

Eastbourne Polling Districts, Polling Places Review 2023

Representations received up until 3rd November 2023

Ward	Polling Station	Representation
All	All	<p>I've been alerted to your polling station review and just wanted to share our thoughts on behalf of blind and partially sighted people living in your constituency.</p> <p>I work for Thomas Pocklington Trust, a national sight loss charity and I'm the Engagement Manager South East and head up the East Sussex Sight Loss Council (SLC). The SLC work with organisations and businesses on ensuring that their services and goods are accessible for blind and partially sighted people.</p> <p>We just wanted to confirm that, when you choose a polling station, that you're considering blind or partially sighted people that may wish to vote. Our Public Affairs and Campaigns team have shared the attached document that we think you'll already be aware of but sharing just in case.</p> <p>I did note, when reading the consultation document, that some of the venues used are referred to as 'mostly accessible' and did wonder what that meant? Surely all of your voting stations have to be accessible for all and therefore 'mostly' isn't accessible or acceptable?</p>
Devonshire	Archey Youth Centre	<p>As a disabled voter (left a.k.a.) I use the Archery youth club to vote. I find both the steps and the ramp very user friendly, and once inside the floor smooth and level with no trip hazards.</p> <p>No problems with this building, for me anyway</p>
Hampden Park	All	All polling stations accessible. why not have a postal vote.
Meads	St Johns Church Hall	<p>I live in the Meads area of Eastbourne and along with my wife have voted for a number of years at the Parish Hall on the corner of Meads Road and Meads Street. I would like to object to moving the polling station to St John the Evangelist Jubilee Church Hall for the following reasons:</p> <p>The proposed new venue would mean a doubling of the distance we would have to travel, and whereas the present venue is a short walk away from our home, the change would inevitably mean that we would have to travel by car which would be an additional expense for us as retired people as well as bad for the environment</p>

when everyone should be doing as much as possible to keep the air clean. The present venue is in the centre of Meads and easily accessible by the Meads Community.

One factor mentioned in the report relates to 'very limited parking'. The actual position is quite the reverse. There are always free and available parking spaces near the corner of Meads Street, Meads Road and Beachy Head Road – there is simply no problem with people who have to drive to the Parish Hall being unable to find a parking space.

My wife needs the assistance of a walking stick and although not classified as disabled has no difficulty entering or leaving the Parish Hall as or using facilities whilst there. It should be noted that there is a disabled toilet at the Parish Hall.

The Parish Hall is very active hosting a number of functions throughout the year. It has modern facilities and more than adequate lighting.

Access to the Parish Hall is a very short distance from the street compared with the church hall which is set back from the road. It is well lit and there is no 'dark overgrown path'.

The Meads Community is in the process of seeking to take over the running of Parish Hall, which I understand is NOT to be sold, and it is important that it retains its profile as the Meads polling station for local and national elections. Out of an electorate of 2,324 with 925 postal votes this makes for up to 1399 voters who can vote in person at the polling station. A representation from a single elector on behalf of her disabled husband hardly justifies changing the venue of the polling station which has held good for a number of years with the overwhelming majority quite satisfied with its venue, access and facilities.

To switch the Polling Station from St. John's Parish Hall to St. John The Evangelist Jubilee Church Hall would cause great inconvenience to lots of people in the neighbourhood, Meads Village and surrounding areas as it is very convenient and easily accessible to all.

There is a community group in negotiations to take over the running of the Hall from the Church who would make it available for polling.

The entrance used for polling is level and easy access to wheelchairs friendly entrance and only a few yards from the kerb. The pathway is light as well as having nearby street lighting and has lighting from the entrance porch.

There is plenty of parking on Meads Street and Meads Road and surrounding streets. The parking adjacent to the entrance for voting at the hall has restrictions that allow badge holders to park while they vote.

The Parish Hall has a disabled toilet, level access, wide doorways and short distance from pavement to entrance and parking for blue badge holders directly outside.

I hope this is helpful to you.

I support the proposal to relocate the polling station in Upper Meads.

