



The Returning Officer's Proposals

Oadby St Peters

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
A	1810	Oadby Community Centre, Sandhurst Street	Yes
B	1582	United Reformed Church Hall, Rosemead Drive	Yes

Returning Officer's Comments

Polling District A:

Following the previous polling review conducted in 2013 the designated polling place for polling district A was changed to Oadby Community Centre as the former polling place (Trinity Methodist Church on Harborough Road) was identified as being unsuitable. Primarily this was because at that time the Church did not offer disabled access to voters.

Oadby Community Centre offers good facilities for voters and is centrally located within the polling district; however it has been unavailable for use as a polling station for national elections held in June 2016 (EU Referendum) and June 2017 (General Election) due to Ramadan. Guidance from the Electoral Commission is clear that one of the factors which must be considered when reviewing polling places is whether or not the building will be readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections. A Borough councillor has also raised concerns regarding the privacy afforded to voters at this polling place, given that the main entrance to the Community Centre remains open for prayers during polling day.

During the June 2016 and June 2017 elections, the Walter Charles Centre on Wigston Road was used as the designated polling place for this polling district. This venue is a Council owned facility and therefore offers guaranteed availability all year round, as well as providing disabled access. It is however located on the periphery of the polling district, and arguably not as conveniently located for voters as other alternative venues under consideration. Concerns have also been raised by polling staff that parking can be limited during peak voting times, with some voters having to use the nearby Royal British Legion building as overflow parking.

After the County and Parliamentary elections held in May and June 2017 respectively, a Borough councillor requested that Trinity Methodist Church be re-designated as the polling place for polling district A. The venue has undergone improvements since the last polling review in 2013, including the provision of disabled access. Officers have visited the premises and are satisfied that it now offers suitable facilities for voting, including ample parking and excellent access for voters with disabilities. The Methodist Church should be well known to

residents within the Ward as it currently accommodates meetings of the Oadby Residents Forum.

Returning Officer's Proposals

Polling District A – That Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Road, be designated as the polling place for this polling district.

Polling District B – No change.

Oadby Grange

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
C	1906	Immaculate Conception Church Hall, New Street	Yes
D	1957	John Foster Hall, Manor Road, Facilities Building	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

Oadby Uplands

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
E	3388	The Barnabas Centre, St. Paul's Close	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

Oadby Woodlands

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
F	3492	Woodland Grange C.P. School, Beaufort Way	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

Oadby Brocks Hill

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
G	3116	The Pavilion, Coombe Park, Coombe Rise	Yes

Returning Officer's Comments

Coombe Park Pavilion has been used as a double polling station for a number of elections. It is a Council owned facility located in the south eastern part of Brocks Hill Ward which is available all year round at minimal cost and provides adequate parking facilities and disabled access. However, feedback from polling staff has consistently stated that the facilities are only suitable for accommodating one polling station rather than two. At present, the second polling station has to be set up in the corridor of the Pavilion, which creates issues around access, the secrecy of the poll and where to accommodate tellers. Brocks Hill ward currently has the third largest electorate in the Borough and the needs of the electorate cannot be adequately met by retaining the existing arrangements.

Beauchamp College and Gartree High School are viable alternatives to host a second polling station in terms of location and access; however the use of either building is likely to create unacceptable disruption to their educational activities, as well as probable confusion for voters because of their close proximity to the Pavilion building.

Parklands Leisure Centre is located to the north western side of Brocks Hill Ward and its Multi-Purpose Room is able to offer suitable facilities for voting including disabled access. The Leisure Centre has a large car park and the creation of additional parking spaces close to the Multi-Purpose room is currently in progress which will provide added convenience for voters. The use of this facility as a polling station would also support the Council's ongoing partnership working arrangements with its leisure provider, SLM.

It is considered that splitting polling district G into two separate polling districts (i.e. G1 and G2) would help to alleviate the pressure on space currently experienced at Coombe Park Pavilion without unduly inconveniencing voters residing in the western side of the ward (approximately one third of the current ward electorate).

Returning Officer's Proposals

That Brocks Hill Ward (G) is divided into two polling districts, to be identified as G1 and G2.

Polling district G1 will incorporate voters residing in those streets located west of (and including) Briar Walk & Briar Meads. The designated polling place for these electors will be Parklands Leisure Centre and the polling station will be the Multi-Purpose Room.

Polling district G2 will incorporate voters residing in those streets located east of Briar Walk & Briar Meads. The designated polling place for these electors will remain at Coombe Park Pavilion.

Wigston St Wolstans

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
H	1808	Freer Community Centre, 242A Leicester Road	Yes
I	1745	Glenmere Community Primary School, Estoril Avenue	Yes
J	1476	Freer Community Centre, 242A Leicester Road	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

Wigston Meadowcourt

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
K1	2280	Meadow Community Primary School, Meadow Way	Yes
K2	489	Meadow Community Primary School, Meadow Way	Yes
L	1821	Girl Guide Clubroom, Welford Road	Limited

Returning Officer's Comments

Polling District L:

The Girl Guide Clubroom (located in polling district M) has been used as the designated polling place for polling district L for a number of years but it is unsatisfactory as a polling place for a number of reasons. The Clubroom is situated on the busy A5199 (Welford Road) and has no off-street parking. Feedback received from the 2017 General Election indicated that vehicles were leaving their vehicles parked on double yellow lines whilst entering the polling station to vote, which is clearly a health and safety concern. Access for voters with disabilities is also inadequate whilst complaints have been received from polling staff that the facility is poorly maintained with malfunctioning heating and basic supplies not replenished.

Efforts have previously been made to identify a satisfactory alternative to this venue within the polling district, but these efforts have proved unsuccessful. One alternative would be to hire a temporary polling station (e.g. a portakabin) but the cost of this is prohibitive and there are no guarantees that this would alleviate the issues of disabled access and parking. It is therefore the Returning Officer's view that utilising a suitable venue in an adjoining district remains the only viable solution. South Leicester Rugby Club (also in polling district M) is less than half a mile from the Girl Guide Clubroom and its Club House offers excellent facilities for voters including a large and safe car park which includes disabled parking bays as well as level access.

Returning Officer's Proposals

That the Club House at South Leicester Rugby Club be designated as the polling place for polling district L.

Wigston All Saints

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
M	2156	The Pavilion, Horsewell Lane Recreation Ground	Yes
N1	2256	The Elms and Ex-Services Social Club, Bushloe End	Yes – ramp provided
N2	253	The Elms and Ex-Services Social Club, Bushloe End	Yes – ramp provided

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

Wigston Fields

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
O	2099	Central Avenue Christian Church Hall, Central Avenue	Yes
P1	2580	Bethel Evangelical Free Church Hall, Burleigh Avenue	Yes
P2	373	Bethel Evangelical Free Church Hall, Burleigh Avenue	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.

South Wigston

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place	Disabled access
Q	1825	Bassett Centre, Bassett Street, South Wigston	Yes
R	1630	The Pavilion, Blaby Road Park	Yes
S	2439	Fairfield Community Primary School, Chester Building, Cheshire Drive	Yes

Returning Officer's Proposals

No change.