

No.	Residence	Category	Polling station	Polling District	Comments - Comments
ABBEY L					
1	Abbey L	Polling Station Contact	New Hope Centre	L	Extra allowance will need to be made for the former Cox & Wyman site that has planning permission for 96 dwellings, and probably in the future for the development of the former post office site in Caversham Road (no planning application yet but up to 650 dwellings proposed).
2	Abbey L	Polling Station Contact	New Hope Centre	L	we need to retain this venue for voting
ABBEY LA					
3	N/A	Polling Station Contact	Sir Herman Gollancz	LA	In response to your request for feedback on your review I am happy to inform you that the Board of Management of Reading Synagogue are happy for their attached hall known as the Sir Hermann Gollancz Hall in Clifton Street to continue to be a Polling Station.
ABBEY LC					
4	Abbey LC	Public Comment	St John and St Stephen's	LC	This polling station has a lack of disabled access for voters on Orts Road West. It involves a car or taxi trip of 2 miles to attend to vote, and probably an hour due to traffic congestion. The School has a lack of Disabled Parking Space. Even for able-bodied people, it is a Km round trip across Orts Road Park on a walkway An Alternative Voting Centre is needed. to serve Orts Road West
BATTLE AC					
5	Unknown	Polling Station Staff	Oxford Road Primary School	AC	I disagree with schools being used for polling stations in general- wherever possible it should be held in community centres, church/ faith halls, libraries, leisure centres, gyms etc without the need for children to miss a day of school. As businesses and employers need to be more responsive to Disability access requirements, offices and shopping precincts and business premises should be considered as polling stations. Argyle Church, Fairview centre, Bridge hall, the Spiritualist church on Baker Street are all examples of spaces that could be used that keep our children in school! I understand School staff using the polling day as an informal Inset day, but should be more considerate of the polling station as people are voting. Can more be done to ensure that voters and polling staff are more aware of the rules around use of mobile phones, the secrecy of the ballot and that only assistance dogs are allowed in Polling stations? Rude people on their phones who don't even give their name properly, and there are some ignorant people who think its appropriate to bring their adorable dogs onto school premises! If the school wouldn't allow it on a school day, why would it be different on polling day! Also enforcing zero tolerance of aggressive behaviour towards polling staff.
CAVERSHAM MA					
6	Caversham MA	Public Comment	Thameside Primary school	MA	I am opposed to all schools being used as a polling station. it is disruptive to the school children and to parents. use libraries and places of worship. if they are happy for them to be used and it can be made accessible.
CAVERSHAM MC					
7	Caversham MC	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	MC	As a working parent of a pupil at the school, any extra closure days due to voting are problematic. It is difficult to arrange childcare in the middle of a term/week and the children unnecessarily miss another day at school. I would be quite happy to vote at another location if the school could then stay open.
8	Caversham MC	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	MC	I believe schools should not be used as polling stations. We are interrupting children's education. Other centre's are available such as sports centres, church halls and other community buildings. Parents are penalised if we take children out of school for a day in term time as it interrupts their education.....is this not the same?! This also causes a greaty inconvenience for working parents as they have to arrange childcare for the day at an extra cost.
9	Caversham MC	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	MC	I understand that some parents have requested for an alternative polling station to Caversham Primary School. As a parent of CPS myself, I would like to express my opposition to this proposal. I am happy with CPS remaining a polling station.
10	Caversham MC	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	MC	If there was an alternative to the school (the library?) this would be better. As a working parent it's not always that helpful to have the kids out of school for the day
KENTWOOD C					

11	Kentwood C	Public Comment	St Mary Magdalene Hall	C	I have a postal vote because 1) I do not like being bothered by party activists in the doorway of the polling station which I find intimidating; I understand they are not acting illegally but it would be better if they were not allowed to sit at polling stations waiting for voters to enter. party activists bringing those who are disabled or do not have transport are not a problem. as they do not engage or attempt to engage with voters. It is the ones that sit narrowing the access route that are an issue. .2) the polling station is up a very steep incline from the nearest bus stop, and is not that easy to access on foot.
