

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review
Elected Member's 'Late' Representations Received

Ward	Summary of Representations Received	From	Officers Response/Actions
Barnet Vale	<i>Verbal representation, requesting that the proposal for Barnet Vale ward be reviewed, as it requires the vast majority of electors in the southern-most polling district of the ward to cross the often busy Netherlands Road to access the polling station at Discovery Hall.</i>	Cllr Longstaff	Following discussions with ward members and party groups – it was agreed that the proposal for Barnet Vale, using Discovery Hall, is best suited to serve the electors of the ward.
Garden Suburb	<i>Verbal representation requesting further efforts be made to improve the polling place locations for electors on the eastern edge of Garden Suburb. Cllr Grover subsequently put forward two new potential polling places that could be used in Garden Suburb (1. 'Permanent marquee' on the site at Hampstead Garden Suburb synagogue 2. Chabad on Falloden Way).</i>	Cllr Grover	Following visits to the two new proposed polling place venues, a new proposal was created for Garden Suburb ward. Following discussions with ward members and party groups, it was agreed that this new proposal would be accepted.
High Barnet	<p><u>High Barnet – Western 3 Polling Districts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The proposal to require many electors to cross the A411 Barnet Road in an area where there are no pedestrian crossing facilities is unsafe in itself, contrary to the “Clean, Safe and Well Run” priority of the Barnet Plan and discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010 with respect to protected characteristics Age, Disability and Pregnancy and Maternity in that getting to and from the polling station would be harder for slower-moving electors and is likely to result in higher risk and/or lower turnout in those groups.</i> 2. <i>The option of a postal vote does not adequately cover the Equality Act discrimination issue.</i> 3. <i>Barnet Road around and between the proposed St Peter’s Church Hall and The Arkley Club polling places has no crossing facilities, not even any traffic island.</i> 4. <i>Traffic speeds and sight lines make for difficult conditions for road crossing but there is insufficient space for economic implementation of traffic islands or controlled crossings (ref. Chipping Barnet Area Committee 29/06/21 https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s65527/Barnet%20Road%20EN5-%20Request%20for%20Zebra%20Crossing.pdf).</i> 5. <i>As reported by officers in the above report to the Chipping Barnet Area Committee, normally few pedestrians cross Barnet Road in that area so a significant number of electors crossing on foot in various weather and lighting conditions might well take drivers by surprise and add to the danger.</i> 6. <i>The pavements are narrow, especially opposite Chartridge Close and on the bend immediately east of the Arkley Club where there is not even room for 2 single-file columns of pedestrians to pass each other in comfort without stepping into the road.</i> 	Cllr Cooke	<p>An alternative proposal for High Barnet has been created that uses Whittings Hill School as a polling location instead of St Peter’s Church Hall. In addition, this proposal uses a section on Barnet Road as the boundary between two polling districts to minimise the need for electors to cross this road.</p> <p>Further to this, an Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out to consider the likely affects upon persons with certain protected characteristics.</p> <p>During the further consultation, agreement could not be reached on which polling proposal should be</p>

Ward	Summary of Representations Received	From	Officers Response/Actions
	<p>7. <i>As I have proposed previously, a much safer alternative would be to run the polling district boundary along the centre of Barnet Road in that area so that no elector would have to cross it to vote. Most of the electorate in the area live to the south of Barnet Road off Quinta Drive and Elmcroft Avenue/Trinder Road. Whittings Hill School is suitably located to serve the whole area. No information has been provided in Appendix 27 to substantiate the claim that “An assessment of Whittings Hill School has shown that it would almost certainly have to fully close on polling days.” In particular it appears that part of the hall (internally partitioned off) could be used, accessed separately from the rest of the school and without steps, using the service entrance off Quinta Drive.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Completely avoiding the use of schools as polling places is desirable but needs to be weighed against other factors and there are quite a few cases, around the borough, of school usage in the officer recommendations including some requiring complete school closure to pupils on polling day.</i></p> <p>9. <i>Even if it turned out that the school would need to be closed completely to pupils on polling day, it would not necessarily impact on education and on balance would be preferable to endangering local residents. Schools close anyway on 5 days per year for staff training and, given adequate notice, training days can be scheduled by the head teacher to coincide with polling days. The dates of full Council elections and GLA elections are known well in advance and each happens only once in 4 years. Even General Elections are expected on particular dates under current legislation and they happen on average only once every few years. Council bye-elections in any particular ward in Barnet and parliamentary bye-elections are very rare, there is no such thing as a GLA bye-election and European elections are a thing of the past.</i></p> <p>10. <i>The Brickfield Lane polling place is near traffic lights so crossing Barnet Road in that area is much safer. That proposed polling district could and should be extended eastwards to somewhere at or near Rowley Green Road.</i></p> <p>11. <i>That would leave The Arkley Club serving the area north of Barnet Road, St Peter’s would not be needed, there would be no increase in the number of polling places relative to current proposals and nobody would be confused by having to walk past another polling place to reach their own polling place.</i></p>		<p>designated for use. Therefore, a decision is needed by elected members on which proposal is used for elections in High Barnet. The Returning Officer is satisfied that both proposals allow for the effective conduct of voting by in-person electors on polling day.</p> <p>Option A (using St Peter’s Church Hall) would not require the closure (either partially or in full) of Whittings Hill School.</p> <p>Option B (using Whittings Hill School) minimises the number of electors that would be required to cross Barnet Road in order to vote in-person on polling day.</p>
Whetstone	<p><i>Verbal representation, opposing the use of St John’s Primary School on Swan Lane and stating that three polling districts using the other polling places identified in Whetstone ward would be sufficient for the electors of the ward.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Smith and Cllr Rajput</p>	<p>Following review of the polling place locations in the ward, a new proposal has been generated that does not use St John’s Primary school. Instead, the halls at both All Saints Church and St Mary Magdalen Church are used as double polling stations.</p> <p>This proposal was agreed to be suitable by all parties during the further consultations held.</p>