

Appendix A

Harlow Electoral Areas and Polling Stations

Parliamentary	County Division	District Ward	Polling District	Polling Station	Address			Postcode
Harlow	Harlow South East	Bush Fair	AA Bush Fair East	New Life Christian Fellowship	Purford Green		Harlow	CM18 6HP
Harlow	Harlow South East		AB Bush Fair West	St Stephens Church	The Rectory	Tawney Road	Harlow	CM18 6QR
Harlow	Harlow South East	Church Langley	BA Church Langley East	Church Langley Community Centre	Church Langley Way		Harlow	CM17 9TG
Harlow	Harlow South East		BB Church Langley West	Church Langley Community Centre	Church Langley Way		Harlow	CM17 9TG
			only at Parliamentary Elections/Referendums		Henry Moore Primary School	Kiln Lane		Harlow
Harlow	Harlow West	Great Parndon	CA Great Parndon East	Jerounds Community Junior School	Pyenest Road		Harlow	CM19 4PH
Harlow	Harlow West		CB Great Parndon West	Katherines Common Room	Katherines Hatch	Brookside	Harlow	CM19 5NJ
Harlow	Harlow South East	Harlow Common	DA Harlow Common East	Potter Street Baptist Church	Church Lane	Potter Street	Harlow	CM17 9AW
Harlow	Harlow West		DB Harlow Common West	Pear Tree Mead Primary School	Pear Tree Mead		Harlow	CM18 7BY
Harlow	Harlow West	Little Parndon & Hare Street	EA Little Parndon & Hare Street East	Pemberley Academy	Hodings Road		Harlow	CM20 1NW
Harlow	Harlow West		EB Little Parndon & Hare Street South	Trinity U.R. Church	Hare Street		Harlow	CM19 4AY
Harlow	Harlow West		EC Little Parndon & Hare Street West	Little Parndon School	Park Mead		Harlow	CM20 1PU
Harlow	Harlow North	Mark Hall	FA Mark Hall North	Harlow Museum	Muskham Road		Harlow	CM20 2LF
Harlow	Harlow North		FB Mark Hall South	Harefield Church	Burgoyne Hatch		Harlow	CM18 3EH
Harlow	Harlow North	Netteswell	GA Netteswell	David Livingstone URC	Church Hall	Maddox Road	Harlow	CM20 3RL
		only at Parliamentary Elections / Referendums		Freshwaters Primary Academy	Freshwater		Harlow	CM20 3QA
Harlow	Harlow North	Old Harlow	HA Old Harlow East	St Mary's Church Centre	Churchgate Street			CM17 0JR
Harlow	Harlow North		HB Old Harlow West	The ABC Centre	Garden Terrace Road		Harlow	CM17 0AT
Harlow	Harlow North		HC Old Harlow South	Newhall Primary Academy	Roundhouse Way		Harlow	CM17 9SF
Harlow	Harlow West	Staple Tye	JA Staple Tye East	Griffin Suite	Latton Bush Centre	Southern Way	Harlow	CM18 7BL
Harlow	Harlow West		JB Staple Tye West	Longwood Primary School	Paringdon Road		Harlow	CM18 7RQ
Harlow	Harlow West	Sumners & Kingsmoor	KA Sumners & Kingsmoor East	Kingsmoor Christian Centre	Parndon Wood Road		Harlow	CM19 4SE
Harlow	Harlow West		KB Sumners & Kingsmoor West	Xperience Centre	Broadley Road		Harlow	CM19 5RD
Harlow	Harlow West	Toddbrook	LA Toddbrook North	Harlow Playhouse	Playhouse Square		Harlow	CM20 1LS
Harlow	Harlow West		LB Toddbrook East	St Mark's West Essex Catholic School	Tripton Road		Harlow	CM18 6AA
Harlow	Harlow West		LC Toddbrook West	Salvation Army Centre	Tending Road		Harlow	CM18 6RN

