

### **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.** **Notice of Review and Copies of Representations Submitted:**

**Notice of Review – published 18 July 2014:**

#### **The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006**

Representation of the People Act 1983 - Sections 18A, 18B, 18C, 18D and 18E and Schedule A1 (as amended by section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013)

## **London Borough of Barnet – Review of Polling Districts and Places**

In accordance with the requirements of section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended), notice is hereby given that the London Borough of Barnet is undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places for use in connection with UK Parliamentary elections held within the Chipping Barnet, Finchley and Golders Green and Hendon parliamentary constituencies.

The review will commence on Monday 21 July 2014 and will be completed in sufficient time to enable the Electoral Registration Officer to make any alterations necessary to the register of electors when it is next fully revised and published on Monday 1 December 2014.

The (Acting) Returning Officer for the three UK Parliamentary constituencies will make a representation on all polling districts and polling places to be used and additional to this, representations will be sought from persons who are considered to have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

Any elector registered in the area of the London Borough of Barnet may make a representation on any existing polling district and/or polling place and may suggest alternative locations to an existing polling place. Any such representations should be delivered:

- by hand/post to: Elections Project Office, Building Four, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.  
or
- by email to: [Electionsprojectoffice@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Electionsprojectoffice@barnet.gov.uk)

The details of the existing polling districts and polling places are available on the London Borough of Barnet's website [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) or may be requested by contacting the Elections Office at the address above.

Representations on existing arrangements need to reach the Elections Office by no later than Friday 5 September 2014.

Please note: Copies of all representations and suggested alternatives received will be made available for public inspection.

## **Representations Submitted:**

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### **Representation submitted by email from Councillor Mark Shooter** **29 July 2014**

Mr Bailey

I would like to make some suggestions in the Hendon ward for polling stations

1. HQD must remain in Hendon school in the usual polling area, on the Brent street side, not at the green lane entrance
2. HQB polling station should be moved back to st Mary's school where it was historically as it is far more central in the ward, and there are far better parking facilities

Thanks

Cllr Mark Shooter

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### **Representation submitted by email from Councillor Richard Cornelius** **30 July 2014**

Dear John

the inconsistency that springs to mind is the two polling places in Grahame Park and whether we should now have one in Beaufort park to reflect the changed demographics.

Regards

Richard Cornelius

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### **Representation submitted by email from Councillor John Hart** **3 September 2014**

Dear Mr Bailey,

Could you please include these fairly minor improvements:

- Change the polling booth for HPC from Bittacy Road (where it is hidden from view and difficult of access) back to Waitrose car park, Langstone Way  
or locate it in Millbrook Park (former Inglis Barracks) in or near Bray Road.NW7

- Re-arrange polling stations for HSB and HSA so that both are no longer located in Grahame Park redevelopment. A more appropriate location for one would be Beaufort Park.

With my thanks,

John Hart (councillor for Mill Hill ward)

**Representation submitted by email from Catrin Dillon**  
**4 September 2014**

Dear John

As you are aware, I (and indeed my predecessor as chair of governors) have been campaigning for a number of years to cease the use of Martin Primary School, East Finchley, as a polling station.

Governors and senior leaders of the school feel strongly that there are sufficiently adequate if not strong alternative venues within this ward and that we have done our duty in providing a polling venue for a long time. The East Finchley library, for example, is situated next door to the school whilst there are two churches with the requisite facilities within metres of the library.

Closing either part of or the whole school for the purposes of elections causes widespread disruption. Most importantly, it deprives children of a day's education and sends out the wrong message when senior leaders and governors strive to reinforce the importance of full attendance at school. Parents and carers are inconvenienced on election days as they have to find alternative care, including before and after school hours as this wrap-around care option is also provided by our school. Often, parents' only recourse is to take a day off which is not always a convenient option, particularly during straitened times. A few of our children, quite simply, are much safer in a school environment during school hours. We have a number of vulnerable children who benefit hugely from being at school.

We are currently in the final phase of permanently expanding our school to three forms of entry to fulfill local demand. Soon, we will have 700 children on roll. To disrupt the education of this many children when using venues nearby would cause minor inconvenience to their users seems at best inappropriate.

