# Polling district and polling places review for the Borough of Elmbridge

# <u>APPENDIX A</u>

Final decisions

3 March 2025



#### OFFICIAL

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## Appendix A – representations received

#### **Acting Returning Officer comments**

Thank you for asking us to comment on your Polling District and Polling Place Review, I can confirm that we have no comment to make.

Kath Richards, Head of Electoral Services, Runnymede Borough Council (on behalf of the Acting Returning Officer for Runnymede and Weybridge Constituency)

#### **Cobham and Oxshott South Division**

Polling place venue Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, KT11

2LU

Polling district HA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Suitable	No	No	JM

Polling place venue Downside Village Hall, Downside Common Road,

Cobham, KT11 3NP

Polling district HB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Excellent, but possibly underused.	No	No	VC

Polling place venue Stoke d'Abernon Village Hall, 12 Station Road, Stoke

d'Abernon, KT11 3BN

Polling district IB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
I cannot walk here because there is no footway across the railway bridge on Blundel Lane. I could walk to the polling station at the Oxshott Village Hall. Why have you changed?	Those people who lived in an area where they voted at the Oxshott Village Hall should be able to continue to do so	Change the boundaries so that those who previously lived in the area that voted at the Oxshott Village Hall can continue to do so. You are making it impossible for people who previously walked to their polling station to continue to so because there is no way to walk across the Blundel Lane railway bridge.	JH
The proposed venue is a 40 minute walk away from the current location on roads with no pavements in places. This will force people to drive to a location that is covered in yellow lines to prevent parking due to its proximity to the station, making it very difficult for people to vote. People will change to postal votes putting further pressure onto council resources	Oxshott community hub (new scout hut)	No	NH
I would prefer to remain my polling at oxshott village hall	No	No	КС
I understand that residents that live very close to OVC will under the proposals, now be required to drive to Stoke d'Abernon to vote, whereby every one of those Oxshott residents affected can at present walk from their home to	The best choice is to keep the Oxshott Village center as the polling station. Second best choice	My comments have all been made as above.	MP

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
the polling station. This proposal must not be implemented: 1) It will reduce the number of people voting-every one of the Oxshott residents affected will have to get in a car and drive approximately 1.5 miles to the Stoke polling station. This will obviously create a disincentive to vote as well as a complete inability to vote for those who can't drive or get a ride, or, find the likely approximate 1 hour that it will take to get there and back to Stoke on such a busy day/evening. One cannot walk to Stoke from Oxshott as there is no possible safe way of doing so- there is no footpath over the rail bridge on the road to stoke and it is incredibly dangerous for pedestrians. 2) The report drafters cannot possibly have considered the environmental side- 100's of people getting in cars in order to exercise there democratic rights, when there is a polling station moments away accessible by foot -where we have always voted in the past with no issues at all. 3) Oxshott residents going to or coming back from work will no longer be able to vote en-route to/from the Oxshott train station, further reducing the likelihood of people voting. 4) reduction in community feel and cohesion when a large number of residents have to commute by car to vote-driving by the polling station on their way to now vote. 4) We have been voting at OVC (as I recall) for about 25 years. There has never been any "volume" issue whereby there were to many voters that could not be handled by the polling staff. Any waits are insignificant compared to the proposal to put all those Oxshott residents in cars and send them off to vote in Stoke which will certainly take up to an hour! If you need some other venue for some unstated reason, use the St Andrews Oxshott Village Church who have just spent very large sums to update and modernize its hall. Perfect for a polling station and it is right in the heart of the village and a 1 minute walk from the Oxshott Village Center. I have no doubt that the church would be delighted to host! The Village through the	is St Andrew's Oxshott Village church which is just 1 minute walk from the OVC.		