KENTWOOD CC					
12	Kentwood CC	Cllr	Norcot Community Centre	CC	I've been trying to think of a possible alternative to the CC polling station in Kentwood (my own polling station). I can't think of any suitable buildings within the polling district area. One solution that has been suggested to me by a resident is to have a mobile polling station set up in the car park of Waitrose, if the store agrees. The only other place I can think of with parking and a room would be the Rivers gym at Scours Lane, but I think this is probably too far out of the way for some residents.
PARK PA					
13	Battle A	Public Comment	Alfred Sutton Primary School	PA	one day school business disrupted there are church halls and Park library as alternative venues. A Sp school - one day of school lost each election, church halls and Park library available as alternative venue
PEPPARD VB					
14	Peppard VA	Public Comment - Parent	Micklands Primary	VB	I would like to know why my sons school is used as a polling station, forcing it to close making my son miss a day's school and me to take a day off from work unpaid
REDLANDS R					
15	Redlands R	Public Comment	St Luke's Hall, Erleigh Road	R	It's a long way from Granby Gardens to St Luke's Hall - not all are car users. I don't have a problem personally.
16	Redlands R	RBC Access Officer	St Luke's Hall, Erleigh Road	R	As a disabled person and a wheelchair user, I think that there needs to be an all-round approach to thinking about Polling Stations and access; not only in terms of getting in and out and the space within the building, but also getting to the Polling Stations in the first place. I had thought that, because I had a power chair, it would be easier for me to get to my Polling Station, but it was almost as hard as when I tried it in my manual wheelchair, because of the state of the pavements and kerbs in the area. It also did not feel safe, in some parts, because of these problems. Maybe, if possible, it would be wise to have a rethink and ask people who have such needs where they feel would be easier for them to go to vote; it might not always be the place that seems to be the most logical in terms of distance. Distance, for me, is less of a factor than being able to get there safely and easily. I have reverted to a postal vote again, but if this were to be taken into consideration, and a more easily accessible, existing Polling Station could be used instead, so much the better. Or, it may be necessary to find another building, although none comes to mind at the present time.
SOUTHCOTE F					
17	Southcote F	Public Comment - Parent	Southcote School	F	I am struggling to find a valid reason why in this day and age of Internet and postal votes why it's deemed acceptable to close Southcote School which has around 570 pupils. That's not including Manor school pupils. Every single parent who works has to take a day off work to facilitate this! On top of all the holidays and inset days it's a major inconvenience. It's not like Polling day is during the holidays, if it was it wouldn't affect parents. The meeting held in 2014 would not necessarily attract any comments because as far as I'm aware no one has ever been asked for their comments? Times have changed and the fact that you use the community centre which is only a 5/10 minute walk from Southcote school seems more than adequate. There is only one doctors surgery in Southcote and we are all expected to get there so if that's acceptable then the use of one venue should be acceptable for voting. Why can't people that want to vote either do a postal vote or get to the community centre or pubs? Or just one venue in Southcote? I think you should be forward thinking on this and come up with some new ideas for the future, move with the times. Councils issue fines to parents if taken out of school for family holidays but yet this is deemed acceptable. I think it's wrong, but then I suppose the government worry that people won't vote unless it's on their doorstep, how sad!
18	Battle A	Public Comment - Parent	Southcote School	F	Polling Day - School closed at Southcote School. Can you please explain why Southcote school is again being closed on Thursday 3rd May 2018 to be used as a polling station? There are several suitable locations in the Southcote area that can be used instead of having to close the school.....again. The continual closure of the school (at least on day a year, if not more as shown in 2015 / 2016) is unacceptable. Why does Reading Council feel that these closures do not impact on a child's learning and the impact on working parents who, like many of us, work full time, some for ourselves? The policy on schools being used for Polling Stations MUST be changed moving forward. Use other acceptable local sites as they do in other Reading Wards without impacting the school.

