

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019

Consultation Document

Introduction

The Returning Officer is conducting a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations prior to the scheduled District and Parish elections in May 2019. This review is pursuant to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Local Government Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England completed a Boundary Review of the district in January 2018. The Boundary Commissions' proposals for West Berkshire were:

- (i) A reduction in the total number of Councillors from 52 to 43.
- (ii) A reduction in the total number of wards from 30 to 24.
- (iii) The boundaries of one ward staying the same.

These proposals will take effect from the May 2019 District/Parish Council Elections.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires Local Authorities to carry out and complete reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Polling Stations) every five years. However, this review is being undertaken having regard to the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's boundary review of the district.

A Polling Place is provided for electors living within each polling district. The changes to wards mean that the Council is required to carry out a review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places within the District, pursuant to Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

A Polling Place for a Polling District is expected to be an area in that district, except where special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the Polling District. Any Polling District is expected to be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the Polling District how they will be able to reach the Polling Place.

The aim of this review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances. The Council is required to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the Polling Places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The choice of Polling Places will often be a balance between the quality (access, facilities etc) of a building and the distance between the residents and that building compared to other options for Polling Places.

There is no fixed rule on how to decide how this should be done. Local Authorities will be expected to follow a reasonable methodology in arriving at their choice of Polling Place. West Berkshire Council, as the Local Education Authority, has decided not to use schools for Polling Places because of the impact on the

educational attainment on young people and also because of the potential health and safety issues associated with an increase traffic caused by electors attending the school to vote.

Consultation

A Public Notice has been posted on to the Council's website and consultation letters sent to all Local members of Parliament and West Berkshire Councillors and relevant Disability organisations.

Feedback received from Polling Station staff in the past has also been used to help shape this review and the preliminary proposals set out in this document.

The consultation will run for four weeks starting on 14 January 2019 and ending on 11 February 2019.

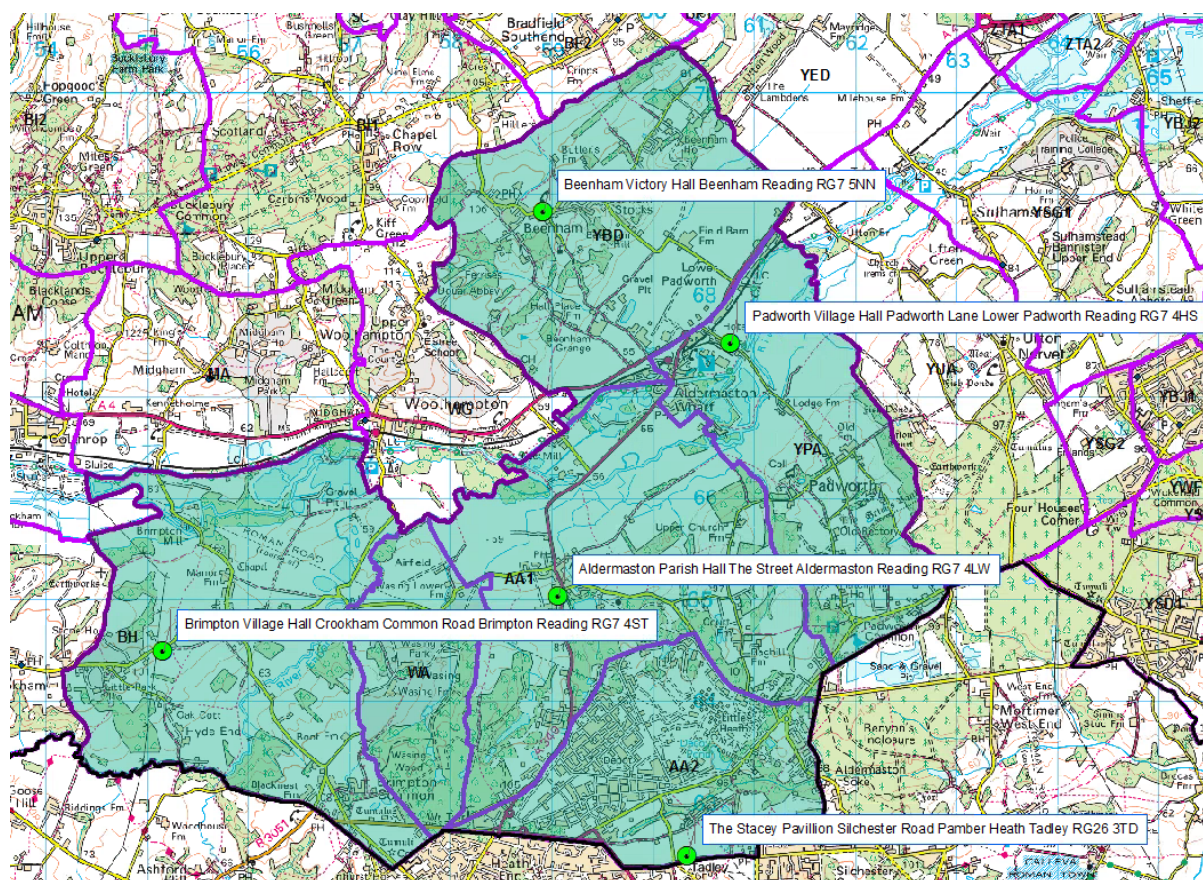
Review

The review covers each of the new 24 wards and acknowledges the electorate in each (as at 2017 and 2023) and proposes Polling Places in each area. In all but four instances, the current Polling Places have been retained. Newbury Rugby Club is being proposed as a Polling Place for the new Newbury Greenham and Newbury Wash Common Wards. A new venue is required for East Ilsley. The Council is also looking to secure a more appropriate Polling Place on Newbury Racecourse for the Newbury Greenham Ward. The Council has also replaced the Keepers Bungalow, Lower Farm with Combe Manor, Combe

The pages which follow this introduction provide a map for each of the 24 new wards and identifies the Polling Places for each Ward. The maps also identify a small number of new Polling Districts which are proposed to be created arising from the recent Local Government Boundary Review.

Comments on this review are welcome. If you have issues, particularly, accessibility, around any of the proposed Polling Places listed in this review then the Council would be interested in hearing your views on these and any suggestions for an alternative venue going forward.

Aldermaston Ward

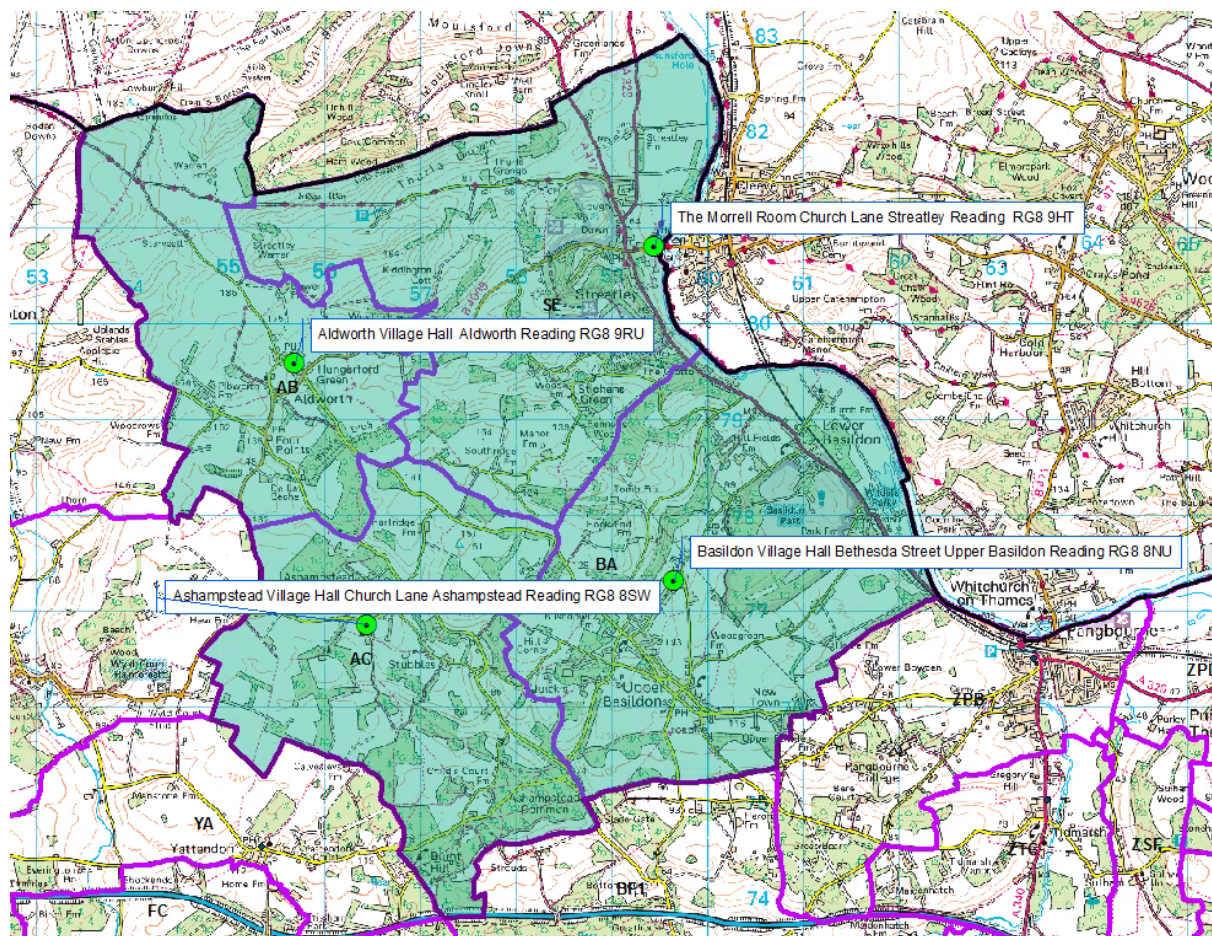


Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations (PD)	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		3010	3139	5	No changes proposed.
Aldermaston	Aldermaston Village Hall (AA1)				
	The Stacey Pavilion, Barlow's Park (AA2)				
Brimpton	Brimpton Village Hall (BH)				
Padworth	Padworth Village Hall (YPA)				
Beenham	Beenham Village Hall (YBD)				