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
understanding, to expand and modernize the entire village center soon. It is not sensible for EBC to now withdraw an incredibly important function such as the polling station in these circumstances where so much money is being spent to in fact expand the center's functionality and utility  I am afraid this is a not even close to being a sensible, reasonable proposal and I request that this plan to change the polling station for Oxshott residents from the Oxshott Village			
Center to a polling station in Stoke, be rejected for at least the above reasons.  Regards			
The change of polling station is not suitable. It is not a safe walking distance nor does it have sufficient parking since I would have to drive to vote, which would also not be very ecofriendly. I have a right to vote in person and would not trust a postal vote. Moving my polling station from Oxshott Village Centre to Stoke D'Abernon Village hall is NOT acceptable. I find it even harder to believe that even the some of the community that can see Oxshott Village Centre from their home would also be forced to Stoke D'Abernon Village Hall to vote.	St Andrews Church Hall, Oakshade Road or Oxshott Community Hub, Waverley Road	Unhappy about the new boundaries since you have divided a small village into two different voting areas which could cause decision making for Oxshott, as a	MS
In your proposal you state the following: The location: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major road, rivers etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?		whole, to be a more lengthy process.	
The answer to every question is NO!. It is not safely accessible as the railway bridge has no footpath. I would also not feel safe to walk down the public footpaths on my own and they can also be muddy. These are the same barriers faced by other voters, especially if they are elderly as the walk is not reasonable or safe. The public transport in the area is not reliable or frequent and why should I have to pay for a bus fare to vote, at present I can travel on foot for free (preferred) or use my car and be able to park at the location making the Oxshott Village Centre the best location for the			

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
voter. If this is not possible then perhaps the St Andrews Church Hall or the New Oxshott Community Hub would be much more accessible than the Stoke D'Abernon Hall.			
The change of polling station is not suitable. It is not a safe walking distance nor does it have sufficient parking since I would have to drive to vote, which would also not be very ecofriendly. I have a right to vote in person and would not trust a postal vote. Moving my polling station from Oxshott Village Centre to Stoke D'Abernon Village hall is NOT acceptable. I find it even harder to believe that even the some of the community that can see Oxshott Village Centre from their home would also be forced to Stoke D'Abernon Village Hall to vote.  In your proposal you state the following:  The location: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major road, rivers etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?	St Andrews Church Hall in Oakshade Road or Oxshott Community Hub in Waverley Road	Not happy about the new boundaries since you have divided a small village into two different voting areas which could cause decision making for Oxshott, as a whole, to be a more lengthy process.	JS
The answer to every question is NO!. It is not safely accessible as the railway bridge has no footpath. I would also not feel safe to walk down the public footpaths on my own and they can also be muddy. These are the same barriers faced by other voters, especially if they are elderly as the walk is not reasonable or safe. The public transport in the area is not reliable or frequent and why should I have to pay for a bus fare to vote, at present I can travel on foot for free (preferred) or use my car and be able to park at the location making the Oxshott Village Centre the best location for the voter. If this is not possible then perhaps the St Andrews Church Hall or the New Oxshott Community Hub would be much more accessible than the Stoke D' Abernon Hall.			
This venue is totally unsuitable for the residents of Oxshott South. Why on earth is this council proposing that villages drive past a polling station to another village to vote. This is	Oxshott Village Centre would be more suitable for residents of Oxshott South,	I assume this plan was created by AI because I cannot believe our elected officials	AB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
total incompetence on behalf of our elected officials.	alternatively the scout hall or sports club could be used.	would be so stupid to waste public money coming up with this idea.	
This is completely unnecessary and means unwarranted car journeys for many	Remain as is!	Completely unnecessary	TS
Is not a suitable polling place for residents living on the other side of the dangerous humpback railway bridge which has no footpath and is difficult on a bike. More car journeys will inevitably be required with increased harmful emissions.	Oxshott Village Centre where those votes are currently cast.	Don't cross the railway bridge on Blundel Lane. It doesn't make sense on the ground.	DT
Travelling from my home on the Oxshott side of the railway bridge requires navigating the humpback bridge on a bend which on foot is so dangerous that it's ill-advised to even try. On a bike is no better. Therefor a change of venue from Oxshott to Stoke d'abernon discriminates against those without a car. I personally avoid using my car for short journeys of around a mile as encouraged by the government. There is insufficient parking in the proposed venue for added voters from Oxshott who have no choice but to use their cars.	Oxshott village hall or Oxshott church hall, or Oxshott community hall in Waverley road	No	SP
The only way to safely get to the proposed new polling place would be to use a car as Blundell Lane over the railway line has no footpath. Please can we continue to use Oxshott Village Hall as our polling venue?	Continue to use Oxshott Village Hall for Oxshott residents.	It is not helpful to have cut the community of Oxshott in half and given them different districts and polling venues.	JW
I live north of the railway bridge. I no longer drive. In the past I have voted at the Oxshott Village Hall which I can walk to. I cannot walk to the Stoke D'Abernon Village Hall because there is no footway over the railway bridge.	Oxshott Village Hall or redraw the boundary between 1B Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon South and 1C	There is no footway over the railway bridge over Blundel Lane. I do not drive so will not	SH

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
You need to redraw the boundaries so I am in 1C not 1B.	Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon West.	be able to access the Stoke D'Abernon Village Hall. You need to redraw the boundary between 1B Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon South and 1C Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon West so that people like me are in 1C and not 1B.	