Please keep the Parish Hall as a Poling station as it has good access including disabled. It is on bus routes and the new proposed venue is not.

It will put people of voting as it is not in a convenient place.

I am a resident of the area of the Meads Ward which uses the Parish Hall in Meads Street as its Polling Station.

I am emailing to object to the recommendation that the location is changed to the Jubilee Hall adjacent to St John's Church in Staveley Road. The fact that this recommendation has been made based on just one negative response is difficult to justify. The Parish Hall is registered as an asset of community value and has been at the centre of this part of the Meads Community since it was built in 1926. The responder's statement that the church is selling the Hall is incorrect. Discussions are ongoing between the church and a community group to take it over and pay the church a peppercorn rent. The Parish Hall is perfectly accessible for people with mobility issues both externally and internally. The same can be said for the lighting. There is plenty of two-hour parking within the vicinity of the Hall and the local bus route stops outside. It is also close to the Meads Village shops which means that voters can combine their visit with a shopping trip thereby supporting local traders.

This recommendation is misguided and should be reconsidered. The Parish Hall in Meads Street should remain as the Polling Station for this part of Meads.

I trust that the St John's Parish Hall, Meads polling station will *not* be changed from its current position in Meads Street.

It is situated hard by a bus stop, with the resultant help to a number of elderly folk wishing to cast their votes. There is nothing dark and overgrown about the pathway leading to the front door. Indeed the pathway cited in the objection does not even have to be used. In Meads Street itself the main entrance to the hall encompasses a few yards of clear path where there is plenty of room even for the political parties' representatives to congregate. Furthermore, plenty of room, on the level, is available to any wheelchair user in and out of the parish hall.

I would like to object to moving the Polling station in Meads Street to St. John's Hall, as it is currently in the main village street with an adjacent bus stop and more useful for many local residents. The proposed venue at St. John's is further away and not easily accessible or convenient for most residents.

Please leave the Meads Polling Station at the Parish Hall Meads St. No good reason to move it.

St John's Hall in Meads High Street preferred.

I feel strongly that the Meads polling station remain in it's current location.

It is convenient, has bus stops nearby and local shops which benefit from the increased footfall on polling day. There seems no logical reason to move the Polling Station from the Meads Street Parrish Hall, which has a long and trouble free history of successful polling use.

We strongly oppose the proposed polling station departure from the convenient and central Parish Hall to the inconvenient Jubilee Hall of the church.

The Jubilee Hall is quite a way from the bus and well away from the village centre.

We have now read the case put by just one person for moving the polling station from the Parish Hall to the Jubilee Hall of St John's Church.

We wish to correct some of the statements made in that case. The Parish Hall is NOT now being sold. It is an asset of community value and it is planned that the community will take on the running costs with ownership being retained by the Church. It is, and always has been, an ideal location for a polling station.

It is NOT true that the access to the Parish Hall is poor and down dark unlit passages. The entrance is just a few steps from the well lit central village pavement and those few steps lead you to a lit covered porch. In contrast the Jubilee Hall entrance is in a dark residential area and involves a walk of many steps down the church garden path.

The parking in Meads Village is not bad at all since two hour parking was introduced. There are nearly always spaces available quite near the Parish Hall.

The Jubilee Hall is a long way from public transport which cuts off a lot of people from voting. The Parish Hall is very near the village bus stops.

The Jubilee Hall is not in a central location. It is convenient only for a few residents living near St John's Church. Is it really sensible to choose a location which will result in many more people using their car to vote if indeed they have a car.

We suggest that before a decision is made council officials do a site visit and get their facts properly verified. If a decision is made based on incorrect facts this is surely likely to result in a challenge to the Electoral Commission.

The Executive Committee of the Meads Community Association strongly disagrees with the recommendation to relocate the polling station from St John's Parish Hall to St John's Jubilee Hall based on one resident's request.

