

Appendix 1 - Returning Officer Recommendations

Aveley & Uplands

Ward Councillors	David Van Day Colin Churchman Maureen Pearce	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
B	Current polling station 2021	Aveley Public Hall, Purfleet Road
B	Proposed 2022 onwards	Aveley Hub, High Street Recreation Ground Car Park RM15 4BY

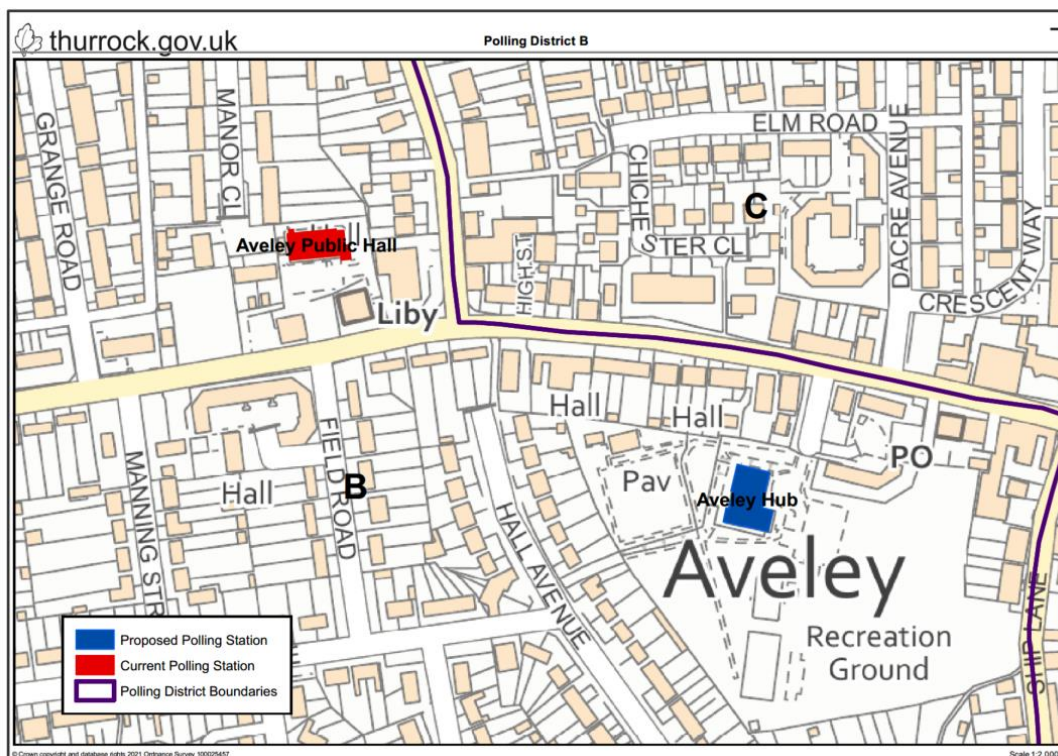
Reason for review:- Aveley Public Hall is now closed and not available for use.

Details of proposed new venue:

Aveley Hub is a new building on the Recreation Ground located on the opposite side of the road to the Hall but more central within the village and shopping area. The hub has parking immediately outside, it can be accessed either from the High Street, or via the Recreation Grounds and it is an accessible building. The hub has outside lighting for evening voting and perceived staff safety is much improved. The Hall inside is large and accessible for voters and facilities for staff working on the poll are available.

Distance between venues: [4 min walk, 1 min drive (0.2mile)]

Recommendation: The Returning Officer recommends Aveley Hub be confirmed as the polling place for Aveley and Uplands, polling district B



Belhus

Ward Councillors	Michael Fletcher Chris Baker Georgette Polley
Existing Arrangements	
Polling District	Polling Place
F	Current polling station 2021 Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Daiglen Drive
F	Proposed 2022 onwards Royal British Legion Hall, Faymore Gardens

Reason for review:- Holy Cross Catholic School is unwilling to be used as a polling station. The school is shut on polling day.

The Returning Officer has the right to use schools as polling stations. Given recent government guidance and because schools and education have been disrupted in 2020/21 due to Covid-19, Electoral Services would prefer not to use schools where possible alternatives may exist. There are no other suitable locations within the polling district boundary.