The Polling Districts allocated to each Polling Place are shown in brackets in the Polling Stations column.

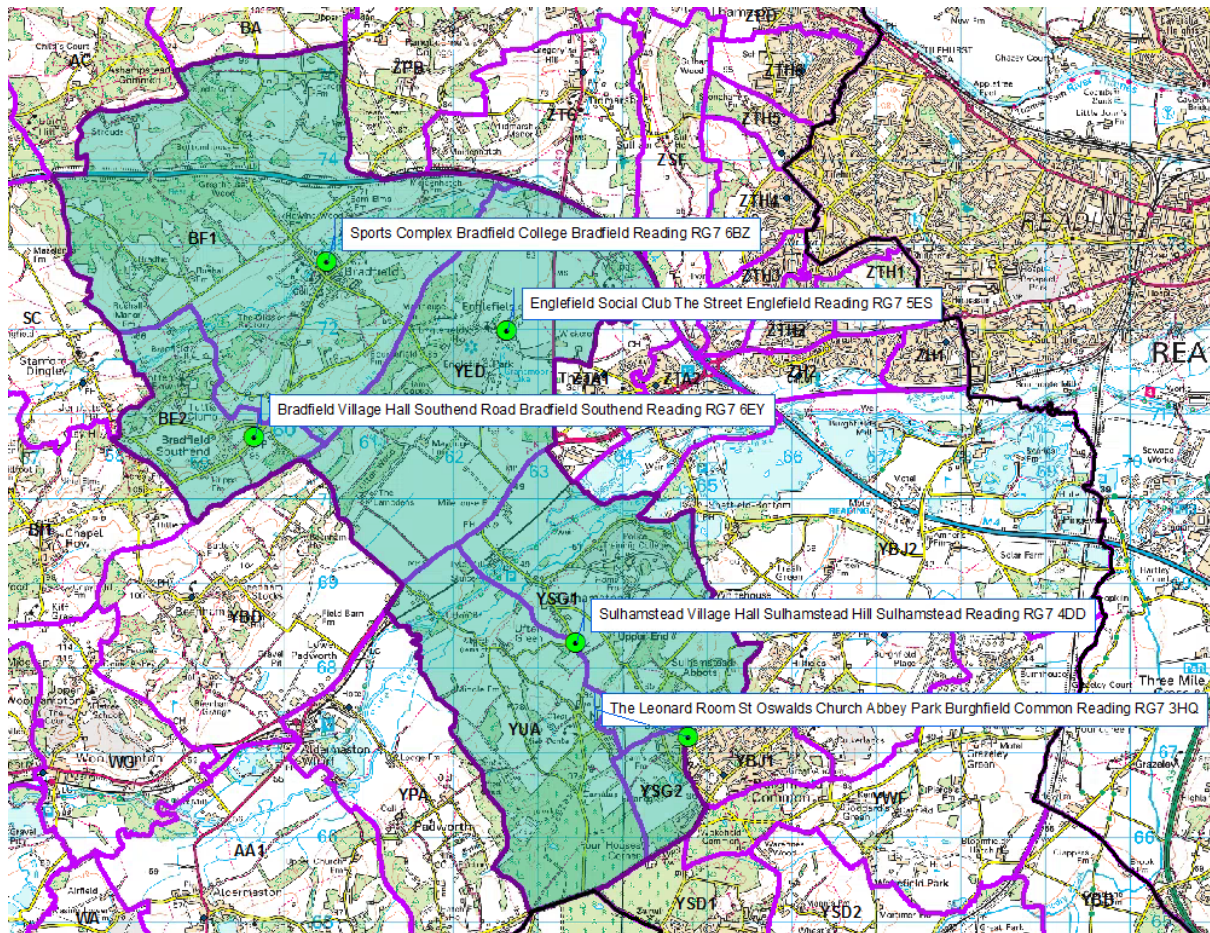
Note: The Parish of Wasing will continue to vote in Aldermaston Village Hall.

Basildon Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023	Number of Polling Places	Comments
Basildon	Village Hall (BA)	2893	3004	4	No changes proposed.
Ashampstead	Jubilee Village Hall (AC)				
Aldworth	Village Hall (AB)				
Streatley	The Morrell Room (SE)				

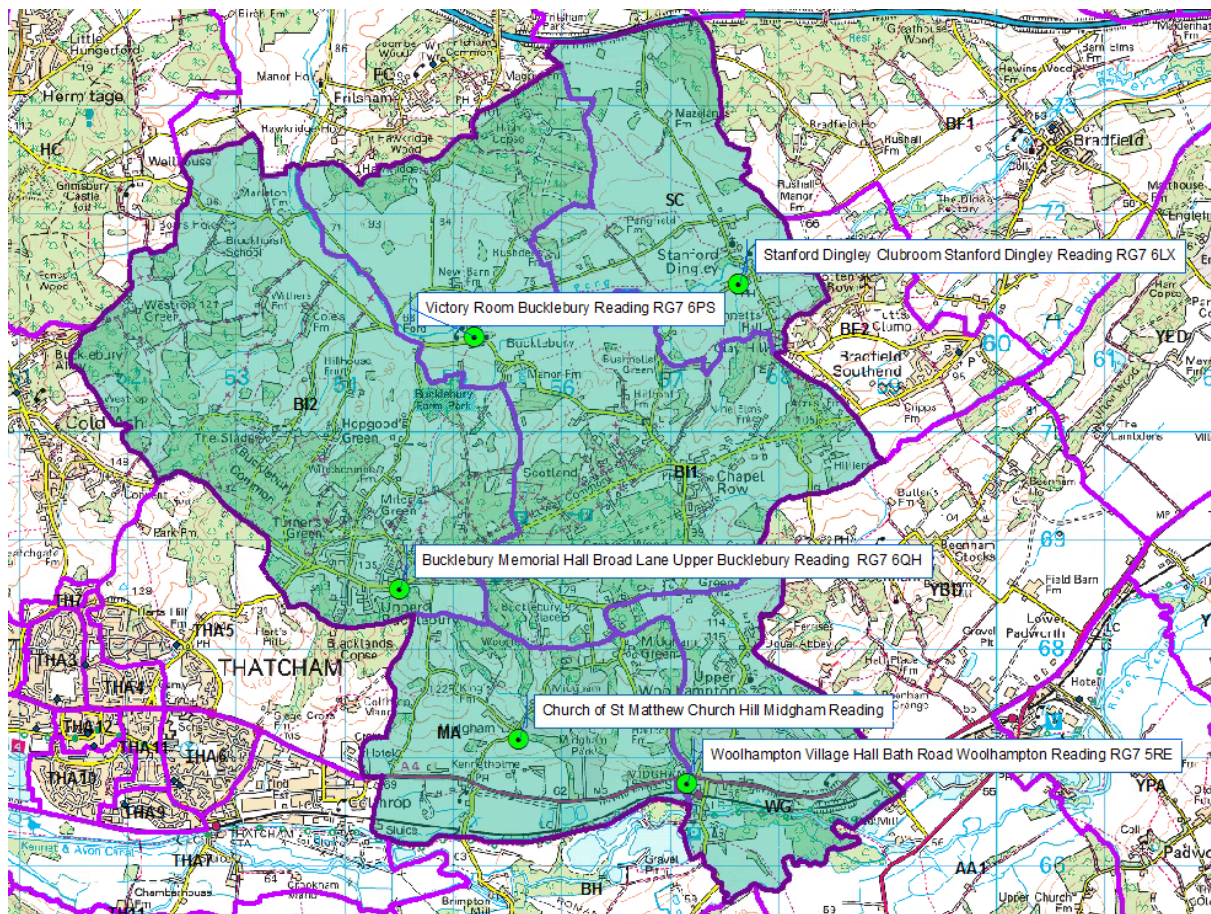
Bradfield Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
Bradfield	The Dance Studio, Bradfield College (BF1)	2913	3093	5	No Changes Proposed
	Bradfield Village Hall (BF2)				
Sulhamstead	Sulhamstead Village Hall (YSG1,))				
	The Leonard Room, St Oswalds Church (YSG2)				
Englefield	Englefield Social Club (YED)				
Ufton Nervet	Sulhamstead Village Hall				

