

Canterbury City Council – Polling District Review 2023

Thank you to those who have submitted comments. This table sets out the feedback received, and my initial response.

There is further opportunity to comment on these areas until 13 November 2023.

Ward	Feedback	Initial response from the Acting Returning Officer for Canterbury
Barton ward	<p>With the non-availability of the Querns Rd location it would seem practicable to move the CB2 and CB8 voters to Polo Farm which is easily accessible and has adequate parking, unlike Spring Lane.</p> <p>I would suggest that the small number of voters in The Orchard Residences, Ethelbert Road be moved from CB5 to CWI5.</p> <p>I would suggest moving the voters in Bekesbourne Lane/Worcester Lane from CB4 to CB7. Polo Farm is a much more accessible</p>	<p>The Polo Farm venue is large enough to include voters in CB2 and CB8, as well as CB7. The venue is large enough, however, this may be difficult for voters to reach without their own transport. There is also quite a steep ramp and a temporary ramp is required for voters to access from the car park due to the kerb.</p> <p>Another option to consider is to make Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre a double station, which is nearer to where the Querns Road Community Centre is located. There is enough room for a double station, and it is level for disabled access.</p> <p>Views on this are welcome.</p> <p>CB5 and CWI5 polling districts are in different wards and so this would not be possible to do.</p> <p>Voters in Bekesbourne Lane and Worcester Lane are in polling district CB5 and they currently vote at</p>

	<p>polling station for them than Barton Evangelical. (Submitted by Nigel Whitburn, Agent – Canterbury and Coastal Liberal Democrats)</p>	<p>Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre. Polo Farm may well be closer for them.</p> <p>Views on this proposed change are welcome. It should be noted that a local government boundary review is currently underway, and so a further polling district review will be undertaken when the outcome of that review is known.</p>
Gorrell ward	<p>My only comment is that some voters-who use St Peters Hall in Cromwell Road have two polling stations closer- Windsor House and the United Reform Church in Middle Wall. A small adjustment could avoid this (for example, for voters in Oxford Street). (Submitted by Mick Steward)</p>	<p>It would be possible to realign the polling district.</p> <p>My suggestion would be to realign the WG3 polling district which splits Oxford Street, to the back of those properties, so that they all vote at United Reform Church Hall.</p> <p>Views are welcome on this. It should be noted that a local government boundary review is currently underway, and so a further polling district review will be undertaken when the outcome of that review is known.</p>
Nailbourne Ward	<p>I am writing in respect of the loss of The Two Sawyers in Woolage Green as the polling station for Womenswold.</p> <p>There is no community hall within the parish or other similar space. It is essential that the polling station remains within the parish.</p> <p>The only options available would either using Womenswold Church, assuming permission can be received, or setting up a temporary mobile polling station, which would be expensive.</p>	<p>We have been in contact with the Church and they are happy for us to use them as a polling station. However, there is no disabled access as there are steps up and down into the Church. Disabled access was also difficult at the Two Sawyers as there were steps going into the venue. This was alleviated by additional training for the polling station staff and also including additional messaging on poll cards for the 200 voters in this area. We are also exploring whether it may be possible to use the Crosskeys Learning Centre.</p>

	<p>The church is currently carrying out a project to install toilets and kitchen equipment in order that it can have greater community use.</p> <p>If a mobile polling station were used then I would suggest that it is placed in Woolage Village (not Woolage Green) as this is more centrally located, and is probably the largest population area in the parish. (Submitted by Councillor Mike Sole, ward member).</p> <p>The loss of The Two Sawyers as a polling station leaves Womenswold Church as the only public building in the polling district. Cllr Mike Sole requests that a mobile polling station be located at Woolage Village. (Submitted by Nigel Whitburn, Agent – Canterbury and Coastal Liberal Democrats)</p>	<p>I would be concerned about the cost and logistics of organising a temporary mobile polling station at this location.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place is extended to cover the whole polling district which will allow for the Returning Officer to continue exploring options available.</p>
Westgate Ward	<p>Please don't change Westgate Ward and in particular, not our polling station at St Dunstons Church Hall (Submitted by Mary Berg)</p>	<p>There are no proposals to change the arrangements for voters at St Dunstons Church Hall. However, there is a local government boundary review currently underway which is likely to result in ward boundary changes.</p>
Wincheap ward	<p>I suggest moving the voters in Hancock Way, Vipan Way, Bell Avenue and Miles Way from CWI2 to CWI1. The new development seems to have been split between the two polling districts for no great benefit other than perhaps to boost the number of electors in CWI2. (Submitted by Nigel Whitburn, Agent – Canterbury and Coastal Liberal Democrats)</p>	<p>Voters in CWI2 vote at St Faith's Hall, whilst voters in CWI1 vote at the Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre.</p> <p>The polling districts are aligned with the parish council boundaries, CWI1 in Thanington North and Thanington South.</p>

		There is significant development in this area, and so it is therefore proposed to keep this under review this time as it currently aligns with parish boundaries. It should be noted that a local government boundary review is currently underway, and so a further polling district review will be undertaken when the outcome of that review is known.
Wards that fall within the current North Thanet constituency that are part of the Canterbury City Council area	I am happy with the existing arrangements (Submitted by Colin Carmichael (Acting) Returning Officer for the North Thanet constituency)	No comment.

Any further comments should be directed to Electoral Services, electoral.services@canterbury.gov.uk or in writing to the following address: Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW. Please put the subject heading as 'Polling District Review'

The current list of polling districts, places and stations can be viewed on our website <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/polling-places-scheme-ward>

I am proposing to keep the existing arrangements in place for the areas not mentioned in the above document. All polling districts and places will be subject to further review when the outcome of the local government boundary review is known. Further details on the local government boundary review can be viewed on our website <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/local-government-boundary-review-canterbury>

Tricia Marshall, (Acting) Returning Officer

30 October 2023