

**Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations for Charlton Park, Lansdown, Leckhampton, St Marks and Up Hatherley Wards – Correspondence sent to Acting Returning Officer**

From: Councillor Richard Pineger <Cllr.Richard.Pineger@cheltenham.gov.uk>  
Sent: 17 August 2021 17:02  
To: Internet - Elections <Elections@cheltenham.gov.uk>  
Cc: David.Willingham@gloucestershire.gov.uk  
Subject: Rowanfield polling station FAO: Kim Smith

Hi Kim,

Nice to talk to you today and as discussed there is no need to move the polling station from Rowanfield Junior School to the Children's Centre. I spoke to Shone Riddell about the proposal a few days ago, and I can confirm that she was not aware of the proposal nor any problems with using the junior school. If, like you imply, this was a casual suggestion based on the perception that holding elections in schools was a problem during COVID restrictions then we should drop the proposal.

Further to this, the Children's Centre is an unknown venue and as such would probably cause more problems for you and our residents that it would solve, especially where there does not seem to be a problem to solve. In summary therefore:

"Don't fix what ain't broken!"

Thanks,  
Richard Pineger  
Councillor for St Marks, Cheltenham

**From:** Martin Horwood <[martin2@martinhorwood.net](mailto:martin2@martinhorwood.net)>  
**Sent:** 07 September 2021 22:41  
**To:** Internet - Elections <[Elections@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Elections@cheltenham.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Councillor Martin Horwood <[Cllr.Martin.Horwood@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Martin.Horwood@cheltenham.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Interim polling station review

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this polling station review for the ward I represent, Leckhampton.

**IA: proposed change at the same location from Zion Hall to Pilley Baptist Church Hall**

I welcome this proposal which retains the IA polling station at essentially the same location which is familiar to many voters and very convenient for the population of this polling district. The associated shift of EB polling district of Charlton Park is also welcome as it will remove completely the occasional confusion of voters who have not brought their polling cards about which hall to use.

**IB: Proposed change from Leckhampton Primary School to Leckhampton Village Hall**

I have some concern about this proposal. There is no great geographical issue in the shift from the school to the village hall as the two are very close to one another. But the newly expanded Primary School will have better parking for elderly and disabled voters, better disabled access and more space than the Village Hall which has very limited and quite awkward parking and a small period entrance which opens directly into the path of cars using the car park. It is also a sloping driveway which could be treacherous in icy weather.

I'm aware of one or two recent complaints about the use of the previous school hall but I'm not aware of any previous complaints, the use of schools as polling stations is a well established practice generally but also in Leckhampton specifically, and the new school will have more flexibility than before to minimise disruption.

I also think the review should bear in mind the significant population at the Lanes and Brizen Lane and subsidiary roads and the likely building of nearly 400 new homes within the ward in that immediate area in the near future. This should prompt a possible review of ward boundaries but also of the possibility of a polling station in that part of IB which is a significant distance from the Village Hall.

**IC: Proposed change from Leckhampton Primary School to Burrow's Field Pavilion**

I support this change although I think a further improvement would be to locate the polling station further north and so even more conveniently for the majority of the population of this polling district in the Moorend area towards the north of the ward. Although it appears to be a minor move from the primary school, this location will have good access and parking, it will be significantly more convenient for voters on the 'birds' estate and it will reduce walking and cycling times from Moorend, thus discouraging car use. But if an even better location further north can be found (why not the Somerset Arms?), that would be even better.

Thank you for considering these comments.

**Cllr Martin Horwood**  
Parish & borough councillor for Leckhampton

7 September 2021