It is important to point out that the accompanying reasons for the proposed change are incorrect a prime example is stating that the Hall is being considered for sale by the church. Discussions are ongoing for a community group to take over the running of the Hall while paying the church a peppercorn rent. The MCA completely refutes the opinion expressed that the Hall has poor accessibility 'along a dark overgrown path'. During the day both entrances are in full sun and once it becomes dark there is adequate lighting provided by streetlamps in both Meads Road and Meads Street. We also point out that both the access and facilities for disabled electors are more than adequate. The same can be said for both internal and external lighting. In terms of parking, there are plenty of two-hour spaces within walking distance of the Hall, and this has never been seen as a problem.

Furthermore, the number 3 bus stops virtually outside. Electors can also combine their visit with a trip to the Meads Village shops, a matter of minutes away.

The Jubilee Hall is not as easily accessible, there is a long walk to the hall from the footpath, it is not in the centre of the polling area and has no public transport facility.

The Parish Hall in Meads Street has been at the heart of the Meads community since it was built. The MCA, representing over 700 households in Meads, makes a strong request that it remains as one of the three polling stations for the Meads Ward.

I have read that there is some thought to transferring the polling station from the Parish Hall in Meads High Street to the hall at St John's Church. Please don't do this!

As I'm registered severely sight impaired, the Parish Hall is easily accessible for people like me both in terms of transport links - the 3/3a stop almost outside and if they're brought by car then there's plenty of parking. The hall is light, bright and airy which helps me for the remaining vision I have left.

There are no steps - it's all on the level which makes it much simpler to negotiate. If people are in wheelchairs then perhaps the single door is a bit narrow but there are always people to open the second door if necessary and perhaps this could always be left unlocked (perhaps it is - I've never had to check).

All in all, it's a perfect space and I can't see any logical reason for changing it. I'll be very upset if you do! I can't imagine what grounds anyone has to suggest moving it either.

With regard to the proposal to change the Meads polling station, the description of a dark overgrown path is nonsense and presumably a disabled voter should get themselves a postal vote to make life easier! The current polling station in Meads Street is very near a bus stop and has just as good nearby parking as the hall at the church. There really is no need to make a change!

I write regarding the transfer of our polling station from the community hall to St John's church. I STRONGLY believe that it should remain where it is and not be moved further away from the hub of the community. Moving it would be at a cost for those who live in the main hub of Meads and serves no purpose - it works very well where it is.

I would like to register my opposition to the suggestion of the returning officer in the consultation document for the review of polling places in the Meads ward.

The recommendation of the returning officer is that the voting venue be moved from the parish hall to the hall at St John's Church.

I would much prefer that voting continues in the parish hall, as at present.

The path to the hall is not overgrown and I can only remember one small step with, usually, several people outside to help. Inside the hall is more than adequate. It does not need to be ultra modern and is, hopefully, in the process of being sold to the Meads residents with anticipated renovations. It should remain the polling place for Meads.

Its present position in the heart of Meads is ideal and is served by a very convenient bus stop. There is no such bus stop near the church. Many of the roads around the parish hall have been made 2 hour only parking, except for those residents who purchase a permit. As such there is not usually a great delay in finding parking during ordinary working hours.

We wish that Meads Village Hall remains as our polling station.

write to object to the proposal to move the Upper Meads Polling Station from Meads Parish Hall to the Jubilee Hall in St. John's Church. My objections are as follows:

The current venue of Meads Parish Hall has more than adequate disabled access.

The path to the entrance to the Parish Hall is **NOT** dark and overgrown, I really do not know when this objector last visited the Parish Hall as it has never been dark and overgrown it is adequately lit both by the Hall and streetlights, as the entrance is just off the main pavement and also anyone entering the hall is visible from the street at all times. Conversely the entrance to the Jubilee Hall is much further from the street and is dark as it is in the shadow of the church, and it is not so visible from the street at all times.

Voters who are not members of the Christian faith may be deterred from voting because the Jubilee Hall is quite obviously more part of the church estate.

The Meads Parish Hall is used by the whole community all the time and there is no intimidating presence of the church for none-church goers.

Meads Parish Hall and sits at the heart of Meads, a change of this nature would deter people who rely on public transport to get to the polling station.