Details of proposed new venue:

The polling place for any polling district must, except in special circumstances, be an area in that district. A polling place may be designated outside the polling district in those special circumstances.

If the school is not available and/or members wish to limit the disruption to schooling for those schools that close on polling day, it would be possible and practical to combine the polling for districts E2 and F, providing two polling stations in one Polling Place (The Hall, Royal British Legion).

The Hall is large enough to separate the two polling districts, provide a larger section for Polling District F (due to the larger electorate) and the polling areas can be accessed from different entrances.

Distance between venues:

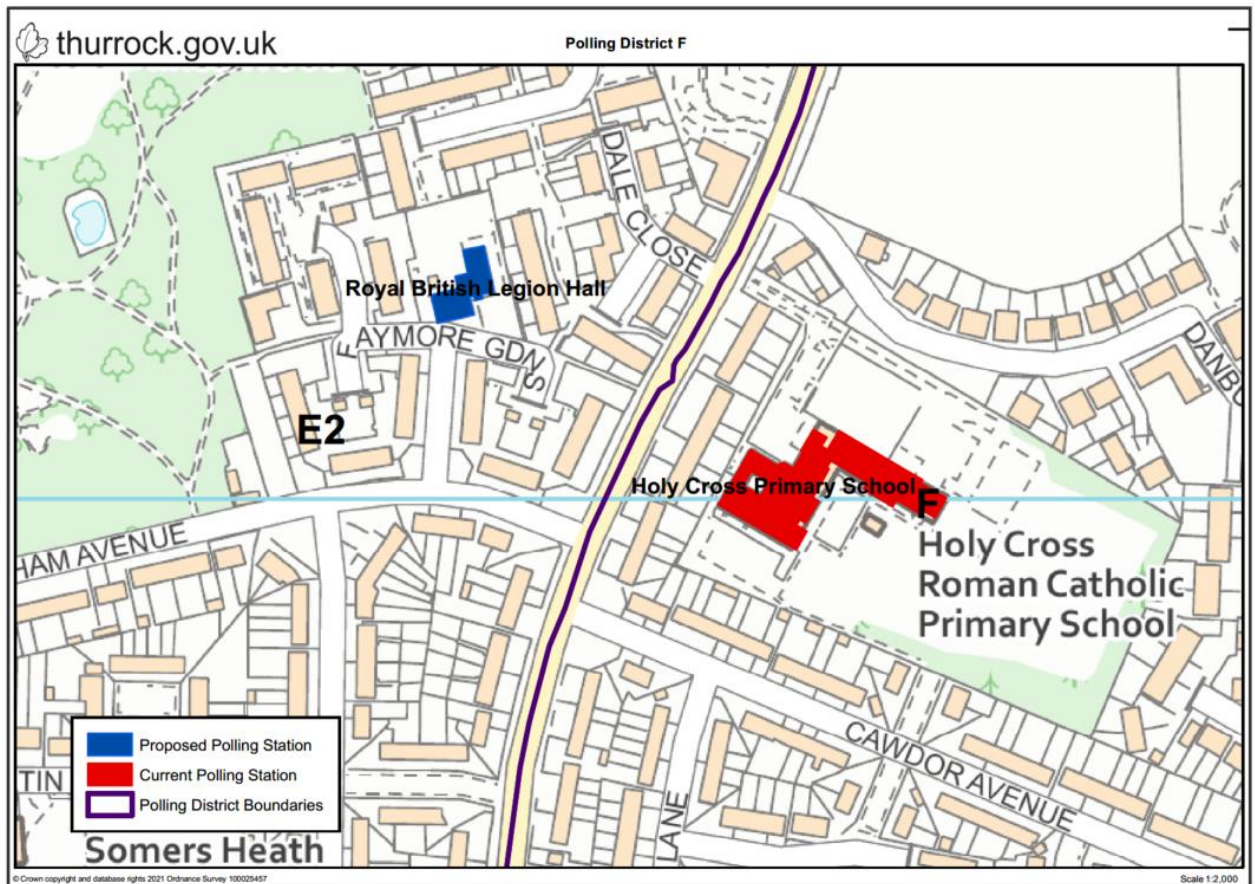
The route between each venue is accessible either by road via Fairham Avenue [**1 min drive (0.2 mile)**] or via a footpath directly opposite the entrance to the Holy Cross School (through Faymore Gardens and Dale Close. [**2 min walk (0.1 mile)**])

The extra travelling distance is not considerable, and residents / electors may consider that keeping the school open is a priority.