We would, therefore, urge this committee to seek an alternative polling venue at its earliest convenience so that Martin Primary and its staff and pupils are no longer unnecessarily disrupted. There has long been a move to prevent educational establishments from being used in this way. It seems to us that the current review offers a real opportunity for this committee to re-evaluate its current polling stations and to replace them with viable alternatives where the effect of a day's closure is not nearly so acute.

Thank you for allowing us to make representations to this review panel. We are aware that appropriate polling venues are not always readily available, but feel strongly that there are three viable alternatives within this particular ward.

Best wishes

Catrin Dillon  
Governor - Martin Primary School, East Finchley.

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**Representation submitted by email from Labour Group**  
**4 September 2014**

**Labour Group submission to consultation on review of polling districts and places**

The overriding principle in reviewing polling district boundaries and polling places should be to maximise democratic engagement, particularly in those where transport and access may be an issue.

**Coppetts:**

The ward needs an additional polling station on the N10 side. This could be the Freehold Centre or anything else in the same vicinity.

Friern Barnet Lane should be the border for CDD rather than Woodhouse Road.

The distance for some voters to get to the current New Southgate polling station is disproportionately far and an alternative should be looked into that places the polling station in a place that presents better equidistance for electors – perhaps the Tesco Supermarket.

There remains a concern that residents at the north end of CDA polling district (East Crescent etc) run the risk of disenfranchisement as the polling station is a significant distance away and not part of a natural transport route for those residents.

**West Finchley:**

West Finchley only has three polling districts and two are very large – FNB and FND. The ward really needs an additional Polling District.

**East Barnet:**

The polling station for CBC in East Barnet is in the Scout Hut in Vernon Crescent which is the least accessible building in the ward and in a remote corner of the ward. It used to be in Danegrove School which is far more accessible and convenient for the majority of residents.

The polling station in CBB is in Trent School, which is also at the most inconvenient /remote position in the ward and an alternative should be investigated. It may be that a review of polling district boundaries would be of value.

**West Hendon:**

In light of population growth as a result of the regeneration we propose redrawing West Hendon to take account of this using more natural boundaries as follows:

To make the HRB polling district part of Hendon ward making the boundary run along the A41; and also re-drawing the ward boundary with Colindale ward along Rushgrove Avenue and the A5150.

**Colindale:**

There is concern about the distance from the polling station of Pulse and also of Shoelands and Silk House and would argue that alternatives need to be investigated.

For coherence, Heybourne Park needs to be in Colindale ward.

**East Finchley:**

There is concern about the size of the FIA polling district and ensuring equitable access for all voters.

**Hale:**

The size of the HOC polling district means that some residents are a significant distance from the polling station, risking potential disenfranchisement of the community at the southern end of the PD in particular.

**Underhill:**

The roads at the top of Bells Hill including West End Lane, The Croft, Leecroft, which are currently in CGA should be able to vote at St Stephen's Church Hall which is only halfway down Bells Hill. At the moment these streets have to travel 2 miles to Underhill School.

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**Representation submitted by email from Roger Lyons**  
**24 September 2014**

**SUBMISSION ON POLLING STATIONS : HALE WARD BARNET**

There is significant concern about a major problem with Polling Station provision in HOC District of Hale Ward. The electorate of HOC District is 4936 of the Ward total of 11325.

This represents some 40% of the Ward electorate. The remainder has 4 other Districts, each with their own Polling Station. However, HOC District is divided almost completely by the land of the former Railway from Mill Hill East to Edgware. There is only one accessible crossing point, Deans Lane, to the west of the District, which has to be used by the 2000 electors living south of this barrier, to get to Hale Drive Polling Station.

Those electors living to the east, have a walk of up to 1.7 miles each way(3.4 miles return), and Parking is also very limited in the vicinity of the Polling Station, especially due to a CPZ to the east. Many complaints were received from electors about this situation, especially from elderly residents and those taking children with them to the Polling Station.

It would be much more reasonable for a Polling Station to be made available south of the Railway land, possibly in Annunciation Catholic School, or in a temporary caravan (as done at The Harvester for adjacent HOD District). This problem causes a lower poll in this part of HOC, with only an average take-up of Postal Votes.

Your review is invited to respond positively to this proposition.

Roger Lyons