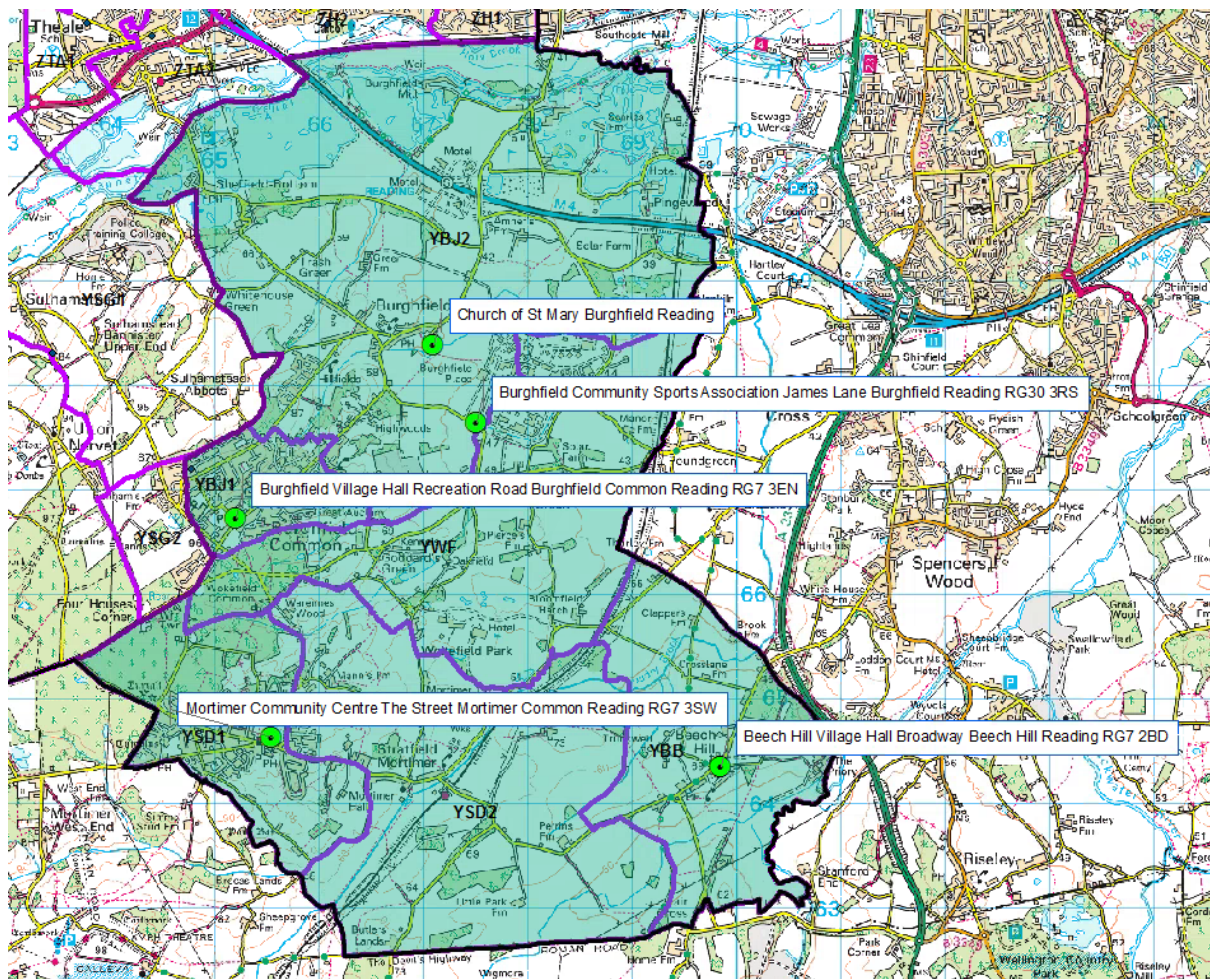
	(YUA)				
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Bucklebury Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		2940	2994	5	No Changes Proposed
Bucklebury	Victory Room, Bucklebury (BI1)				
	Bucklebury Memorial Hall (BI2)				
Stanford Dingley	The Clubroom (SC)				
Midham	St Matthews Church (MA)				
Woolhampton	Woolhampton Village Hall (WG)				

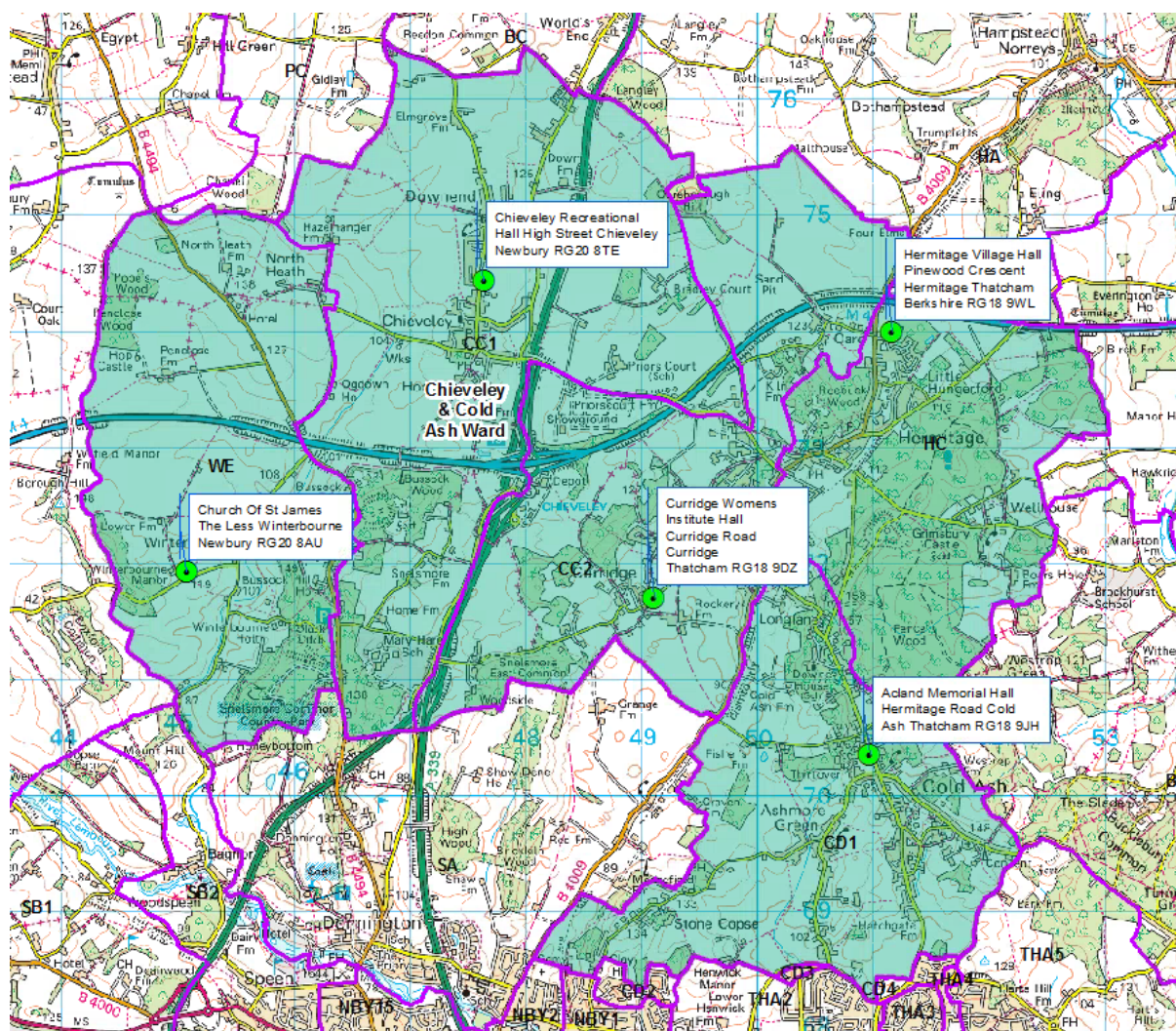
Burghfield and Mortimer Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		8336	8952	5	No changes proposed.
Burghfield	Burghfield Village Hall (YBJ2)				
	Burghfield St Mary's Church (YBJ1)				
Stratfield Mortimer	Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre (YSD1/YSD2)				
Beech Hill	Beech Hill Memorial Hall (YBB)				
Wokefield	Burghfield				

	Community Sports Association (YWF)				
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Chieveley and Cold Ash Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5314	5561	5	No changes to Polling Stations proposed.
Chieveley	Chieveley Recreation Hall (CC2)				
	Women's Institute Hall (CC1)				
Cold Ash	Acland Memorial Hall (CD1)				
Winterbourne	St James the Less Church (WE)				
Hermitage	Hermitage				

	Village Hall (HC)				

Comment:

Three areas of Cold Ash Parish fall outside the parish. One forms the existing Manor Park and Manor Fields in Clay Hill. There were no comments received from the consultation in relation to this proposal.