Recommendation: The Returning Officer recommends Royal British Legion be confirmed as the polling place for Belhus, polling district F and continues as the polling place for E2.

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Belhus continued



Chadwell St Mary

Ward Councillors		Sara Muldowney Daniel Chukwu Adam Carter
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
J	Current (agreed) polling station	Chadwell St Mary Working Mens Club – due to unavailability Chadwell St Mary Library was used in 2021
J	Proposed 2022 onwards	Chadwell St Mary Library, Brentwood Road

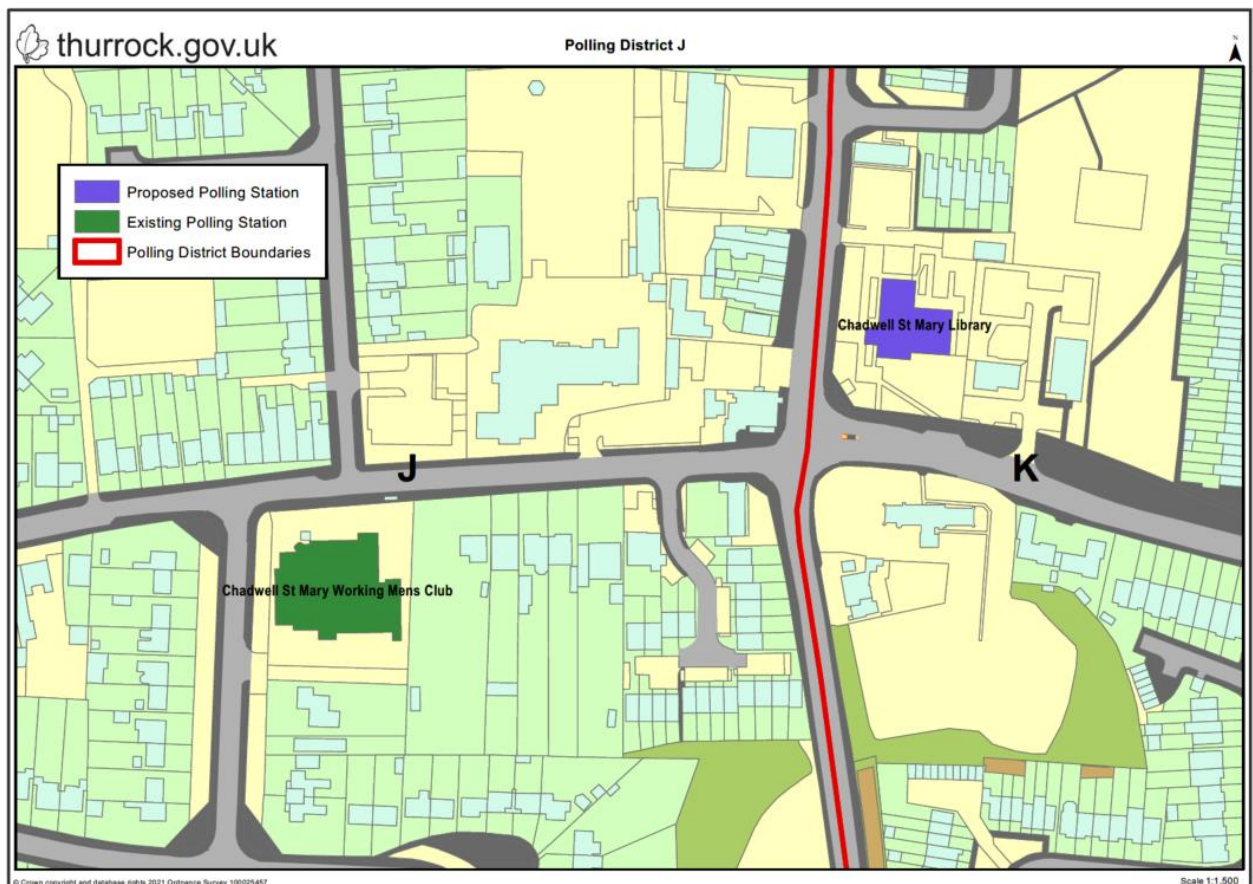
Reason for review:- The Working Mens Club is unavailable on 5 May 2022 due to an existing booking. During discussions and through a lack of response from the Club it appears that they do not wish to encourage a booking for elections in future years.

