

## **Subject to agreement by Full Council on 27 November 2018**

Draft response to the Waveney District Council review of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be sent by email to [elections@eastssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:elections@eastssuffolk.gov.uk) from the Town Clerk

This is the response from Lowestoft Town Council on your review of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. This response only deals with the Polling Places which will be used by the Lowestoft electorate.

The Council is committed to principles of democracy and believes that optimum polling station provision should be in place for voters to attend to make their voices heard on their infrequent electoral opportunities to shape decision-making.

We also recognise the importance of polling station reviews taking full account of the requirement for reasonable facilities for all voters and accessibility, in particular, for those voters who are disabled.

The following views from the Town Council are provided to help inform the outcome of this consultation:

- 1) Polling District Code 20 Carlton East and West (Uplands Community Centre) – The current location offers good facilities and disabled access and Council recommends that Uplands Community Centre should remain as the Polling Place for Carlton East and West.
- 2) Polling District Code 27 Gunton (Gunton St Benedicts Church Hall) – The current location serves well as a Polling Place and Council recommends that Gunton St Benedicts Church Hall should remain as the Polling Place for Gunton.
- 3) Polling District Code 28 Harbour Centre (Beresford Road Evangelical Church) – Council recommends that the District Council review this site owing to the limited parking available and the potential problems with disabled access owing to the raised lip of the doorframe at the entrance to the Church.
- 4) Polling District Code 29 Harbour North (Dance Studio, Water Lane Leisure Centre) – Council recommends a review of this site owing to it being on the edge of the Polling District and not central. However, it is appreciated that alternative options are limited.
- 5) Polling District Code 30 Harbour South (Stella Maris Hall) – Council agreed to recommend that the Polling Place for Harbour South should be relocated from Stella Maris Hall to St Andrews Church Hall, Roman Road, as it has a more central location in the Harbour South Polling District. It was noted that St Andrews Church Hall is the current Polling Place for Normanston South but that with due management this should not be a problem.

- 6) Polling District Code 33 Kirkley North (Salvation Army Church and Community Centre) – Council recommends that the Polling Place for Kirkley North should be relocated from the Salvation Army Church and Community Centre to the Kirkley Centre, 154 London Road South, as it has a more central location in the Kirkley North Polling District.
- 7) Polling District Code 34 Kirkley South (St Peters Church Hall) – Council recommends that the use of St Peters Church Hall is reviewed as it can be difficult to locate and to park nearby. However, in the absence of viable alternatives, Council believes that the Polling Place for Kirkley South should remain as St Peters Church Hall.
- 8) Polling District Code 39 Normanston North (Scout Hall, Rotterdam Road) – Council believes the current location serves well as a Polling Place and recommends that the Scout Hall should remain as the Polling Place for Normanston North.
- 9) Polling District Code 40 Normanston South (St Andrews Church Hall) – It should be noted that this is also the site Councillors agreed should become the new Polling Place for the Harbour South Polling District. Council recommends that this should remain the Polling Place for Normanston South.
- 10) Polling District Code 42 St Margarets West (Oulton Community Centre) – It is noted that this site is outside of the St Margarets West Polling District but provides easy accessibility in comparison to other potential sites. It is recommended that Oulton Community Centre should remain as the Polling Place for St Margarets West.
- 11) Polling District Code 46 Pakefield East (Scout Hall, Kendal Road) – Council recommends a review of this site as it has no private parking. However, in the absence of viable alternatives, Council recommends that this site remains as the Polling Place for Pakefield East.
- 12) Polling District Code 47 Pakefield North (Walmer Road Recreational Building) – Council recommends that this remains the Polling Place for Pakefield East.
- 13) Polling District Code 48 Pakefield South (Seventh Day Adventist Church) – Council recommends that this remains the Polling Place for Pakefield South.
- 14) Tom Crisp (St Lukes Church Centre) – It was noted that this is also the Polling Place for Whitton Centre and South and Council is concerned that incorporating three Polling Districts might be complicated. The location is not readily accessible to the majority of residents in the Tom Crisp Polling District. Council recommends that the use of this site for Tom Crisp is reviewed and due consideration should be given to other locations, including the Fire Station on Stradbroke Road owing to the unique circumstances of the area.
- 15) Polling District Code 49 St Margarets Centre (Benjamin Britten Academy) – Council recommends that this site remains the Polling Place for St Margarets Centre.
- 16) Polling District Code 50 St Margarets East (Gunton Residents Meeting Hall) – Council recommends that this site remains the Polling Place for St Margarets East.

- 17) Polling District Code 63 and 64 Whitton Centre and South (St Lukes Church Centre) – Council recommends that this site remains the Polling Place for Whitton Centre and South.
- 18) Polling District Code 65 – Whitton East (Whitton Community Hall) – Council recommends that this site remains the Polling Place for Whitton East.

Should you have any questions about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.