Appendix B**(Acting) Returning Officer's Representation**

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposed Polling Place	Reasons for change
CA – Great Parndon East	Jerounds Primary School	Great Parndon Community Association	Use of the school will disrupt the education of the pupils. GPCA is a large building with good parking and access. It is also in a good location and well-known to electors. It was temporarily used last year and was deemed to be a suitable polling place.
DB – Harlow Common West	Pear Tree Mead Primary School	The Royal British Legion	Use of the school will disrupt the education of the pupils. The RBL is of a good size with good parking and access. It is also in a good location and well-known to electors. It was temporarily used last year and was deemed to be a suitable polling place.
EB – Little Parndon & Hare Street South	Trinity URC	Harlow Youth Centre	The church is no longer able to accommodate us. The Harlow Youth Centre is in the same location and has a good size room for the polling station. It was temporarily used last year and was deemed to be a suitable polling place.
EC – Little Parndon & Hare Street West	Little Parndon School	St Thomas More Church	Use of the school will disrupt the education of the pupils. The Church is of a good size with good parking and access. It is also in a good location. It was temporarily used last year and was deemed to be a suitable polling place.
GA – Netteswell	David Livingstone URC for local elections Freshwaters Primary Academy for Parliamentary Elections	Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall	The church is no longer able to accommodate us. Also, the room is extremely small and struggles to accommodate the large electorate in the polling district. The school have previously petitioned for us not to use their building as it will disrupt the education of the pupils plus the access and parking is not suitable. The Church has a good size hall with good parking and access, it is also on a bus route. It is a prominent building with links to the community.

Brian Keane

(Acting) Returning Officer

Dated: October 2021

Appendix C – All Comments Received

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2021 15:30
To: Registration
Subject: Polling station review: Netteswell

To whom it may concern,

First of all, I apologise if this is an inappropriate address to send this email to - I was directed here via [Your Harlow](#).

As a resident of Netteswell, I would like to express my view that Our Lady Of Fatima Church Hall is not an ideal venue for a polling station, being on the eastern edge of the ward. In fact, it is as close to my mother's home in Mark Hall ward as it is to mine. Please consider a more central location, so that it might be easier for all residents of the ward to walk to the polling station.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Thorpe

Hi Brian

I write to you as returning officer in regards to the change of polling station.

It is just not right for the polling station in Netteswell to be moved from the middle of the ward to such a remote location as Lady Fatima church.

It would be very inconvenient for many residents. It has no easy pedestrian access, crossing First Avenue is a monumental task at the best of times.

It is an imposing and for some intimidation building to be a polling station.

Generally speaking the David Livingston location while small should be retained as the polling station everyone has grown used to over the years. If the Council is serious in trying to improve turn out at elections such a radical departure of the traditional siting of a polling station would be very confusing.

I hope you will revise this decision.

Best wishes

Mike

From: Colleen Morrison
Sent: 29 October 2021 17:16
To: Registration
Subject: The proposal to designate Our Lady of Fatima church hall as the sole polling station for Netteswell

Electoral Services

Latton Bush Centre

Southern Way,

Harlow

CM18 7BL

29 OCTOBER 2021

Dear colleague

I am writing to you regarding:

the proposal to designate Our Lady of Fatima church hall as the sole polling station for Netteswell

I am objecting to this proposal for the following reasons.

1. Distance.

Our lady of Fatima's church hall is a return walk of over three miles for Green Hills residents and over 2 miles for residents of other wards. This is an unreasonable distance to require citizens to walk in order to vote.

2. Detrimental impact on voter turnout.

Research indicates that such distances have a detrimental impact on voter turnout during elections.

Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers.

Scott Orford, Colin Rallings, Michael Thrasher and Galina Borisjuk set out their research into the effect of polling station placement on turnout in Brent, West London.

They found "that by several measures, polling stations on average further away from the voter had lower turnout, in particular, in respect of European and local elections, which in UK have substantially lower turnout than parliamentary elections."

Also:

"Minor changes in distance from voters' homes to polling place can change the turnout of voters, which may change the outcome of a close election. Distance to the polling place is an issue if not every voter has access to vehicle transportation."

{Tom Jacobs; Miller-McCune (August 19, 2010). "[How Polling Places Can Affect Your Vote](#)". Archived from [the original](#) on July 5, 2013. Retrieved February 20, 2013}

3. Detrimental impact on voter turnout of cost of travel on buses.

A return journey by bus for two persons would cost a low income couple £8. This is an unreasonable sum to have to pay in order to exercise the democratic right to vote. Low income couples who struggle to pay for gas, electricity and food will be forced to choose between eating, heating and voting.

4. Detrimental impact of cost of travel.

Research has shown this to be a further factor which impacts detrimentally on voter turnout.