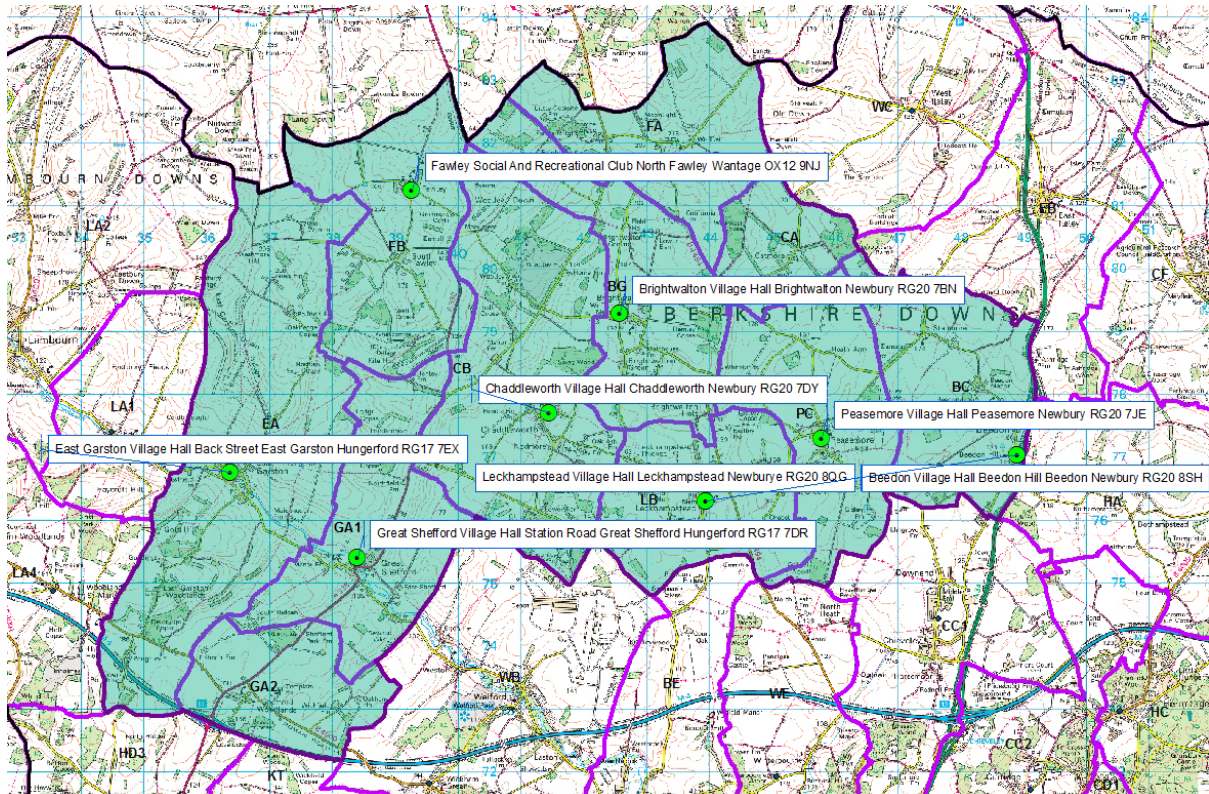
Recommendation

2 new Polling Districts for Florence Gardens and Little Copse will be created as a result of the Boundary Review. However, given that there no suitable venues available which could be used as Polling Stations and so the following will apply:

Electors in Florence Gardens will vote in the Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, Henwick Worthy.

Electors living in Little Copse in Thatcham North East will vote in the Central Family Hub, Park Lane.

Downlands Ward

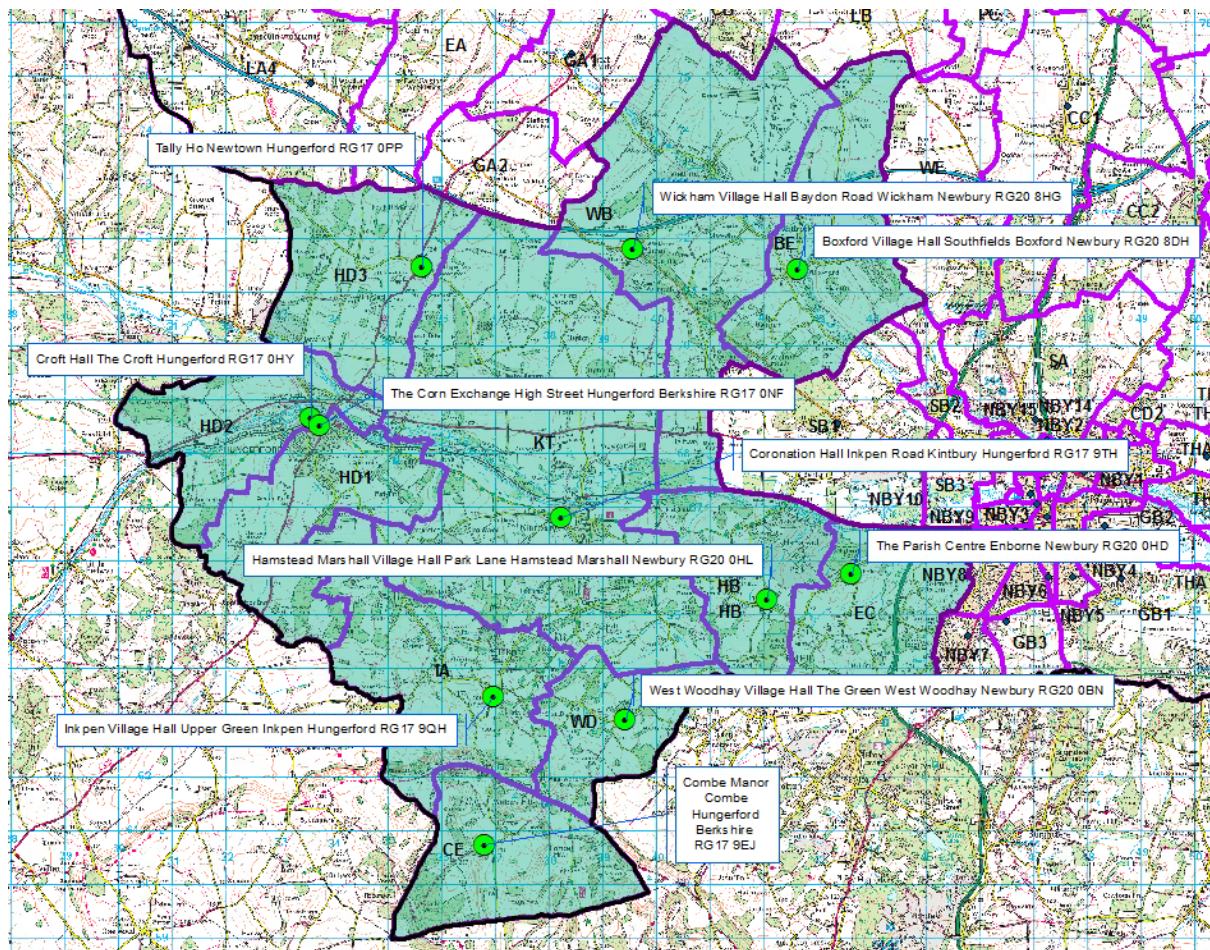


Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		2989	3073	8	No Changes Proposed
Beedon	Beedon Village Hall (BC)				
Peasemore	Peasemore Village Hall (PC)				
Leckhampstead	Leckhampstead Village Hall (LB)				
Catmore	(CA)				
Farnborough	(FA)				
Brightwalton	Brightwalton Village Hall (BG)				
Chaddleworth	Chaddleworth Village Hall (CB)				
Fawley	Fawley Social Club (FB)				
Great Shefford	Great Shefford Village Hall (GA1/GA2)				
East Garston	East Garston				

	Village Hall (EA)				
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Note: There is no suitable location within the parishes of Catmore and Farnborough.
Electors there will continue to use Brightwalton Village Hall.