I believe that on balance this proposal for change might well disenfranchise more people than accommodate the one objector who by their own admission can access the Meads Parish Hall.

Proposal to abandon using Meads Parish Hall in Meads Street as the polling station for Upper Meads is frankly bonkers.

Although it is not the polling station for me in the MDB district, I have many friends living in Upper Meads who are dismayed by this proposal.

St John's Church, the suggested alternative, is not the centre of activity in Meads, it is geographically not central to Upper Meads and has no adjacent bus stops, nor indeed is it on a bus route.

The Parish Hall, Meads Street is in the centre of the polling district MDC and is recognised as the Community Centre of Meads.

The hall has good disabled access and is on both 3 and 3a bus routes with bus stop only few yards away and is within the shopping area of Meads.

I hope this ill-conceived idea is dropped and the Parish Hall remains as the polling station for the MDC district.

As postal voters, the position of the polling station has no effect on us.

If we were not postal voters, the Parish Hall would be more suitable than St. John's Jubilee Hall.

I wish to register that the Polling station remains at the Parish Hall in Meads Street and is NOT moved elsewhere. There is perfectly adequate access etc and there is no good reason to move it.

I feel that the Parish Hall in Mead street is the correct place for the polling Station. It is in the centre of the residents who vote there and has easy access. It do not believe St. John's is appropriate for our area.

I wish to object to the idea that the Polling Station is moved. I request that it remains at the Parish Hall in Meads Street.

I write to object to the outcome of the recent review of polling stations that you have to do regularly in regard to the Meads change from Parish Hall Meads Street to the Jubilee Hall adjacent to St John's Church.

The recommendation for the change seems to be based on concerns about access. The Parish Hall has long been the Polling Station and is recognised as the only community hall in this part of the Mead Ward. It is in the centre of the polling area, adjacent to footpaths, a bus stop nearby if needed, good disabled access. and there is plenty of two-hour parking or disabled parking possible on double yellow lines adjacent to the entrance for short-term parking taken when voting.

There is the added advantage that Voters can combine their shopping in Meads Street before/after voting at the Parish Hall which is not the case with ease at the recommended use of the Jubilee Hall in St Johns

Road/Steveley Road. And, access is not anything as favourable for walkers, cyclists, drivers, buses or disabled voters.

The Parish Hall in Meads is a valuable community asset and I suggest it should continue to be used as such for voting purposes in preference to the recommended Church Jubilee Hall.

I trust the foregoing points support my objection to the recommendation and the use of the Meads Parish Hall will continue for voting purposes.

I understand that the proposed change of Polling Station from the present location, is due to ONE negative response??

I cannot believe you would even consider making a change on that basis.

If that is the only problem raised, then obviously the vast majority of people are happy with the present arrangement, and Please don't make changes to something that works well.

Please keep the polling station in Meads at the current location at the community hall in Meads St. it has perfectly good accessibility.

We consider the Parish Hall should remain as the polling station for this part of Meads as access by foot to and from the Jubilee Hall adjacent to St John's Church will be too inconvenient allow voting to be made.

With regard to the review of places to be used, we strongly feel that for upper Meads it should remain the parish hall in Meads Street.

There is good disabled access, and it is easy for people such as me, Sally Reed, as I am sight impaired.

Many people walk to the parish hall to vote. It is a short walk through the village, and We feel the other church hall at St John's would deter some people from voting due to a much longer walk.

There is also a bus stop almost opposite the parish hall, whereas there is no bus service close to St John's.

We think it would be a very detrimental move to transfer to St John's.

For many years I lived opposite the St John's Parish Hall in Meads Street and observed its use in local, county, and national elections between 1982 and 2013. Since 2013 I have lived about 500 yards from that Hall.

On the grounds put forward by Meads Community Association I support retaining the Parish Hall as the Upper Meads polling station.

Electors living closer to St John's Church than the Parish Hall would notionally gain a benefit from the Station's relocation to the Church Hall, but, as a very large number of those Electors frequently visit the shops, restaurants and other businesses near the Parish Hall, any perceived inconvenience of concurrently or separately visiting the Hall on a Polling Day is far too slight to justify your serious consideration.