Details of proposed new venue

The library was used successfully in 2021 under Covid-19 restrictions with a dedicated area for polling. There is parking onsite and the venue is accessible.

The library is marginally outside of the polling district. The polling district boundary runs down the centre of Brentwood Road. This did not cause issues at the polls in May 2021.

Distance between venues: 0.2 mile



Grays Riverside

Ward Councillors	Martin Kerin Jane Potheary Tony Fish	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
V	Current polling station 2021	Grays Central Library, Thameside Theatre, Orsett Road (this is outside of the Polling district)
V	Preferred option	Inspire Youth Hub, 24-28 Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5EB
V	Also considered	Q-gym, Units 14-16 The Queensgate Centre, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DF

Reason for review: The Returning Officer needs clarity on the polling station in this district to avoid elector confusion. For administrative reasons the decision regarding polling stations is required no later than January 2022. Suitable alternatives are available within the district boundary. It would be preferable to confirm the polling station during this interim review instead of an emergency prior to the next poll.

Details of proposed new venue:

Two venues were considered during the research. The preferred option is Inspire Youth Hub. The polling district boundary shows that Thameside Theatre is **outside** of the polling district. Inspire Youth Hub is **within** polling district V and directly opposite Thameside Theatre.

The building does have parking for staff to the rear. Separate entrances are available for other service users in the building and the building is accessible. This location is preferable to Q-Gym unit as it is a shop frontage on Orsett Road, easily visible to electors, encouraging participation and voting. It is also the nearest location to Grays Central Library should electors need signposting.

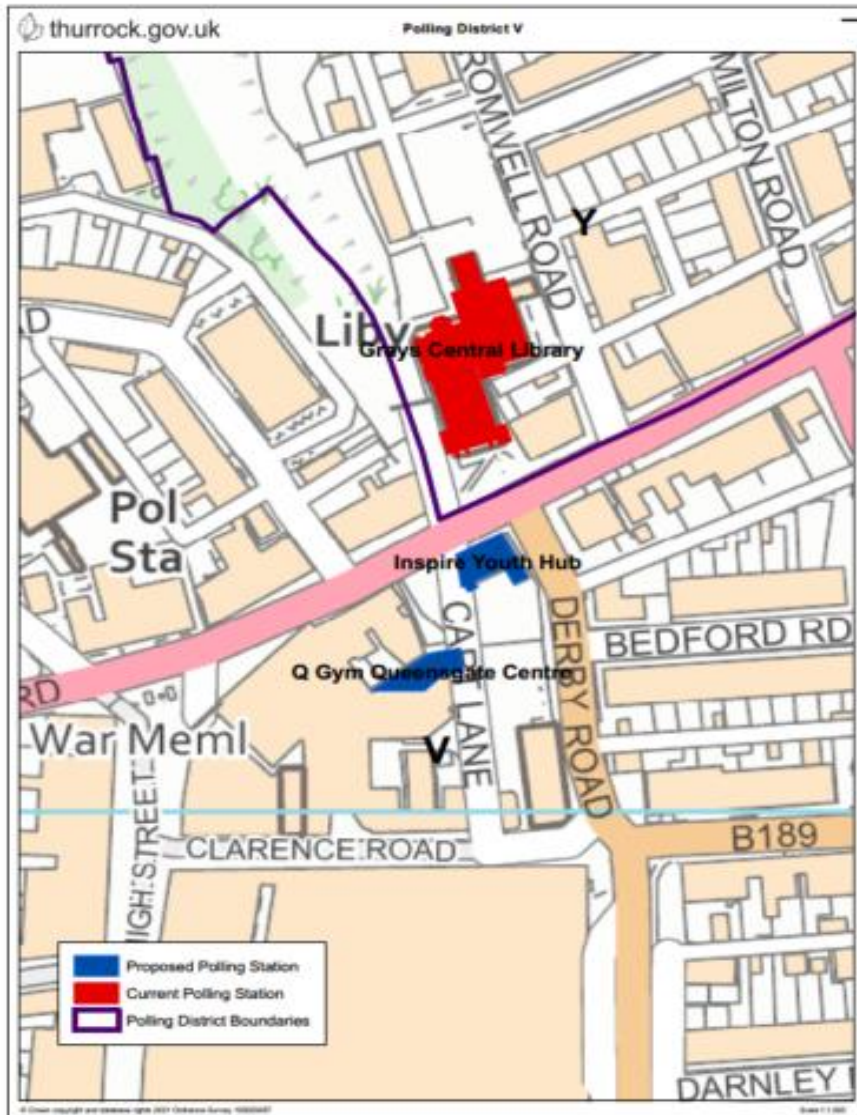
Distance between venues:

From Thameside Theatre to Inspire Youth Hub - 33 ft

Recommendation:- The Returning Officer recommends that Inspire Youth Hub is confirmed as the polling place for Polling District V.

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Grays Riverside continued



Grays Thurrock

Ward Councillors	Lynn Worrall Cathy Kent John Kent	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
Y	Current polling station 2021	Stanley Lazell Hall, Dell Road
Y	Preferred Option	United Reformed Church, 31 Bradleigh Avenue RM17 5XD
Y	Considered but no parking	Grays Baptist Tabernacle, 85 Orsett Road, RM17 5HH (subsequently advised that only the Church Hall, Hathaway Road is available for use)

Reason for review: Stanley Lazell Hall is no longer available for hire as a polling station. A new station is required for Polling District Y.

Details of proposed new venue:

Two venues were considered during the research. The preferred option is United Reformed Church, 31 Bradleigh Avenue. This venue offers a large hall for polling, adequate facilities for staff and good parking onsite for staff and electors. The Church is reached via its on driveway leading to parking spaces and should not require on street parking. The location is in the northeast area of the polling district but still accessible, within the residential area and near several schools.

Grays Tabernacle Church does not have parking for electors and the frontage is on Orsett Road. The Church have subsequently advised that we may only use the Church Hall located on Hathaway Road. The hall has no specific parking and is located in an area with double yellow lines and resident only parking spaces.

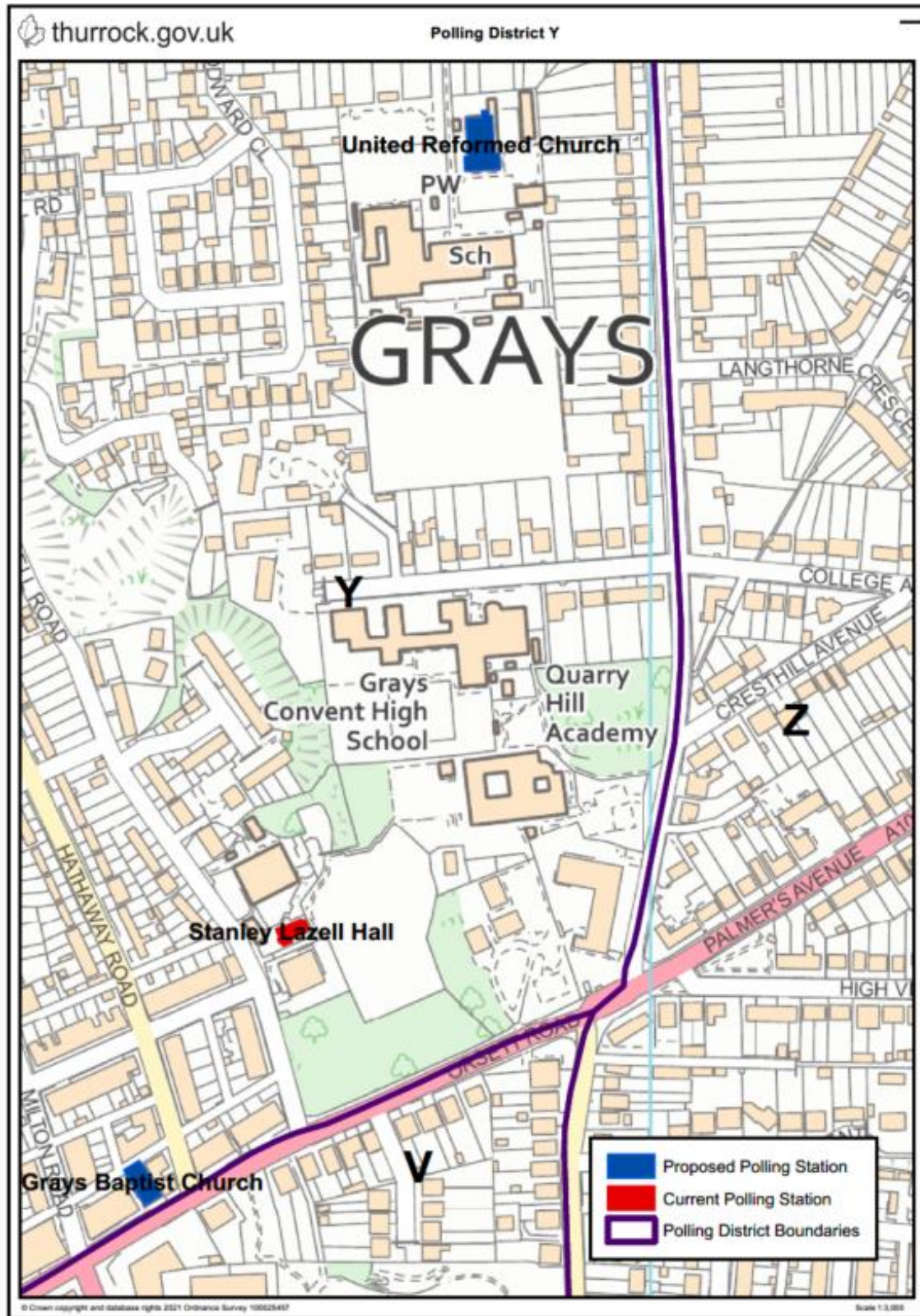
Distance between venues:

From Stanley Lazell to United Reform Church: - 2 min drive, 12 min walk 0.5 mile

From Stanley Lazell to Grays Baptist Tabernacle: - 1 min drive, 3 min walk, 0.1 mile

Recommendation:- The Returning Officer recommends that United Reformed Church, 31 Bradleigh Avenue is confirmed as the polling place for Polling District Y.

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Ockendon

Ward Councillors	Sue Shinnick Andrew Jefferies Luke Spillman	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
AF	Current polling station 2021	Bonnygate Primary School, Arisdale Avenue
AE	Preferred Option 2022	Belhus Village Hall, Daiglen Drive (AE)

Reason for review:- Bonnygate Primary School is unwilling to be used as a polling station. The school is shut on polling day.

The Returning Officer has the right to use schools as polling stations. Given recent government guidance and because schools and education have been disrupted in 2020/21 due to Covid-19, Electoral Services would prefer not to use schools where possible alternatives may exist. There are no other suitable locations within the polling district boundary.

Details of proposed new venue:

The polling place for any polling district must, except in special circumstances, be an area in that district. A polling place may be designated outside the polling district in those special circumstances.

If the school is not available and/or members wish to limit the disruption to schooling for those schools that close on polling day, it would be possible and practical to combine the polling for districts AF and AE, providing two polling stations in one Polling Place, Belhus Village Hall, Daiglen Drive.