THAMES W					
19	Thames W	Elector Comment	Highdown	W	I have a complaint regarding the signage. From the graphic I've created, you can see my journey from home to the polling station. In ALL previous elections where Highdown has been used as a polling station, the main entrance is used and there is lots of signage directing people to the polling room. In this instance, there was zero signage between where I live and the entrance/main driveway at Highdown. Not being able to find the polling station, I assumed that a nearby polling station (Emmer Green Primary School) was the new location, as this was clearly signed from St. Barnabus Road which I had driven past earlier that day. So I went there and found out that I was wrong. The Emmer Green Presiding Officer then tried to contact the Highdown Presiding Officer on the call, which took around 10 minutes. No matter. I was told that I had to return to Highdown and "find the Green Gates". So I went back to Highdown, and eventually found the polling station. After casting my vote, I asked to speak to the Highdown Presiding Officer to give some feedback about the lack of signage when coming from the Tredegar Road side of Surley Row.
THAMES WB					
20	Thames WA	Public Comment - Parent	St Andrew's Church Hall	WA	I support moving the Polling Station from Caversham Primary School as the school has to be closed when it is used as a Polling Station. This often means I need to take a day off as holiday or find childcare for the day.
21	Thames WA	Public Comment	St Andrew's Church Hall, Caversham	WA	I would be grateful if the council would reconsider using schools as polling stations, particularly smaller schools, such as Caversham Primary School, which are forced to close to accommodate voters and staff. It is disruptive and unnecessary when so many other buildings could be used, such as church halls, libraries and community centres.
22	Thames WA	Public Comment - Parent	St Andrew's Church Hall	WA	I would support the council looking for alternative polling venues to local schools. In the case of my children's school, Caversham Primary School, it seems very disruptive and inefficient to close down a school of 450 children, meaning 100s of local families need to make alternative arrangements for childcare/work etc for a slow stream of people to have access to a school hall. Perhaps Caversham Library, which currently doesn't even open its doors on a Thursday morning, could be considered as a more convenient location?
23	Thames WA	Public Comment	St Andrew's Church Hall	WA	If it can be avoided, I would rather that a school, Caversham Primary School, is not used as a polling station. It means that I have to take a day off to look after my child and that my daughter misses school.
24	Thames WA	Public Comment	St Andrew's Church Hall	WA	Whilst schools are useful places for polling stations, having to shut them causes a disproportionate impact on working families who then have to find additional childcare. It would be better to use community centres (which can then engage with their communities) or leisure centres.
25	Thames WA	Public Comment	St Andrew's Church Hall	WA	Would like to have alternative polling station to the school
26	Unknown	Public Comment - Parent	St. Andrew's Church Hall	WA	Please do not use schools for polling stations, there are sufficient venues around the area to save having to close schools unnecessarily. This has such a big impact on the wider community. Parents have enough days to cover without adding extras for polling days.
27	Thames WA	Councillor/Parent on behalf of Head Teacher	Caversham Primary School	WB	I have been asked by the Headteacher of Caversham Primary to investigate whether RBC could use an alternative polling station to Caversham Primary. The placement of the hall within the building means that for safeguarding reasons they have to close the entire school to children. With the snap election last year and the referendum the year before on top of the standard local and national elections they are losing at least one teaching day a year, sometimes more. She also mentioned that it is difficult to explain to parents why their children can't miss school for holidays / special occasions etc but can miss school for elections. I suspect that finding alternative space is particularly difficult in this case because Caversham Primary serves polling districts in both Caversham and Thames, and the Caversham district is a small one so possibly not worth staffing as a stand-alone polling station but I would like to know what I can do to facilitate finding an alternative location/ locations. I am also a parent at the school.
28	Thames WB	Public Comment	Caversham Primary	WB	I live in Mayfield Drive, Caversham and my current polling station is Caversham Primary School. I would be very grateful if you would consider changing the polling station for Mayfield Drive back to Newbridge Nursery School as Caversham Primary School is a significant distance from Mayfield Drive and isn't easy to get to by bus (I don't have a car)
29	Thames WB	Public Comment	Caversham Primary School	WB	Keep it local and accessible but consider church halls and libraries as an alternative to closing schools
30	Thames WB	Public Comment	Caversham Primary School	WB	School day is previous for children particularly during the day time mid-week. There are many other alternative venues that are not in heavy use during the day mid-week, eg: church hall, etc.