Meads Eastbourne. I strongly object to moving the polling station from the hall in Meads Street to the St Johns church hall. The convenience for voters will be severely diminished if this happens.

I would prefer the Polling Station in Meads to remain in the Parish Hall.

My preference for the polling station for the Upper Meads area is the Parish Hall.

Retain the Polling Station at St. John's Parish Hall, and not use the Jubilee Suite in St. John's Church

I am resident in Gaudick Road in Meads and would like our polling station to remain unchanged at the Parish Hall in Meads Street.

I hereby request that the station stays at the Parish Hall in Meads Street.

The Village Hall is ideal. The hall at the church is not on a bus route, nowhere near anywhere else. Not close to the shops. In a residential area not what is expected of a location for voting. Please keep it in the Village Hall.

Please keep the Meads village hall as the the polling station for the meads.

I wish to request that the polling station for Upper Meads is NOT relocated to the Jubilee Hall at St John's church.

There is no parking at St John's church, and the walk from the entrance of the church grounds to the hall is a very long way for people with limited mobility. St John's church is nowhere near a bus stop, whereas the Parish hall, the current polling station, has a bus stop outside.

The Parish hall on Meads Street has excellent access for disabled people and those of limited mobility. It is in the heart of Meads, next to all local amenities. St John's church Jubilee Hall is too far away from Meads village. Please do not change our polling station.

I believe the polling station should remain in the village....I live in Staveley Road a few yards down from the church and having the station in the Jubilee Hall would create noise, more traffic and car doors slamming from morning till night.

If people need access, then perhaps they should elect to have a postal vote.

I wish disagree with the suggestion to move Meads polling station location from Parish Hall to St John's Hall.

I have lived in Meads for 42 years and strongly believe the Parish Hall should remain the voting location for our area.

I have always voted there, and appreciate using the hall as it symbolises the purpose of the parish as a whole, in the heart of Meads,

and voters can also happily patronise the village shops and cafes.

I understand that it is vital to respect the needs of less bodily abled people. However, the Hall is step free and to my knowledge suitable for access.

I would happily volunteer to help the couple when they come to vote. I am sure many others would do so too.

I am a regular user of St Johns Hall. It is pleasant and suitable, but would not be as advantageous as the parish hall, as it is a greater distance from

the bus stops, and elderly voters may be less likely to walk the distance to Meads High Street before or after voting. This means there is less of the

advantage to the ward community, of being able to come together socially.

I hope and believe that the needs of the disabled person can be met without us all transferring the location.

I would like the polling station to remain in the Parish Hall in Meads Street.

I am a resident living in Gaudick Place. Many thanks and hoping for a satisfactory outcome

Please leave the voting at the Meads parish hall not move it to St John's church hall as we are happy with it being in Meads encouraging shopping.

I object to the recommendation to change the location for Upper Meads from the Parish Hall in Meads Street to the Jubilee Hall adjacent to St John's Church.

The turnout is bad on polling day and his will only will only discourage some of the electors further. There is plenty of two-hour parking with a bus stop a few metres away.

Please retain Meads Street Parish Hall for Upper Meads as the polling station.

I wish the Polling station for Upper Meads to remain in The Parish Hall in Meads Street as it's the most convenient position being in the centre of the village.

I want the polling station for upper meads to remain at the Parish Hall in Meads Street. It is in the centre of Meads and has easy access .

I would like to record my objection to the proposed move of the polling station from the Parish Hall in Meads to the Jubilee Hall in St Johns Church. The Parish Hall's role as a community asset is soon to be strengthened by the setting up of a charitable trust to take it over from St John's Church and to run it as a true "parish hall". The charitable trust will soon be raising funds for the refurbishment of the hall and will be improving the access to the hall at the same time. The Jubilee Hall at the church is used on Thursdays to host a very popular mothers and toddlers morning and it would be a great pity to have to cancel those meetings every time there is an election.