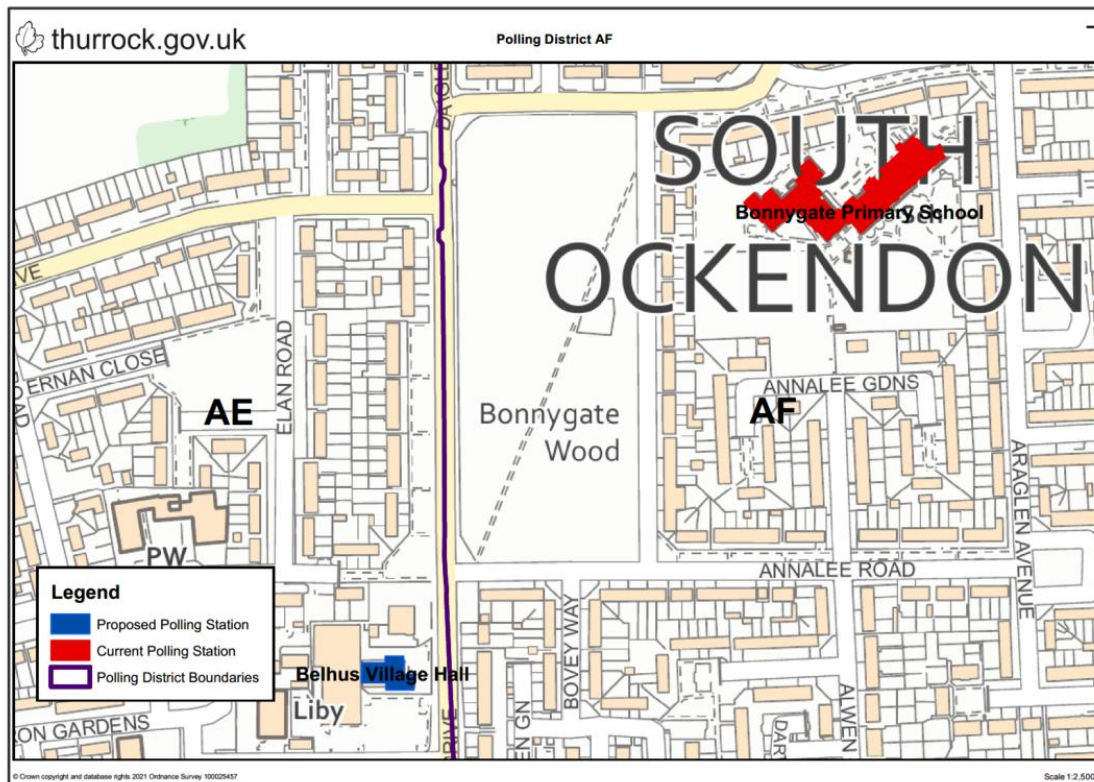
Polling in a school that has shut for the day does not encourage parents/ carers to vote as the school is not open and a journey to the school is not necessary. Belhus Village Hall is located on Daiglen Drive just past the main shops and may possibly result in an increased turnout for this district. There are two separate halls and polling for AF and AE can take place in different halls. Both polling districts are in the same Ward.

Distance between venues:

2 min, 0.5 mile (drive), 8 mins, 0.4 mile (walk)

Recommendation:- The Returning Officer recommends Belhus Village Hall is confirmed as the polling place for Polling Districts AE and AF

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South Chafford

Ward Councillors	Abbi Akinboun Augustine Ononaji	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
AL	Current polling station 2021	The Chafford Hundred Brewers Fayre, Howard Rd
AL	Preferred Option	Bannatyne Gym (Indoor tennis courts) or Temporary Polling Station if not available, Howard Road OR
AL	Possible option	Temporary Polling station, Sainsbury's Supermarket car park, Burghley Road

Reason for review:- There is a considerable risk each year that The Brewers Fayre will not be available for polling. The polling arrangements are confirmed with the manager, but this is not a formal arrangement and incoming managers are not made aware of our booking. There is a high turnover of management and no booking contract. For this reason Electoral Services team have sought to find a more permanent and less risky option that will not disadvantage electors.

Details of proposed new venue:

Bannatyne Gym is willing for polling to take place on their inside tennis courts. Parking is available on site and entrance to the courts would be through the main doors, via an accessible gate next to the turnstile. Electors would proceed through the hallway into the building and into the tennis court. Facilities are available for staff and the building is accessible for all members of the public. The gym is located immediately opposite the Brewers Fayre and would still be on a commuting route to and from the train station. Polling hours occur during gym opening hours minimising the risk of the venue not being open on time.

The use of a temporary polling station at Sainsburys is possible and Sainsbury management have agreed. However, it is expensive and not the preferred option when a permanent building is available.