Hungerford and Kintbury Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		9136	9560	11	It is proposed to move the Polling Station for Combe to Combe Manor from the Inn Keepers' Bungalow.
Hungerford	Corn Exchange, High Street, Hungerford (HD1)				
	Tally Ho, Hungerford, Newtown (HD2)				
	Croft Hall, Hungerford				

	(HD3)				
Kintbury	Coronation Hall (KT)				
Inkpen	Village Hall (IA)				
Combe	Keepers Bungalow, Lower Farm (CE)				*
West Woodhay	Village Hall (WD)				
Hampstead Marshall	Village Hall (HB)				
Enborne	The Parish Centre (EC)				
Welford	Wickham Village Hall (WB)				
Boxford	Village Hall (BE)				

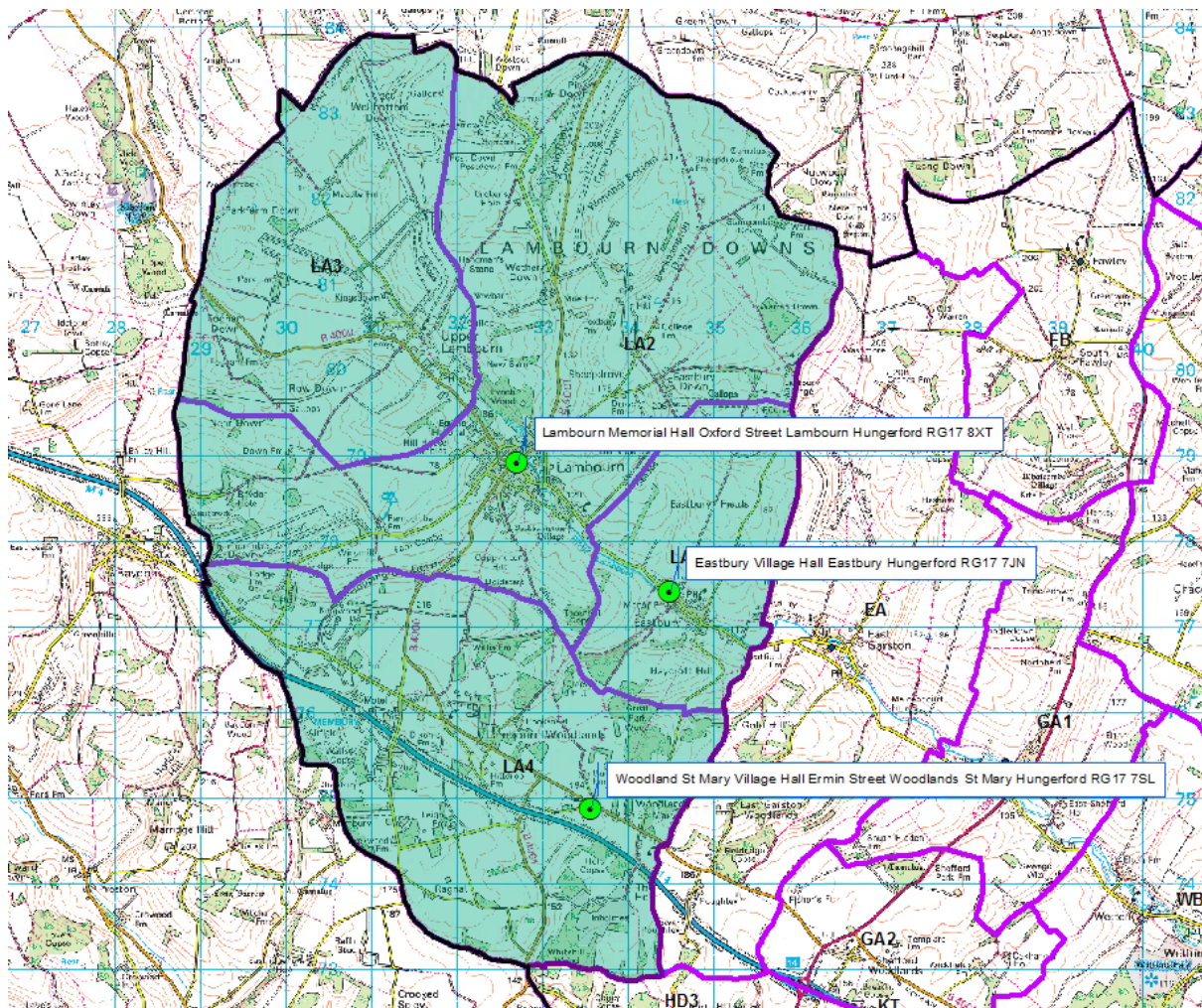
Comment:

There were no comments received from the consultation on this proposal.

Recommendation

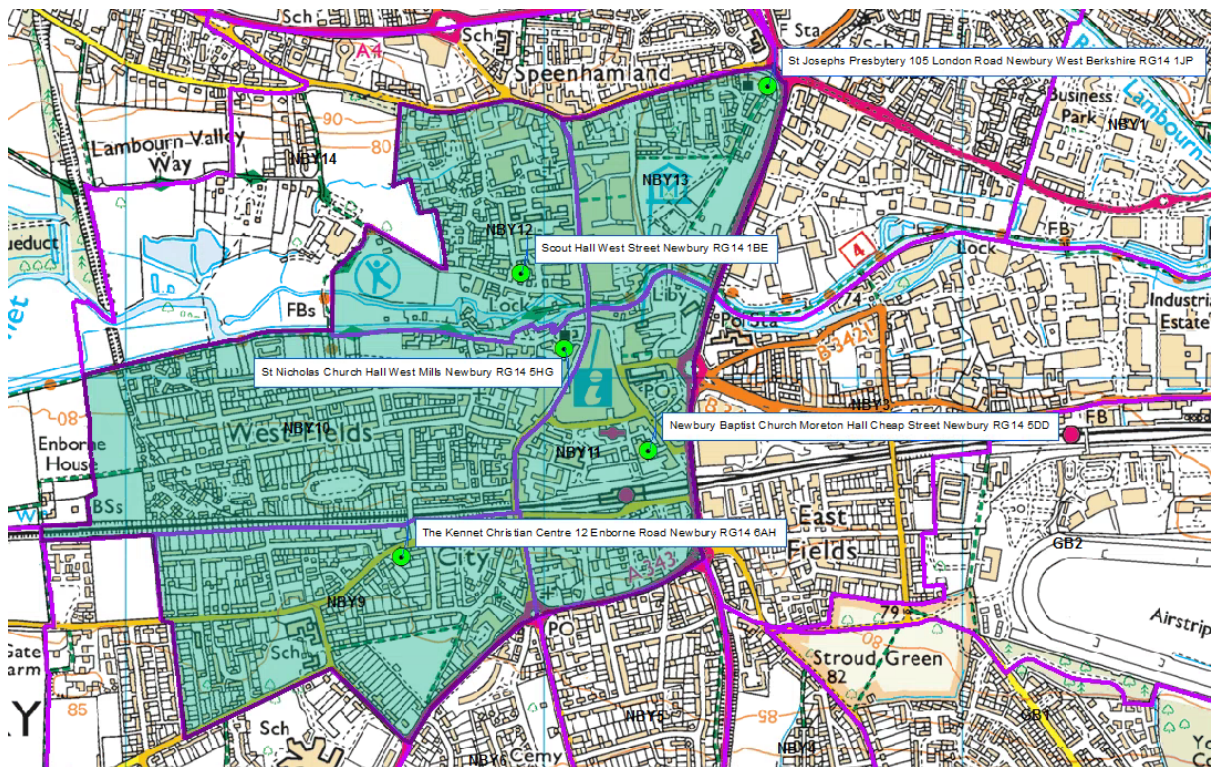
It is proposed to move the Polling Station for Combe to Combe Manor from the Inn Keepers' Bungalow.

Lambourn Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		3225	3342	3	No Changes proposed.
Lambourn	Memorial Hall (LA2/LA3)				
	Woodlands St Mary Village Hall (LA4)				
	Eastbury Village Hall (LA1)				

Newbury Central Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5554	6013	5	No changes proposed to Polling Stations.
Newbury	Kennet Christian Centre (NBY9)				
	Baptist Church, Cheap Street (NBY11)				
	St Nicholas Church Hall (NBY10)				
	Scout Hall, West Street (NBY12)				
	St Joseph's Catholic Church Hall, London Road (NBY13)				

Comment

One new Polling District for Westfield Town Ward will be created as a result of the Boundary Review. However, existing Polling Stations will continue to be used.