I feel strongly that polling should continue to take place in the Parish Hall, Meads Street.

I endorse the Meads Association view that the Polling Station for Meads should be kept at the Parish Hall in Meads Street. This is situated in the centre of the community, near a convenient bus stop and is well known by residents in the area. Parking is also nearby and it is also close to shops and eating places. I can see no problem for disability access. Do not change something that has worked well in the past

I understand that in the current review it is being proposed that the Upper Meads Polling Station be moved to St John's Church Hall from the Community Hall in Meads Street. I wish to place my name on record as being firmly against the proposal.

The Community Hall in Meads Street is ideally placed for the community, with ample free parking in the streets around and on the regular bus route. It has worked very well as a Polling station for many decades. If it works don't change it.

I feel the Polling Station should stay in The Parish Hall Meads Street as it is so convenient.

I strongly think the polling station should remain in Meads Road. It is a more central part of the village for access.

The parish church St Johns is more convenient for me and I am 96!

I object strongly to moving the polling station from our local community hall, St John's Parish Hall, Meads Street to St John's, The Evangelist Church hall in Staveley Road.

Moving the polling station on the basis of one person's objections, or preference of modern buildings, is unfair. It does not adequately reflect the views of the majority of residents.

As an elderly resident with mobility problems, I find the current location convenient and accessible. Our local hall is perfectly adequate for the purpose of a polling station.

There is plenty of parking in surrounding streets. The overgrown areas have been cleared. There will be repairs in the near future of this historic building.

It is absolutely ridiculous to move the polling station to the jubilee hall. (Just because one person lives near it or can park there?) The hall is too small, there is a long path up to it and the parish hall is not being sold. The parish hall is central and there are bus stops nearby, and when people have voted, which only takes a few minutes, there are places nearby where they can have coffee and do their shopping. I am an old lady of 94 and know if I did have a problem with walking into the parish hall there are people there who would help me.

I wish to object most strongly to the proposed moving of Meads Polling station from the Parish hall to jubilee hall at St John's church, nowhere near Meads village. The Parish hall is situated directly opposite the bus stop and drop off areas for those in cars. It has all the facilities required including wheelchair access. During these difficult times the shops in Meads benefit from the extra footfall on Polling days. This proposal is completely inappropriate and unnecessary.

I understand there is a proposal to move the polling station for Meads from the Parish Hall to a building adjacent to St. John's Church. I strongly oppose such a change.

From a personal point of view, I live on Meads Street, and the Parish Hall is obviously more convenient. However, I am also concerned that from the point of view of transport links and other facilities, Meads Street is far more convenient for more people than is the proposed new site. It is the established centre of this district of Meads and is more accustomed to coping with people arriving from elsewhere in the greater Meads area for shopping, bus travel, pubs etc. The parish hall has a bus stop opposite and also good disabled access.

I urge you to retain the polling station in its current position.

My husband and I strongly support the view of the Meads Community Association that the Polling Station for Meads should remain at the community hall which is well known as the centre for this part of Meads. We hope you will take this into consideration.

My wife and I are totally opposed to the move away from using the Parish Hall in Meads Street to the Jubilee Hall part of St John's Church. We do not recognise the description of the facilities in your reasons for change and consider that making this change arising from one person's complaint is anti-democratic.

The Parish Hall has been recognised by the local community and EBC as the community hall for Meads residents and should remain so as it has all the necessary facilities for easy access for all local residents

I strongly believe that this proposed change will make voting very difficult for the residents of the community who are currently assigned to cast their votes in the Parish Hall in Upper Meads. Transport is ideally located in Meads Street and a considerable number of elderly or physically challenged people depend on that. Parking facilities are also good in Meads Street. The Parish Hall itself is very user friendly for people. The Returning Officer should consider that it is the duty and the right of the people to be able to cast their vote and they should be enabled and encouraged to do so. I would like to register my views that for the reasons I outlined above I oppose the proposed change and urge the authorities to keep the Parish Hall in Upper Meads as a voting location.