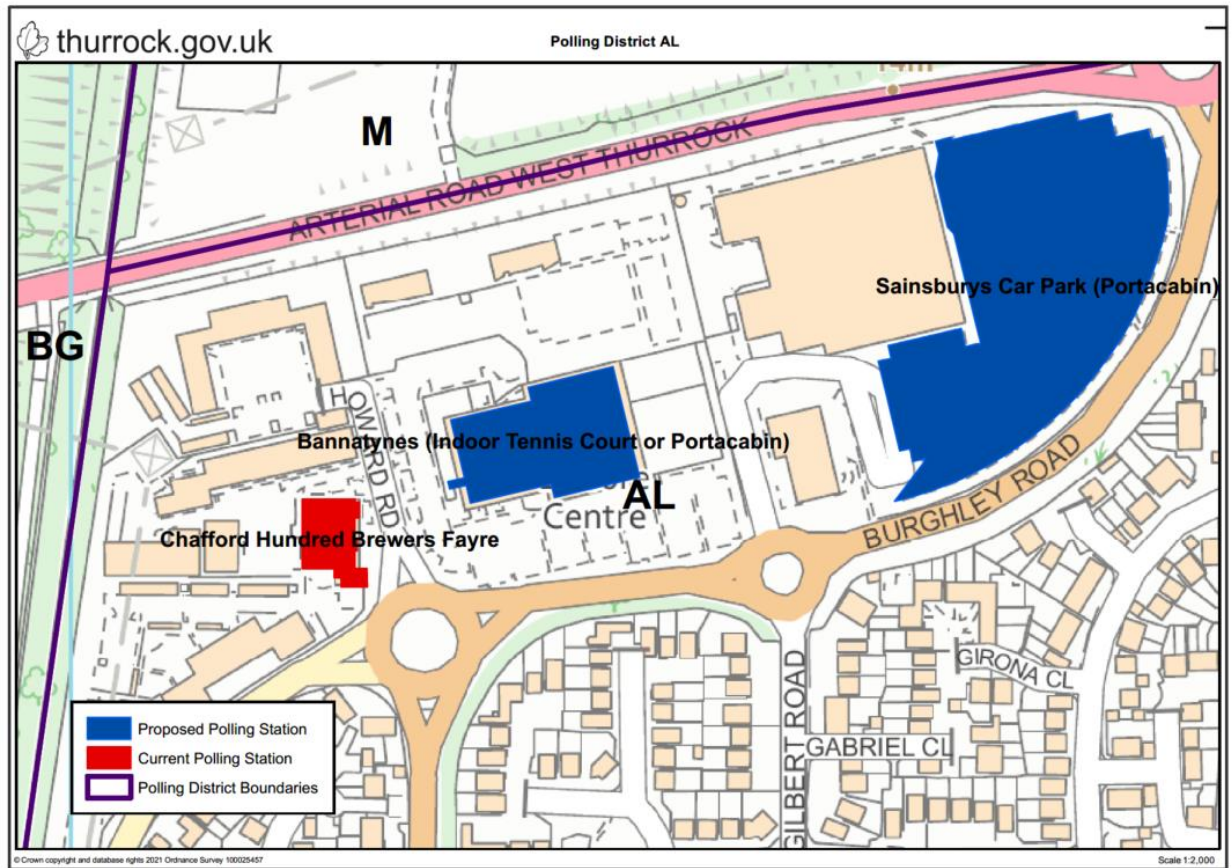
Distance between venues:

Brewers Fayre to Bannatyne Gym - 2 min, 0.1 mile (walk and drive)

Recommendation:- The Returning Officer recommends Bannatyne Gym is confirmed as the polling place for Polling District AL.

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South Chafford continued



Stanford East and Corringham Town

Ward Councillors	Alex Anderson Shane Ralph Jack Duffin	
Existing Arrangements		
Polling District	Polling Place	
AP	Current polling station 2021	Corringham Hall, Springhouse Road
AP	Preferred Option	Springhouse Club, Springhouse Road,
AP	Considered but not suitable	St John's Evangelist, St John's Way, Corringham

Reason for review:- Corringham Hall, Springhouse Road is not available to hire for polling in May 2022 due to an existing booking. A temporary alternative location is required for the May 2022 polls.

Details of proposed new venue:

The preferred option is The Springhouse Club, located on the same road as Corringham Hall. It has two halls that could be used for polling. Polling will take place in the smaller hall and this will allow direct access via a ramp from the car park into the small hall. The ramp directly into the hall does have a small lip/step. For those electors who require a more accessible ramp one is available to the right of the small hall and this would take electors through the main building. It can be clearly signposted and staff will be on hand and have confirmed they would be willing to direct electors through the building if required.

Distance between Corringham Hall and Springhouse Club:

1 min, 0.1 mile (drive), 2 min walk

Recommendation:- The Returning Officer recommends Springhouse Club is confirmed as the temporary polling place for Polling District AP. (May 2022)