#### **Esher, Claygate and Oxshott North Division**

Polling place venue Esher Library, Old Church Path, Esher, KT10 9NS

Polling district AA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Not a bad location but rather small.	There is a 'scout hut' on West End recreation ground and close to the main road, I think it houses a pre-school for tinies held there there's some parking - it could be hired for a day, possibly. There is more empty space to be had to set up tables.	I don't know what changes have been made to the election district boundaries and I would like to know.	RE
There is no obvious parking area but the Civic Centre car park is adjacent. Not many people use the library these days so many people might not know where it is.	Civic Centre	No	RW

Polling place venue Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, Claygate, KT10 0JP

Polling district E

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Excellent place	No	No	Neil MacLeod
Excellent	Claygate youth club	No	GH
They only started using this venue a few years ago. It is far better than using a school, as it means less disruption to Children's education. It is large enough to cater for Claygate's population.	No	Until this enforced Unitary change is completed it is difficult to answer this question as we do not know which district we will come under and the persons who could be representing us. It's totally wrong for the government to force this change as it does not work in the areas where it exists. It gives the new Mayor (person in charge) too much autonomy to do what they like. Look at the way Sadiq Kahn has rules in London! Also I have no desire to be associated with and pay for a council like	NC

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
		Woking with all it's debt! Larger does not work, look at the NHS. Too many managers, not enough real working staff.	
Suitable, no changes required.	No	No	SB
Superb.	No	No	GB
I believe the current arrangements for Claygate are satisfactory, and agree with the Acting Returning Officer that no change should be made	No	No	MC
I'm not sure any change is necessary in Claygate. Any change would have to very well publicised to avoid voter confusion			AS
I note however, that the consultation document indicates a maximum of 2250 electors per polling station. The Claygate electorate is at least double that number, implying that the Ward should be split into 2 or 3 Polling Districts with at least 2 Polling Stations. It is difficult to think of suitable additional sites. Claygate Primary School has limited			

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
parking and is in a residential road. The Community Centre is approached by a narrow road, not suited to lots of coming and going. The Youth Club has no parking. That only leave Holy Trinity Church Hall.  Polling Stations covering more than one Polling District pose considerable problems for telling by party volunteers, as voters need to be asked for letters as well as numbers and tellers have to use separate pads for the different Districts.			

Polling place venue Oxshott Village Centre, 19 Holtwood Road, Oxshott,

KT22 0QJ

Polling district IA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
This is central to all of Oxshott. Oxshott is a village with an identity of its own.	No	Oxshott is a village with a n identity. Why are you splitting it. The views of	CW

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
		Oxshott as a whole should be taken as a whole. You are not acting democratically by splitting Oxshott. By changing boundaries in this way you are manipulating the democratic views of the residents of Oxshott.	

#### **Hersham Division**

Polling place venue The Conservatory, Whiteley Village Hall, Octagon Road,

Hersham, KT12 4EG

Polling district OD & PD

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
It does seem a bit daft to me that the residents to the East & West of Westcar Lane, Hersham are supposed to drive to Whiteley Village to vote whereas, they could easily walk to the All Saints Church, a much greener alternative.	No	It does seem a bit daft to me that the residents to the East & West of Westcar Lane, Hersham are supposed to drive to Whiteley Village to vote whereas, they could easily walk to the All Saints Church, a much greener alternative.	EM

#### Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Division

Polling place venue St. Christopher's Church, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood,

KT10 0AQ

Polling district BB &DB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Very good venue, accessibility excellent	No	No	SR

Polling place venue All Saints Weston Green, Chestnut Avenue, Esher, KT10 8JL

Polling district DA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Good access easy to get to. Serves local community well.	No	There is no need to change it. Increasing the size of the boroughs/councils will detract from the benefit of local community. There is also a risk of standards dropping to the lowest demoninator due to less local accountability. Please do not change them.	JH