According to the research on distance to the polling location by Haspel and Knotts, "To illustrate the range of the effect of distance, we plot our predicted probabilities at the lower and upper bounds of our continuous vehicle available variable. When no one owns a car (vehicle available = 0), the likelihood of voting drops from .664 at a distance of .01 miles to .418 at the median distance of .69 miles. When automobiles are universally available (vehicle available = 1), voters are much less sensitive to changes in distance: the likelihood of voting drops from .444 to .392 over the same distance range". Voters ultimately value the convenience of polling locations. If a poll is accessible to the citizen they will make an effort, if the citizen has to travel a long distance then voter turnout decreases dramatically".

{Haspel, Moshe; Knotts, Gibbs (May 2005). "Location, Location, Location: Precinct Placement and the Costs of Voting". 67 (2). United States of America: Southern Political Science Association: 560-573

5. Detrimental impact on Harlow's need to improve low voter turnout.

Our council should be trying to improve our existing low voter turnout, we should not be exacerbating this with detrimental proposals like this one.

The cost of voting influences whether or not a person will vote. Research shows that the more expensive voting gets, the less likely a person is to vote.

Distance to the polling location is one of the main reasons cost can become an issue for voters.

{Haspel, Moshe; Knotts, Gibbs (May 2005). "Location, Location, Location: Precinct Placement and the Costs of Voting". 67 (2). United States of America: Southern Political Science Association: 560-573

6. Inaccessibility and non-compliance with 2010 Equality Act.

Residents with disabilities have the right to vote in person.

Service providers like Harlow Council have the statutory duty – and the moral imperative - to make reasonable adjustments to our decision making and policies to ensure that such persons are not placed at a disadvantage in relation to those who do not have disabilities in respect of exercising this right.

Persons with disabilities will struggle to walk the return journeys of two to three miles set out above and this will have a further detrimental impact on Harlow's voter turnout.

7. The postal voting system does not overcome the above objections.

For a number of reasons, a large proportion of voters still wish to vote in person. I am one of them.

This proposal must not deny this right to those with disabilities, to those with low incomes, to those who cannot afford the cost of the return bus journey to Our Lady of Fatima, or to those who do not have a car, by selecting a polling place which will deter many voters from bothering to vote.

8. Our Lady of Fatima's lack of centrality in Netteswell.

Sole polling stations should be central to wards to encourage voters to turn out and vote. Our Lady of Fatima is not central to Netteswell, it is on the outskirts of the ward and too far away from too many Netteswell neighbourhoods to be an acceptable voting place.

9. Polling place is on a dangerous junction.

It is one which will become more dangerous once Junction 7a of the M11 motorway is open.

8. Polling place is accessed via crossing the busy road of First/Mandella Avenue.

Only four neighbourhoods in Netteswell are on the same side of the road as the polling place.

9. Our Lady of Fatima is too obscure and unknown.

Polling places should be well known to ward residents to enable them to find them and to avoid deterring residents from voting because they don't know the polling place.

Too many Netteswell residents have never heard of Our Lady of Fatima and have no idea where it is.

This will have a further detrimental impact on Netteswell's and Harlow's already low voter turnout.

"If a voter changes precincts due to redistricting then the chances of their continuing to vote in future elections decreases.

The confusion that redistricting causes will deter the voter from looking into the new precinct where he or she should now vote.

In addition, the informational costs associated with alerting voters of their new polling location will also affect the voter turnout because it is highly unlikely that funds will be available to allocate to ensure that every voter knows where to vote. Redistricting can be beneficial in order to provide a convenient location, but careful consideration should be taken before such a decision is made."

(Haspel, Moshe; Knotts, Gibbs (May 2005). "Location, Location, Location: Precinct Placement and the Costs of Voting". 67 (2). United States of America: Southern Political Science Association: 560–573)

10. The above risk skewing the ward's political balance.

All of the above factors and their detrimental impact on voter turnout could have the combined effect of skewing Netteswell's political balance.

11. Two polling places are required for Netteswell.

The size of Netteswell's population is such that the ward needs two polling places in order to make just provision for all residents, to ensure compliance with The Equality Act 2010, and to avoid the detrimental impacts on voter Harlow's already low turnout referred to above.

Polling places should not be in locations that require most voters to have cars to access them.

12. This polling place represents a poor level of service provision to Netteswell.

Netteswell's residents pay their rent, or council tax, or both, they deserve the same service quality as the rest of Harlow.

13. This proposal is not about democracy or service, this is solely about cost cutting.

14. This proposal treats Netteswell's community as second class citizens

It will be a shameful day in Harlow's history if this proposal proceeds and is ratified.

I ask you to please reject this proposal and to replace it with a more central polling place.

Kind regards,

Clr Colleen Morrison

Councillor for Netteswell ward.

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