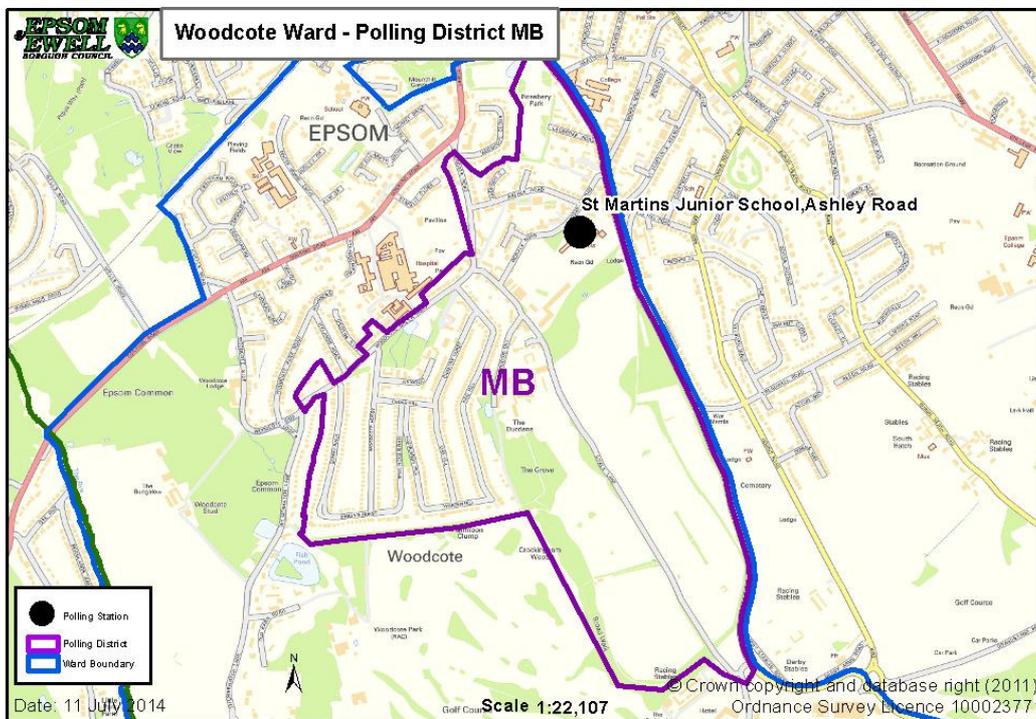
**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Woodcote Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1594</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St. Martins C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory                  Disabled access - reasonable                  Parking – off-street parking available on school premises</p> <p>It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible but it is considered that there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year, to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day.</p> <p>The School has, in the past, remained open on polling day.</p>



## **Woodcote Ward MB (cont)**

### **(Acting) Returning Officer's Representations**

I understand that it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible: however, suitable alternative premises have yet to be found. W.S. Atkins was approached during the previous review. The firm confirmed that they had no suitable accommodation available. I also consider premises at the University of Creative Arts in Ashley Road unsuitable. The racecourse is not within the Polling District and is too remote with no regular/reliable public transport links. Likewise, the Epsom Playhouse is not within the Polling District, has no on-street parking close to the venue and already contains two polling stations for a different Ward. This could lead to confusion and delays on polling day.

At the time of the previous review, it was reported that as a result of reconfiguration of the premises, discussions with the new Headteacher had resulted in the offer of the use of a separate classroom block close to the Ashley Road entrance. These facilities had the advantage of being self-contained and close to the car park for disabled voters. In addition, the accommodation could, and was used, without the rest of the school having to close. A ramp for the slight lip into the classroom was provided.

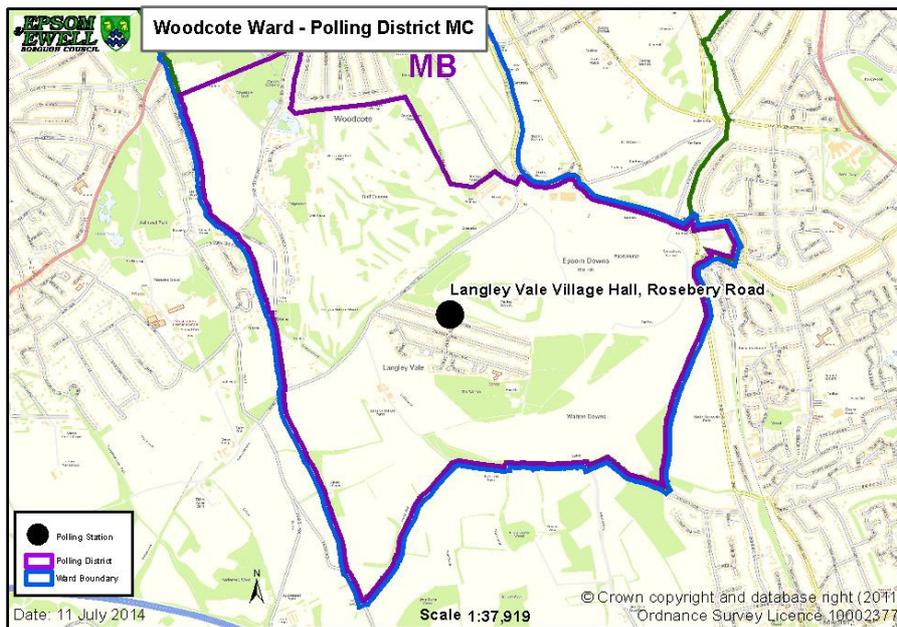
In the lead-up to the recent elections, the school was undertaking major building works and in discussion with the Headteacher and Surrey County Council, it was agreed to trial the use of the Sure Start Children's Centre, located just off the Worple Road, as a polling station. However, access to, and the size of, the room proved not to be ideal. A small number of complaints were received by staff regarding access to the polling station. These were addressed on the day but again, the arrangements were not ideal. In addition, the Centre remained open on polling day which again, was not ideal.

Whilst possibly suitable for a by-election, The Sure Start Children's Centre is not a suitable location for the polling station for major elections and the school will be approached to provide other accommodation.

**In the absence of any alternatives, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Woodcote Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1299</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Langley Vale Village Hall, Rosebery Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – on-street parking available around venue.



**(Acting) Returning Officer’s Representations**

During the 2011 review concerns about accessibility for disabled people due to the sloping access to the Village Hall were raised, and it was suggested that the adjacent Church Hall or the school at Langley Vale might be a more appropriate venue.

It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible and the school is less conveniently located than the current polling station.

A site visit was made to the Church Hall. Although the slope to the building is less than at the Village Hall, the layout of the building is considered unsuitable as a polling place and there would be no advantage in relocating there.

The previous review in 2011 did not lead me to believe that the Polling District boundary or the Polling place are inappropriate/unsuitable and no adverse feedback has been received post the May 2014 elections.

**I therefore consider the current polling district and polling place appropriate.**