#### **Thames Ditton and East Molesey Division**

Polling place venue Imber Court, Ember Lane, East Molesey, KT8 0BT

Polling district CB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Good	No	No	JS

#### **Walton Division**

Polling place venue Walton Methodist Church Hall, Terrace Road, Walton-on-

Thames, KT12 2SR

Polling district JA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Very convenient, near the shopping centre.	No	No	SE
A central polling place, easily accessible without transport, although a small amount of parking places are usually available. The polling place is also useful for anyone shopping in Walton.	No	No	SE

Polling place venue Esher Rugby Club, 369 Molesey Road, Walton-on-

Thames KT12 3PF

Polling district LB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Esher Rugby Club is more suitable for Polling District LC.	No	No	CE

#### **Walton South and Oatlands Division**

Polling place venue St. Andrew's Church Hall, Hersham Road, Walton on

Thames, KT12 1LG

Polling district LA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Access from the West - it can be a challenge crossing Hersham Road at busy times.  Suitable for those very local, but those at the western edge of JB and LA have significant distance to travel. This is frustrating when there is a much more convenient polling station much closer (St Mary's Oatlands Church), which is also easier to access using the crossing on oatlands chase	No	Some areas are required to travel significantly further than their closest polling station, particularly those in the western edges of JB and LA	RF

Polling place venue Oatlands School, St. Mary's Road, Weybridge, KT13 9PZ

Polling district OA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Has always seemed fine to me	No	No	ND

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Polling place venue St. Marys Church, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge, KT13

9TS

**Polling district** OB (also used for OC)

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
I'm very happy that there are no proposed changes to this venue for us	No	I wasn't happy about the boundary changes, meaning that we would no longer be within the Runnymede and Weybridge area. Instead we have to be in Esher and Hersham.	SM

#### **West Molesey Division**

Polling place venue The Scout Hut, St. Peter's Road, West Molesey, KT8

2QE

Polling district GA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Handy but difficult to park. the road is not in very good condition so people might fall or trip	No	No	HJ

#### **Weybridge Division**

Polling place venue Portacabin, Station Car Park, Top of Brooklands Road,

Weybridge, KT13 0UN

Polling district PA

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Its OK, but the portacabin is sited at the wrong (far) end of the car park. Ideally it would be nearer to Brooklands Road where it would be more visible and possibly attract more of the rushed commuters.	The car park at Brooklands Retail Park - probably near to the Tesco entrance. It's on the bus route and there is plenty of free parking. It probably also has a higher daily footfall amongst voters in the ward/division now than the train station. I would suggest it be additional, rather than an alternative polling site, especially if coupled with the Central ward, as the Tennis Club within the gated estate is not that convenient for those not actually living in the Estate.	No	PN
Its fine with me - an easy 10 minute walk	No	No	RB
Good	No	Try to keep local element. Happy to save money going for bigger areas as long as communication is good and responsive. Prefer	KS

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
		maintaining a balanced budget across areas, and not deficit i.e. live within means.	

Polling place venue St. James Parish Centre, Church Lane, Weybridge, KT13

8DN

Polling district NC

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
Very suitable as has a lot of parking. I've never had a problem with it.	No	No	FL

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Polling place venue Weybridge Cricket Club, Weybridge Green, Princes

Road, Weybridge, KT13 9BY

Polling district PB

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
It's great for us as very close and accessible. Used to be the hall at United Reform Church but that created congestion on the corner of Queens Road and York Road so the cricket club is better and has parking	No	No	AD

#### **Other Comments received**

Comments on suitability of polling place	Do you have any suggestions for alternative venues?	Do you have any comments on the polling district boundary?	Name of respondent
	I am Hersham resident but have to vote for Esher. Luckily I have a postal vote	Hersham not Esher	BG
North of the Thames	There is no Polling Station here. There may be few voters but they have to travel a long distance to get to the Polling Station	As described before	GM
		Leave things as they are! This is change for the sake of change when things have worked perfectly well fo the last 48 years to my knowledge.	LH
There's no point to this, when you are removing are right to vote in May !!!	No	No one has informed me Why it's happening (now)	AD
Don't use Hersham day centre as its hours are short enough already.	No	Residents of Mole Road, Profumo Road Britain Road and Dukes Road should all be in Hersham wards. Used to be Hersham South and Hersham North.  There should be at least 2 wards in Hersham that cover ALL of Hersham.	DG