



Lewes District Council

Lewes Polling Districts, Polling Places Review 2023
Representations received up until 3rd November 2023

Ward	Representation
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> <p>If you would like to discuss this further, then I would be happy to arrange a call with you.</p>
Ditchling and Westmeston Ward	<p>The proposed continued use of Westmeston Parish Hall as the polling station for the parish is welcomed. The hall is well located and accessible for residents, with good facilities including car parking, level access and toilets.</p>
East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs Ward	<p>Not sure if you are aware but The Joff is going to be refurbished next year so may close...nothing confirmed as yet but may be worth noting.</p> <p>PWC - THE JOFF YOUTH HUB, Roderick Avenue, Peacehaven, BN10 8BL.</p> <p>I have just learnt that when the Joff closes for rebuilding (approx. 1 year but maybe less) they are moving services to Community House, Merdian Centre</p> <p>I have had a thought re Peacehaven – the Town Council have a building called The Hub near the football club in Paddington Avenue but would suggest you check it first as may not be suitable..</p>

I am not sure it would be a good idea to move the East Saltdean voters over to Telscombe Civic centre, in my opinion. I appreciate the need for costs savings but think it would lead to less residents voting as currently it is easy to walk to St Martins and vote.

I would be against this suggestion I am afraid.

As an East Saltdean resident, I echo Cllr [REDACTED] comment and oppose moving the Polling Place outside of Saltdean.

For ease I attach the maps showing the wards for Polling. Hopefully this helps to identify the proposed changes more clearly.

With regards to East Saltdean their ward is STA and I assume the Polling place will remain as St Martins URC, Longridge Avenue as the proposal is to have a single polling place for wards STB & STC which are in fact Telscombe Cliffs rather than East Saltdean.

I can appreciate the reduction of costs if your proposed changes took place, but I am unable to support them because it would make it much harder for some voters to cast their votes – those without a car would need to take public transport to the polling station, which may discourage some from voting. Clearly, I would like voting to be easier rather than harder to do.

There are two key polling stations for the area, neither are ideal. However, not using them would have a considerable impact on people's ability to vote.

The Church in East Saltdean – which would make it very difficult for residents in East Saltdean
The Scout Hut in East Peacehaven – whilst not ideal, this is a very big and spread outward and it's a very long way from one end to the other.

East Saltdean I would think it is essential that a polling station is made available in that area. There are no easy bus services to Telscombe (would require 2 buses) and whilst it is unfortunate that a polling station is not actually available in the ward itself, I would imagine a lack of access to a polling station there would lead to a real dissatisfaction with voters particularly as there was a large % turnout in the past election.

If we are looking at a 20 minute neighbourhood as per the Neighbourhood Plan it would seem essential that access to vote is within 20 minutes walking (which TCC certainly isn't from East Saltdean). IT would also mostly require a car which obviously isn't ideal either.

East Saltdean ward councillors might add comments but that's just my thoughts.

I confirm that TTC does not have any comments regarding the additional proposals.

<p>Newhaven North</p>	<p>Who's daft idea was it to divide Newhaven into North & South when a geographical feature lends itself to dividing the town into East & West?</p> <p>North currently has two Councillors and South has three. It seems there's no reason why this couldn't either be split on the same basis with East & West, or better still we just elect all five Councillors for the whole town, as it really doesn't make any difference which one represents Newhaven residents when it comes to Lewes District Council.</p>
<p>Newhaven South</p>	<p>I would like to feed back on the ongoing polling station review in the District. I am concerned about the number of people being asked to use a single polling station in my ward. The Hillcrest Centre is expected to serve over 4000 voters which is well above anywhere else in the District. My ward is also growing as there is substantial new housebuilding and that means that the pressure on the single location will only increase.</p> <p>I would like to suggest that we identify an additional polling station for Newhaven and specifically the large NSC polling district. There are number of options, but it would be good to place something in the Court Farm Road/Gibbon Road area given the high population in that part of the town and the relatively long walk to the Hillcrest Centre from some areas such as Newhaven Heights or the Hilltop Way area. I would like to propose looking at options on Fort Road Recreation Ground including Shakespeare Hall, the scout hut, the football club, bowls club or cricket pavilion.</p>
<p>Newick</p>	<p>The proposal to continue to use Newick Village Hall as the Polling station is sensible as it is the most obvious community space, easily accessible with good disabled access and parking.</p>
<p>Ouse Valley and Ringmer</p>	<p>Can I suggest that for clarity we call the Glynde venue "Glynde and Beddingham reading room" as it is increasingly known (or failing that 'the reading room') so people do not go to Beddingham looking for it.</p> <p>Also, it would be helpful if you could request the location be added to google maps so people can get help to find it – I believe anyone can do this they don't have to be a property owner.</p>
<p>Peacehaven East</p>	<p>Why do we have to walk over half a mile to our designated polling station at the Sports Pavilion, Arundel Road, when there is a polling station about 100yds away at the Scout Headquarters, Arundel Road, with a much smaller polling electorate? The walking distance puts off many of my neighbours.</p> <p>There are two key polling stations for the area, neither are ideal. However, not using them would have a considerable impact on people's ability to vote. The Scout Hut in East Peacehaven – whilst not ideal, this is a very big and spread outward and it's a very long way from one end to the other.</p>

	<p>I agree strongly with [REDACTED] below regarding the scout hut (cannot some flooring be used for disabled access. I have seen this used widely at other venues which provides more substantial temporary mobility access?).</p>
<p>Peacehaven West</p>	<p>I note that in the attached review of polling places, it is proposed that the Meridian Primary School is used as a polling place.</p> <p>Noting that all of our children have had a exceptionally disruptive 4+ years of schooling with the pandemic, teachers strikes, headteachers strikes, RAAC roofing threatening to fall on their heads etc, I'd strongly oppose using any school as a polling place if it means the school will have to be closed for the day.</p>
<p>Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St John without</p>	<p>Beechwood Hall is fine by me as a resident of St. John Without.</p>
<p>Seaford Central</p>	<p>I am disabled and use a powered wheelchair.</p> <p>I live in Belgrave Road with the nearest polling station at the end of the road is the Baptist Church. We were delighted when we moved here 8 years ago but then we were astonished to find out that if I were to vote in person, I would need to trek to Claremont Hall some considerable distance away and over twice as far defying logic! Much of the footpaths are uneven and dangerous when using a wheelchair and it can be hard to get up and down the alleged lowered footpaths. I would like to ask who has tried to actually get around Seaford in a wheelchair? You will find some footpaths are not lowered sufficiently to allow you to cross the road safely and not nearly fall out of your chair.</p> <p>Here's my feedback about the polling station provision in Seaford. My mother is 84. There is a polling station meters away at the Women's Institute she is more than capable at getting to, but instead she was directed to the Catholic Church a fair distance away. Because of this she did a postal vote, which must cost more. In the last local elections, she received two sets of forms. Not realising there was two votes, she threw one envelope away. So, the strange location of where to vote had a knock-on effect. I hope this feedback is helpful.</p>
<p>Seaford All Wards</p>	<p>The Town Council has reviewed the review of Polling Places and agrees with the Returning Officer's reasons for the only Seaford change - For SCA to move to the Life Church within the SCA Polling District, and that SCC will remain at Church of St Thomas More.</p>