31	Thames WB	Public Comment	Caversham Primary School	WB	Please can an alternative venue be considered for a polling station instead of Caversham Primary School. As working parents it causes significant disruption to our work when we have to take a day off to look after the children because the school is closed, as well as having an economic impact. In addition, when there is an expectation that children will attend school and not take days off out of term-time, it does not seem acceptable for the school to be closed if there are other suitable venues that could be used.
32	Thames WB	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	WB	Please stop using schools as polling stations as it is disruptive to students learning and inconvenient for parents. I am a teacher and cannot take a day off from my school (which is not a polling station) just because my sons' school is closed. There are plenty of libraries, churches, church halls, civic buildings etc which could be used instead.

33	Thames WB	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary School	WB	If possible, I recommend moving the Polling station from schools. The number of disruption days for Caversham Primary school due to polling days are causing disruption for the quality of education for students and teachers. On top of that us parents have to adjust to school days off outside the normal holiday periods.
34	Mapledurham Y	Public Comment - Parent	Caversham Primary	WB	I am happy with my polling station, but my children's school (Caversham primary school) is used as a polling station and I have to make childcare arrangement every time the school is closed for polling day. Surely, there must be an alternative location which is not in use so much during the day that can be used instead - for example the church at the bottom of prospect street, beside the mini roundabout for Waitrose?
35	Unknown	Public Comment	Caversham Primary School	WB	Please could an alternative venue be used such as a church hall or the library so that the school does not have to close for a day.
36	Unknown	Public Comment	Caversham Primary	WB	As a father from a two-parent working family, I question the use of Cav primary school for polling when there are a number of other municipal buildings in the vicinity, or potentially thinking more laterally and using "pop-up" type facilities. With potentially a forthcoming GE and/or people votes coming, the stress of organising emergency child-care for the day, or burning annual leave outside of the ordinary holiday calendar is a particular issue for working parents (who don't have any other options when the school closes). Choosing the local primary school as the default option without exploring every other possible alternative feels like the lazy option. Whilst I appreciate a large majority of the electorate is elderly, you have to remember that most parents of school children aren't. I'd ask therefore you consider the wider impact.
37	Unknown	Public Comment	Caversham Primary	WB	I would prefer an alternative location to Caversham Primary. Traffic/parking is an issue, as is access from main bus routes and it is disruptive for the children at the school.
38	Unknown	Public Comment	Caversham Primary	WB	As a commuter, I always use a postal vote and never used a polling station since moving to Caversham. The disruption to education at Caversham Primary School (and the need to find alternative childcare on polling days) mean I would support a change of location of the nearest polling station. I am also concerned that the high number of recent security alerts and threats were due to the school being publically listed as a polling station. Perhaps we could consider use of the local Library (which now has reduced opening times following significant budget cuts) as an alternative to increase the local value of this important community asset.
WHITLEY S					
39	Whitley S	Public Comment	Whitley Park School	S, SC	For Kennet Island, a better polling station could be the Meeting Point, since it's within the island.
40	Whitley S	Public Comment	Whitley Park School	S, SC	Kennet Island (KI) development is now complete and have a sizable population to have its own polling station within the KI itself. Please consider having a separate polling station within the KI itself for the residents.
41	Whitley S	Public Comment	Whitley Park School	S, SC	Given the increase to the population of Kennet Island and the addition of Green Park Village, would it not be sensible to include an additional venue for voters to make their vote? For example, the meeting point on Kennet Island? Though I'm guessing it's not relevant to this review, surely given the same increase of population that a wavs review of Whitley is also due?
42	Whitley S	Public Comment	Whitley Park School	S, SC	I find it quite easy to vote at the school as I work unsociable hours however it would be much easier to be able to vote in Kennet Island itself.

Key

Outside of Consultation