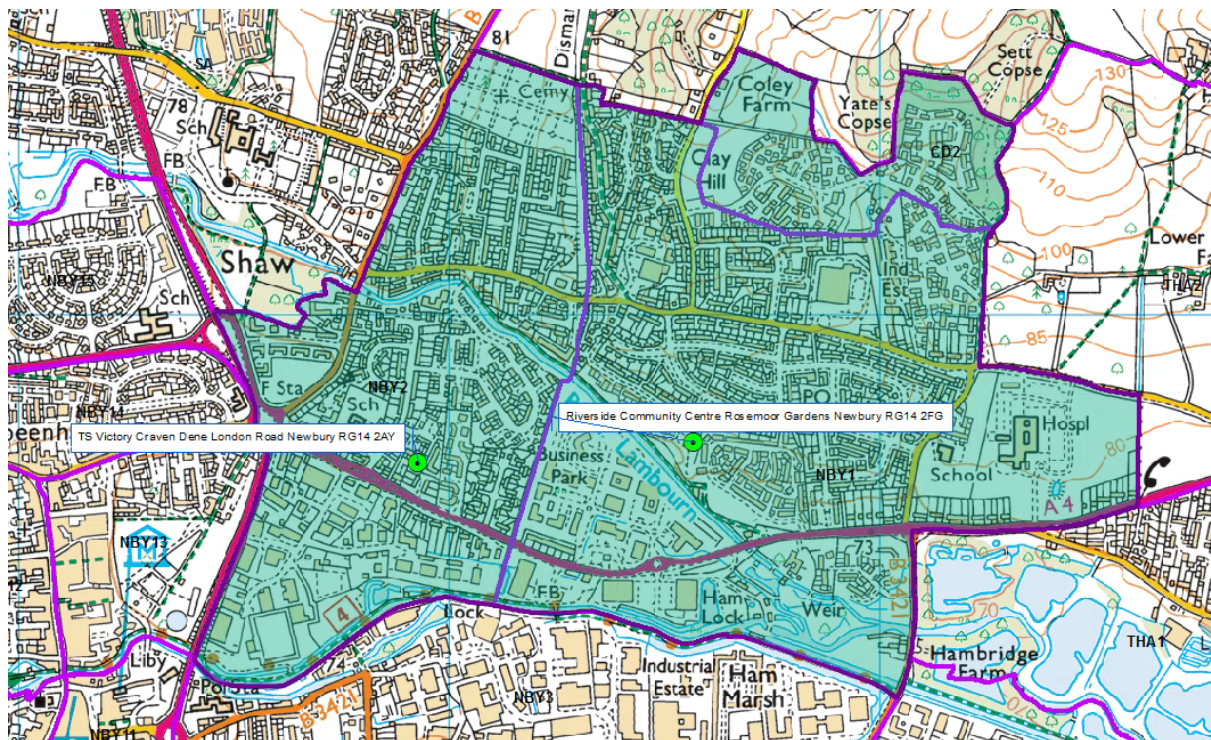
The line of the northern boundary of NBY10 has been moved north to follow the line of the River Kennet. This will ensure that the electors that live between the canal and the river vote at St. Nicholas Church Hall.

There were no comments received from the consultation in relation to this proposal.

Recommendation

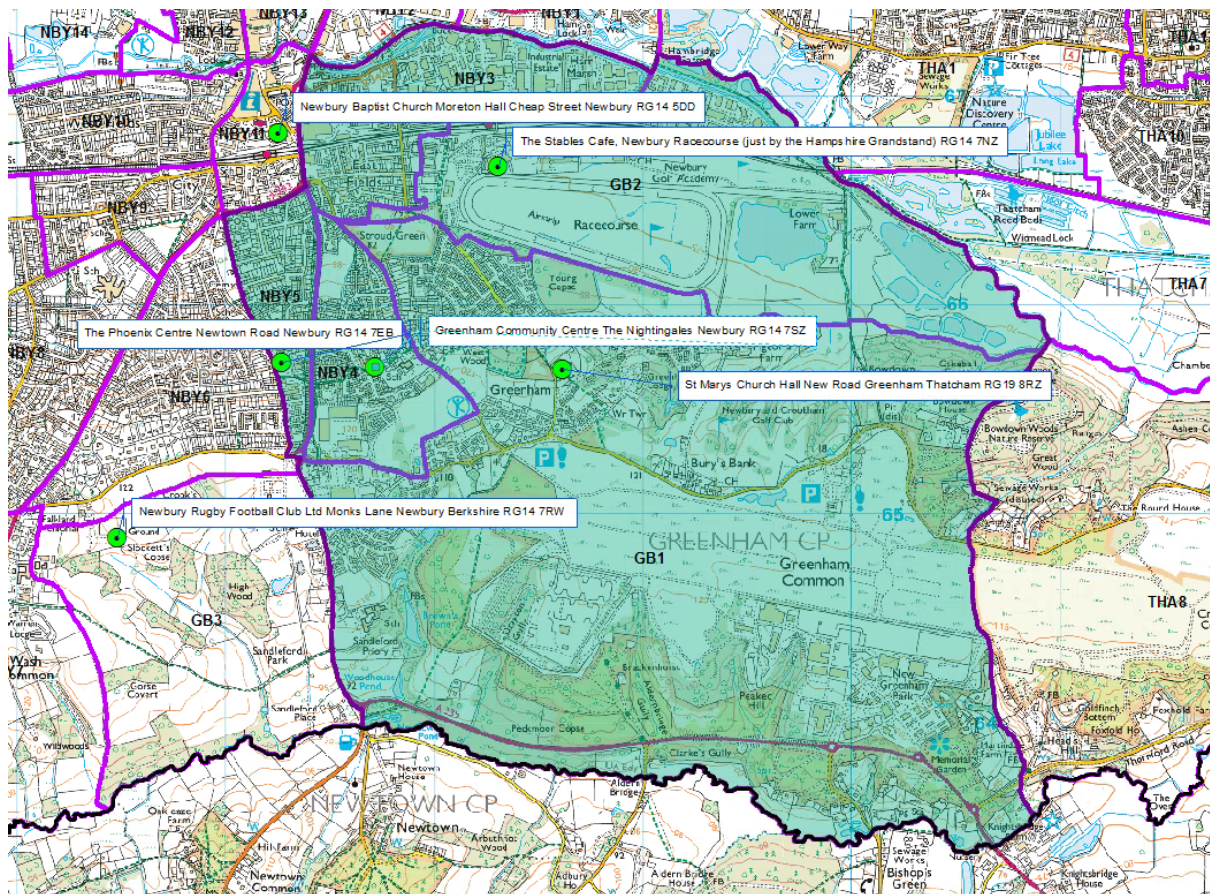
That electors around the Park Way area that used to vote at St Nicholas Church Hall in future vote at St Joseph's Catholic Church Hall.

Newbury Clay Hill Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5651	5986	2	No changes proposed.
Newbury Clay Hill	Riverside Community Centre (NBY1)				
	Sea Cadets Hall, London Road (NBY2)				

Newbury Greenham Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		8224	9569	6	
Common	Racecourse (GB2)				
	St Mary's Church Hall, Greenham (GB1)				
Sandleford	Rugby Club (GB3)				
Eastfields Town	Greenham Community Centre (NBY4)				
	Phoenix Centre (NBY5)				
	Baptist Church, Cheap Street (NBY3)				

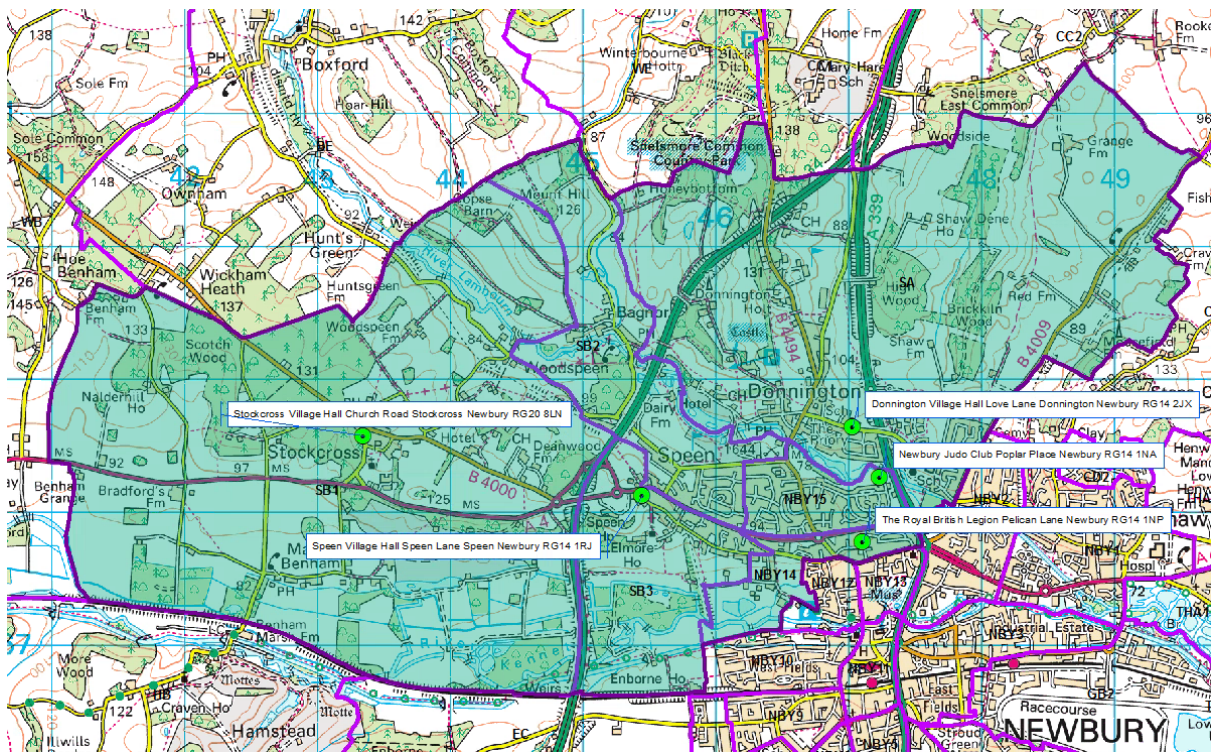
Comment

Of the 42 that responded to the consultation, 19 had no opinion on this proposal. Of the remaining 23, 87% considered that Newbury Rugby Club was a suitable venue.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Newbury Rugby Club be used as a future Polling Station for the Sandleford Polling District, which will be in the Newbury Greenham Ward.