Please leave the polling station where it is in the Parish Hall Meads St.

As local Meads residents we would wish to strongly object to the above proposal. The Parish Hall is clearly the logical location for community events, and from the perspective of voting the proximity to local transport links makes it an obvious location. The Jubilee Hall is not well known and very distant from local transport and easy parking we feel the proposed change would jeopardise voter participation and lead to a lower turnout than continuing with the current location. Additionally, if this is the suggestion of just one person it clearly has no overall support from wider community.

Please ensure the change is strongly resisted.

I believe the current location of the Village Hall in Meads is right location for the Polling Station as it is well known to all.

I feel very strongly that the current location of the polling station in the Meads Street is ideal for the residents of Upper Meads and that it should not be moved to near St John's Church as proposed.

The current building is easily accessed by all with free parking within the immediate vicinity, and a bus stop opposite. By foot it is a very short walk from the shops.

It is part of the village's main street and so it is easy to combine your shopping and voting on polling day! I'm sure that's a help to the less mobile and those that have other difficulties leaving their home.

I am carer for my adult daughter who is registered disabled, and with her particular disabilities, she feels that having the polling station directly within our local community area makes it significantly more accessible for her.

The proposed location near St John's church is nowhere near as convenient for residents of Upper Meads. It would be much more effort for us to journey there, and I would be concerned that this could prevent some people from going to vote.

With the long-term plans to renovate the building it will be even more suitable in the future as the polling station for Upper Meads.

Please do not relocate our polling station, its great where it is, central to our community.

I live in the Meads and I oppose the recommended change to the polling station from St John's Parish Hall to St John The Evangelist Jubilee Church Hall.

St John's Parish Hall is a community hub which we are all trying to save. It would seem that council employees are not in agreement with this.

I would like to request that the Parish Hall remains as the polling station in Meads. It does not make any sense to move the station to St John's Church as this would increase the time and distance we would have to travel to vote. The Parish Hall is in the centre of Meads and on the local bus route.

This is to provide my comments on the proposed relocation of MDC's polling station from St John's Parish Hall to St John's Jubilee Church Hall.

It's ironic to me that this proposal hardly seems like democracy at work; just one applicant (who lives in MDC Ward?) has requested this move, so this goes for review; if you receive more people objecting to the move than are in favour of it, will you reject the proposal? Will this be a "majority rules" situation? It should be, especially given the matter at hand.

Apart from the single applicant, who else thinks that the Parish Hall is a problem? I doubt there has been any groundswell of public opinion wanting this change to the largest number of voters of the 3 districts comprising Meads Ward.

Access to the Parish Hall is, I would argue, better than the Church Hall; parking is just as convenient, if not more so; buses run along Meads St; the distance from the kerbside into the Parish Hall is minimal, especially

		<p>compared to the Jubilee Hall; there's no grass verge on Meads St making access from the kerb easier and safer. The Church wants to dispose of the Parish Hall; this appears to be a step taken to advance that agenda. This looks to be a solution in search of a problem.</p> <p>This proposal should be rejected. I am writing to express my concern about moving the polling station from the Parish Hall, in Meads.</p> <p>This would mean the loss of an excellent community facility for voting purposes. I do NOT support the move to</p> <p>Please leave the present situation as it is. As, has been said many times, " If it isn't broken why mend it "</p> <p><i>I write to object to the proposal to move the Upper Meads Polling Station from Meads Parish Hall to the Jubilee Hall in St. John's Church. My objections are as follows:</i></p> <p><i>The current venue of Meads Parish Hall has more than adequate disabled access. The path to the entrance to the Parish Hall is NOT dark and overgrown, I really do not know when this objector last visited the Parish Hall as it has never been dark and overgrown it is adequately lit both by the Hall and street lights, as the entrance is just off the main pavement and also anyone entering the hall is visible from the street at all times. Conversely the entrance to the Jubilee Hall is much further from the street and is dark as it is in the shadow of the church, and it is not so visible from the street at all times. Voters who are not members of the Christian faith may be deterred from voting because the Jubilee Hall is quite obviously more part of the church estate. The Meads Parish Hall is used by the whole community all the time and there is no intimidating presence of the church for none-church goers. Meads Parish Hall sits at the heart of Meads, a change of this nature would deter people who rely on public transport to get to the polling station and can combine a vote with use of the local shops.</i></p> <p><i>I believe that on balance this proposal for change might well disenfranchise more people than accommodate the one objector who by their own admission can access the Meads Parish Hall.</i></p>
Old Town	Grace Baptist Church	Thank you for the notice concerning the polling places review. I note the suggestion in Old Town for the replacement of Greenfield Methodist Church on Green Street with Eastbourne Grace Baptist Church on Victoria Drive.

