

## **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Summary of Responses to the Consultation**

### The Salvation Army Hall, Friary & St Nicolas Ward

All three Borough Councillors and the County Councillor support the change with the view that being able to keep Sandfield School open on polling days is beneficial to the electorate and the facilities at The Salvation Army Hall are better.

The voter survey we held at The Salvation Army Hall, which was used as a polling station at the Borough Council elections on 2 May 2019 received 11 responses all of which felt the new polling place is suitable with one comment of “The best facilities (parking) of all the local options.”

### St Joseph’s Hall, Holy Trinity Ward

The voter survey we held on 2 May 2019 received 188 responses, all of whom felt the polling place was suitable. We received the following comments from electors:

“closer so can walk do not need to drive”,  
“much easier to get to so more incentive to vote”,  
“easier for commuters returning late”,

Seven electors commented “not up the hill” and 125 electors felt this was more convenient and centrally located.

### The New Hope Church, Stoke Ward

The Councillors for the Stoke Ward were worried about the accessibility to the hall due to the steps; It was pointed out that the hall has a side path with leads to double doors with no steps. One Ward Councillor was also worried that those in Weyside Road and Stoughton Road may not be familiar with the hall which might affect elector turnout. We provided maps on the poll cards and extra signage. The turnout for the 2016 Ward by-election for the previous polling station (Waterside Centre) was 17.16% and for the 2019 Borough election in the new venue it was 17.08% - a small decrease.

The survey we held on 2 May 2019 received 88 responses of which 68 electors felt it was suitable, 18 satisfactory and 2 unsuitable. 32 electors felt this was a much more convenient venue and 9 felt the parking was better.

### East Horsley Village Hall, Clandon and Horsley Ward

The three previous Ward Councillors and one of the new Ward Councillors were worried the change may cause a decrease in the turnout, due to the Village Hall being further from the railway station. The turnout at Horsley Library at the County Council election in 2017 was 42.02% and the turnout at the Village Hall for the Borough elections in 2019 was 46.87%.

The new Ward Councillor referred to above feels “the better access arrangements at the village hall clearly outweighs this”.

The survey we held on 2 May 2019 received 34 responses of which 10 electors felt the hall was suitable, 17 felt it was satisfactory and 7 felt it was unsuitable. Four electors commented that the parking was better at the hall and 19 felt the Library was more convenient.

#### Victoria Hall, Ash Wharf Ward

The Acting Returning Officer for Surrey Heath Constituency has written to support the change of this venue.

One Ward Councillor has responded with no objections although they had heard “mutterings about the parking at Victoria Hall which is limited on the site. However there is a lot more parking available across Ash Hill Road at Coronation Gardens so this shouldn’t really be a cause for concern”.

The survey we held on 2 May 2019 received 14 responses of which 12 electors felt the hall was suitable and 2 electors felt it was satisfactory. Five electors commented on the extra parking available and most felt it was more central.

#### Urban Saints, Stoke Park, Christchurch Ward

One of the Ward Councillors has commented “it will be good to have two polling stations again”.

We also received one response to the public consultation when we proposed to move the polling place to Boxgrove School ‘that this would add pressure to the school, which may result in the school having to close. They also felt there should be a polling place within the polling district’.

Since the elections in May 2019, we have been able to agree with Urban Saints the use of their building next to Burchatts Farm Barn, which will bring the polling place back into the polling district.