Newbury Speen Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5578	6174	5	
Newbury Speen	Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane (NBY14)				
	The Scout Hut, Poplar Place (NBY15)				
	Village Hall, Speen Lane (SB2/SB3)				
	Donnington Village Hall (SA)				
	Sutton Hall, Stockcross (SB1)				

Comment:

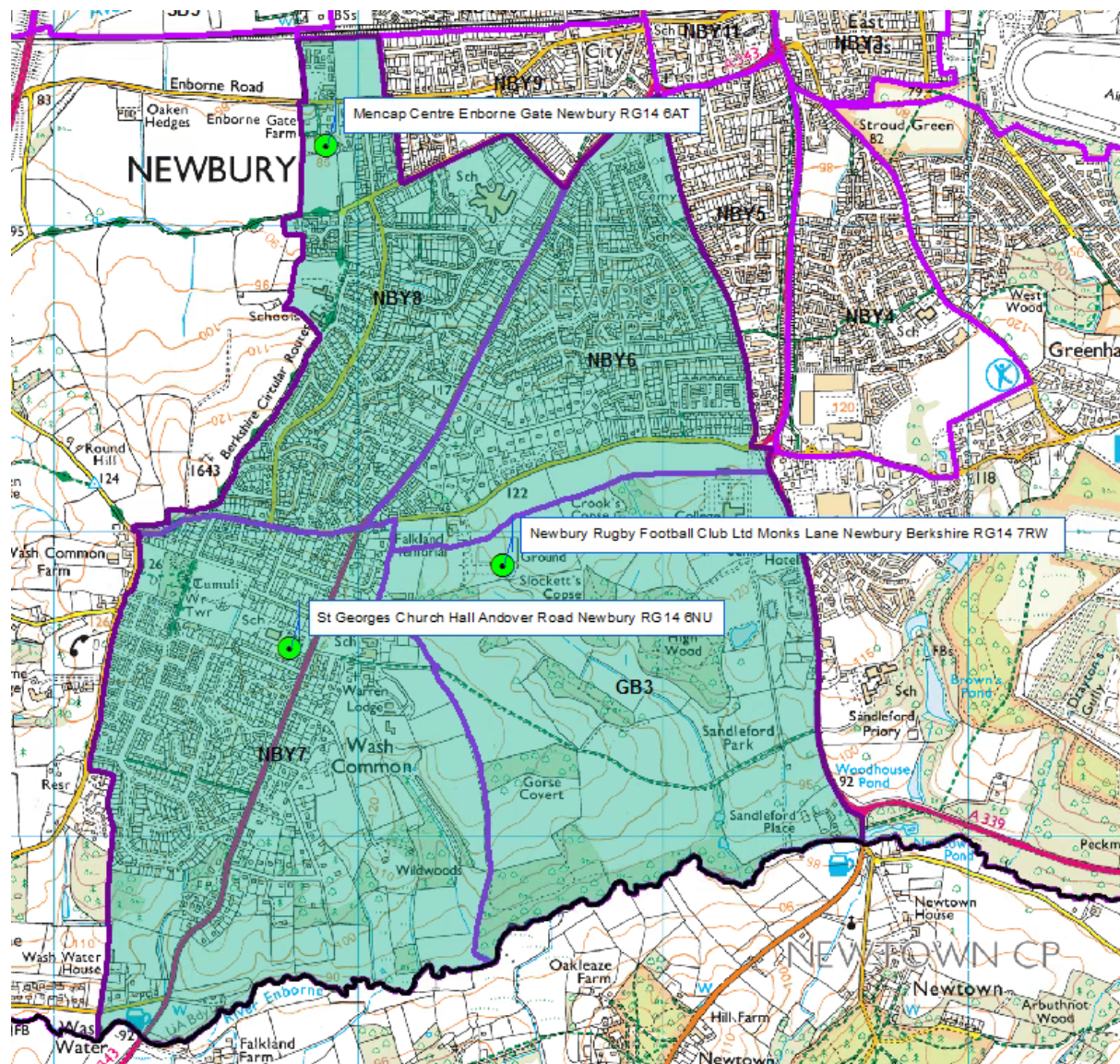
As part of the review the opportunity was taken to make minor changes to some Polling Districts to ensure that electors continue to vote in the most appropriate Polling Station.

There were no comments arising from the consultation on the proposals set out below.

Recommendations

- (i) That electors in Polling District NB7 (Brummell Grove) vote, in the future, at the Scout Hut, Poplar Place.
- (ii) That SB2 and SB3 Polling Districts be merged into a unique SB2 Polling District.
- (iii) That the permanent moorings adjacent to Monkey Bridge be included in NBY14 Polling District.
- (i) The line of the northern boundary of NBY10 has been moved north to follow the line of the River Kennet. This will ensure that the electors between the canal and the river vote at St Nicholas Church Hall.

Newbury Wash Common



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		7339	9476	3	It is proposed to use the Rugby Club as a Polling Station to serve the residents of the Sandleford Parish ward of Greenham and the area between Newtown Road and Andover Road north of Monks Lane.

Newbury Wash Common	St George's Hall, Andover Road (NBY7)				
	Mencap Centre (NBY8)				
	Rugby Club (NBY6)				

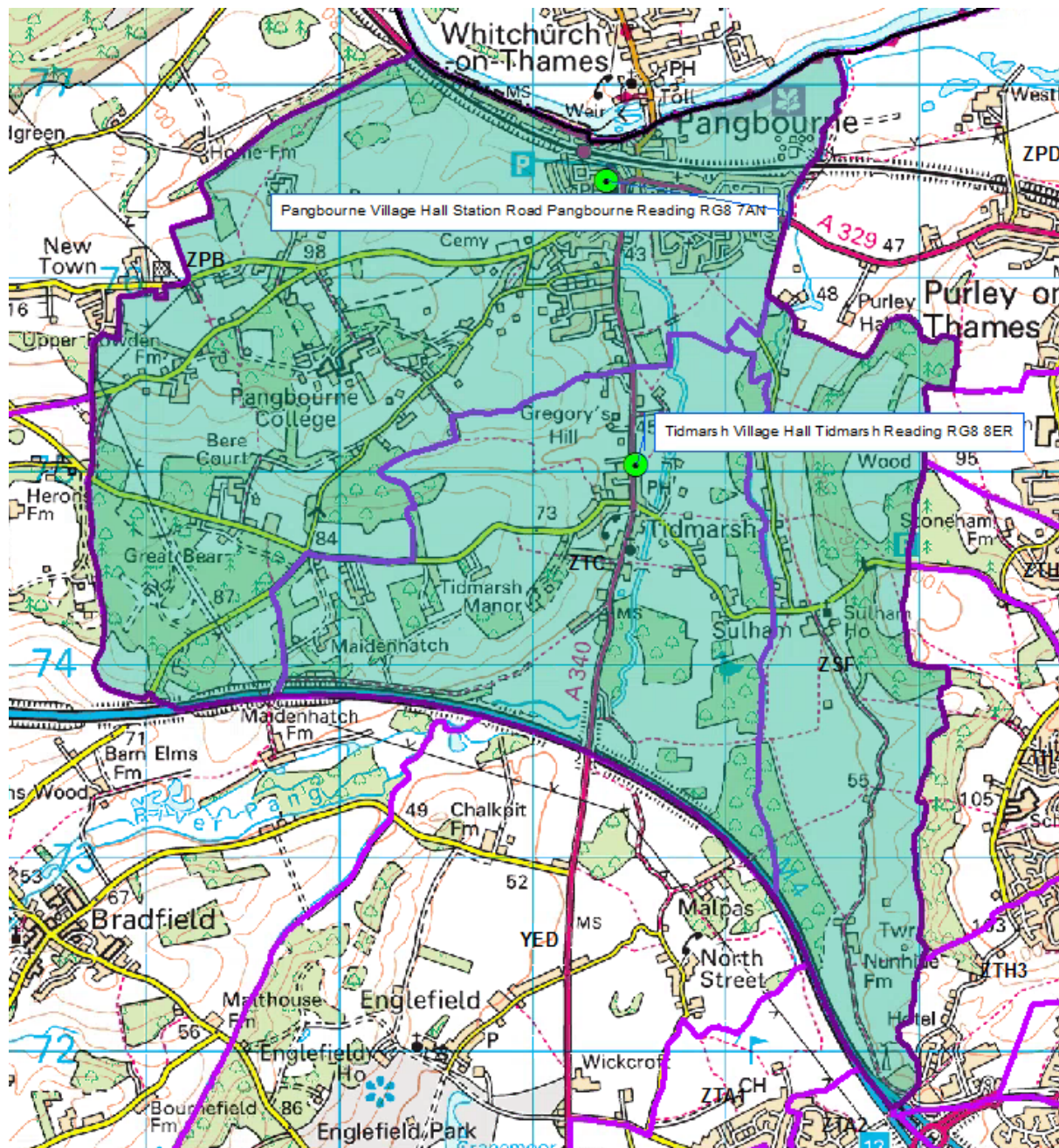
Comment

Of the 42 that responded to the consultation, 19 had no opinion on this proposal. Of the remaining 23, 87% considered that Newbury Rugby Club was a suitable venue.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Newbury Rugby Club be used as a future Polling Station for the Sandleford Polling District, which will be in the Newbury Wash Common Ward.