		<p>Neither I nor any of my fellow councillors can support this change. Before the Borough elections in May this year, we were all concerned about the size and capacity of Victoria Eastbourne Grace Baptist in managing the volume of voters. Old Town routinely has a voting turn out higher than other wards in the Borough. Victoria Grace had, at various points on polling day in May, long queues stretching out of the OTA entrance. The time taken for people to pass through, vote and then leave, was in the region of 20 to 25 minutes. This is no comment on the efficiency of Borough staff, simply a recognition that the space available isn't enough to permit voters to flow through effectively. In a general election volume of voters will be significantly higher. This risks disenfranchising voters (as those who are in a hurry simply won't bother to wait around), and increases the risks of social disorder (there were several heated conversations between different groups of voters outside OTA, and potential challengeable behaviour from other political groups). A speedy throughput of voters with a minimum of waiting is very important.</p> <p>We do not believe that Eastbourne Grace Baptist Church has the space or capacity to manage the volume of voters that will present on polling day. We have seen this with our own eyes.</p> <p>As such, Old Town Cllrs cannot support the recommendation that Eastbourne Grace Baptist Church becomes the new designated polling place replacing Greenfield Methodist.</p> <p>A bigger alternative venue must be found.</p>
Ratton	All	I have read through the documents and have to say delighted you have amalgamated RNA and RNB logical and see no problems with the rest of Ratton.
Sovereign	Conqueror Hall	<p>With regard to the removal of Conqueror Hall as a polling station within the Sovereign Ward polling district: Our view is that this action will have a negative impact on the people of Kingsmere and Kings Park for the following reason:</p> <p>The KCA have taken soundings and it is apparent to us that many of our residents will not go to the new Sovereign Harbour Community Centre to vote; if they did decide to vote in the new centre some would have to go by car as they are disabled, and this would have an impact on emissions to the local area. Some of our residents have anxiety and panic attacks when they go out, so try to stay close to home. Sovereign Harbour Community Centre lighting doesn't help with some anxiety sufferers such as the new B&M stores lighting. We have also noticed that you have only put the cost of Conqueror Hall down on your review documentation and consequently we feel you are singling out our hall unfairly; the cost of every polling station should be put on your paperwork, especially the local alternatives, so costs can be compared between all: we trust that you have not already made up your mind on this issue as we feel we have a good argument to make in keeping CH as our local polling place. So as to impress upon you our desire to retain our hall as a polling place in the future</p>

		<p>the Association is more than willing to half the hire fee previously set by our predecessors: i.e. our offer to you is to propose a hire fee of £300 instead of the current £600.</p> <p>Voting is a right and also, in a democracy, perhaps a duty and we feel if Conqueror Hall is removed from the polling station list, this will have a detrimental effect on local turn-out when the next round of elections come up; we wish to encourage and improve local participation in the democratic process and we strongly feel that this action, if proceeded with, will have the opposite effect.</p> <p>In conclusion, Conqueror Hall fits all your criteria with easy access, suitable lighting inside and out and good parking. Our three local councillors support our bid to retain the hall as a polling place; Councillor Nigel Goodyear is more than happy to act as our liaison on this matter and he very much agrees with our premise that making voting more difficult for local residents is counterproductive and he, like us, wishes to see the numbers of residents who do vote in person increase; relying on postal voting is not the answer in this particular case we believe.</p>
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