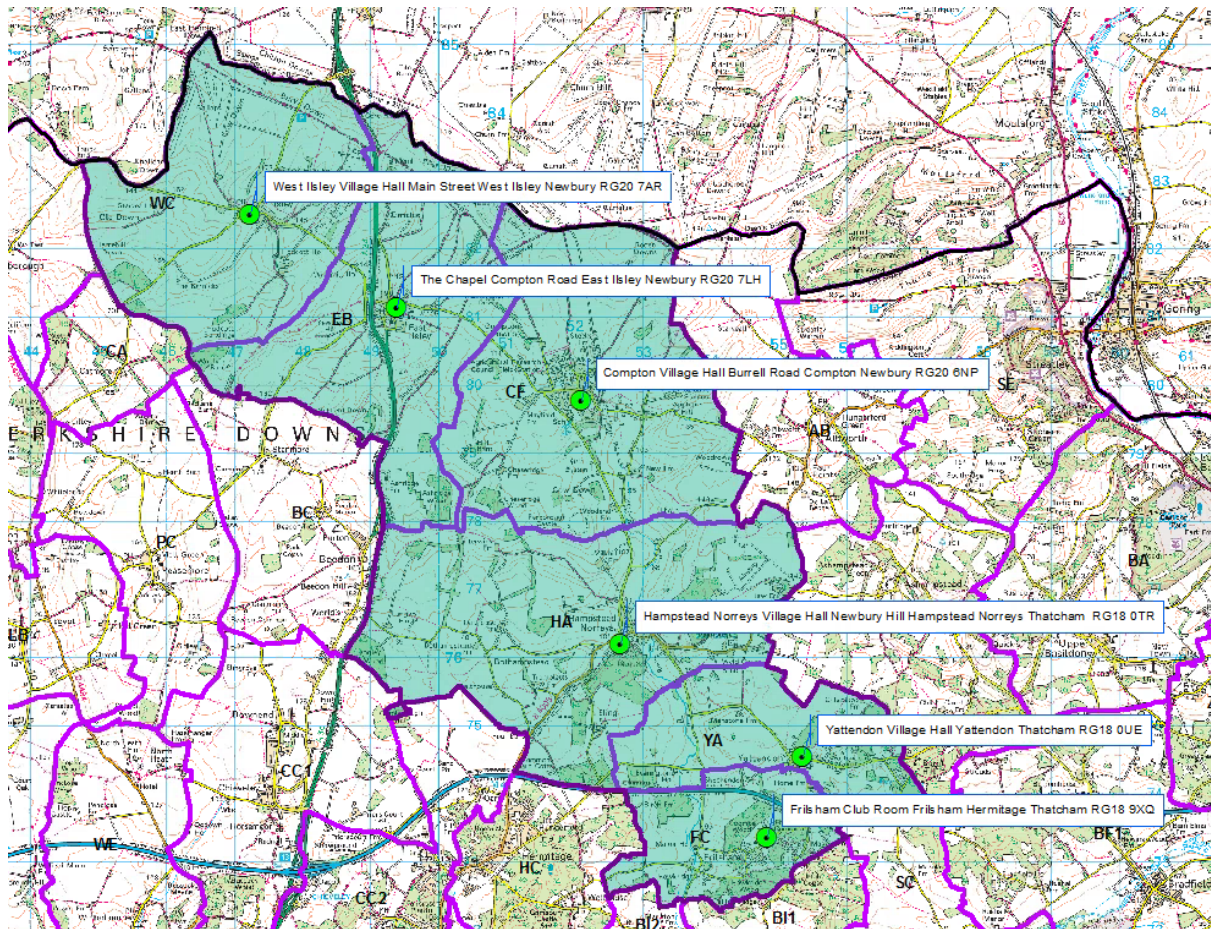
Pangbourne Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		2854	2925	2	No changes proposed
Pangbourne	Village Hall (ZPB)				
Sulham	Tidmarsh Village Hall				

	(ZSF)				
Tidmarsh	Village Hall (ZTC)				

Ridgeway Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		3107	3172	6	
Frilsham	Club Room, Recreation Ground (FC)				
Yattendon	Village Hall (YA)				
Hampstead Norreys	Village Hall (HA)				
Compton	The Coronation Hall (CF)				
West Ilsley	Village Hall (WC)				
East Ilsley	New venue required (EB)				

Comment:

Arising from the consultation the Council received the following suggestions for a new Polling Station in East Ilsley:

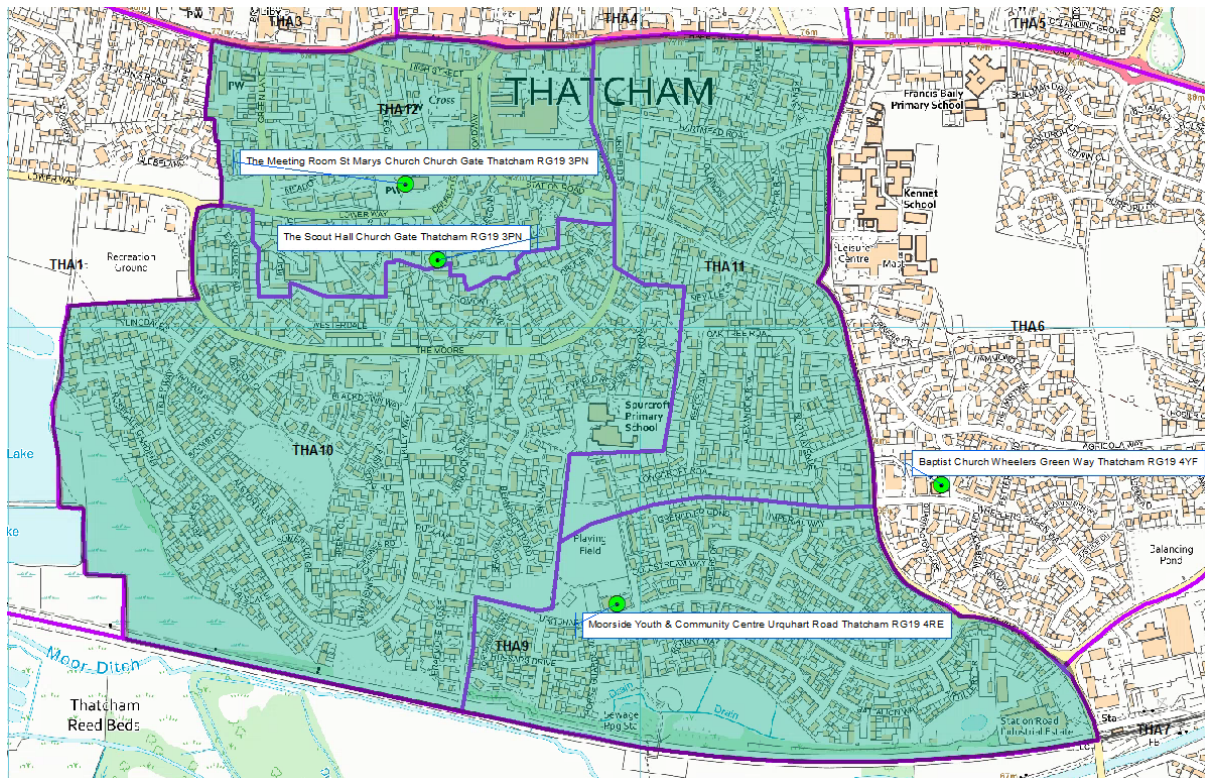
- (i) The Swan Public House
- (ii) The Catholic Church or the School
- (iii) Mobile Unit

The Council visited both the Swan Public House and the Catholic Church and considered the Swan Public House to be a suitable venue. The Council does not use Schools for Polling Stations so this proposal was discounted.

Recommendation

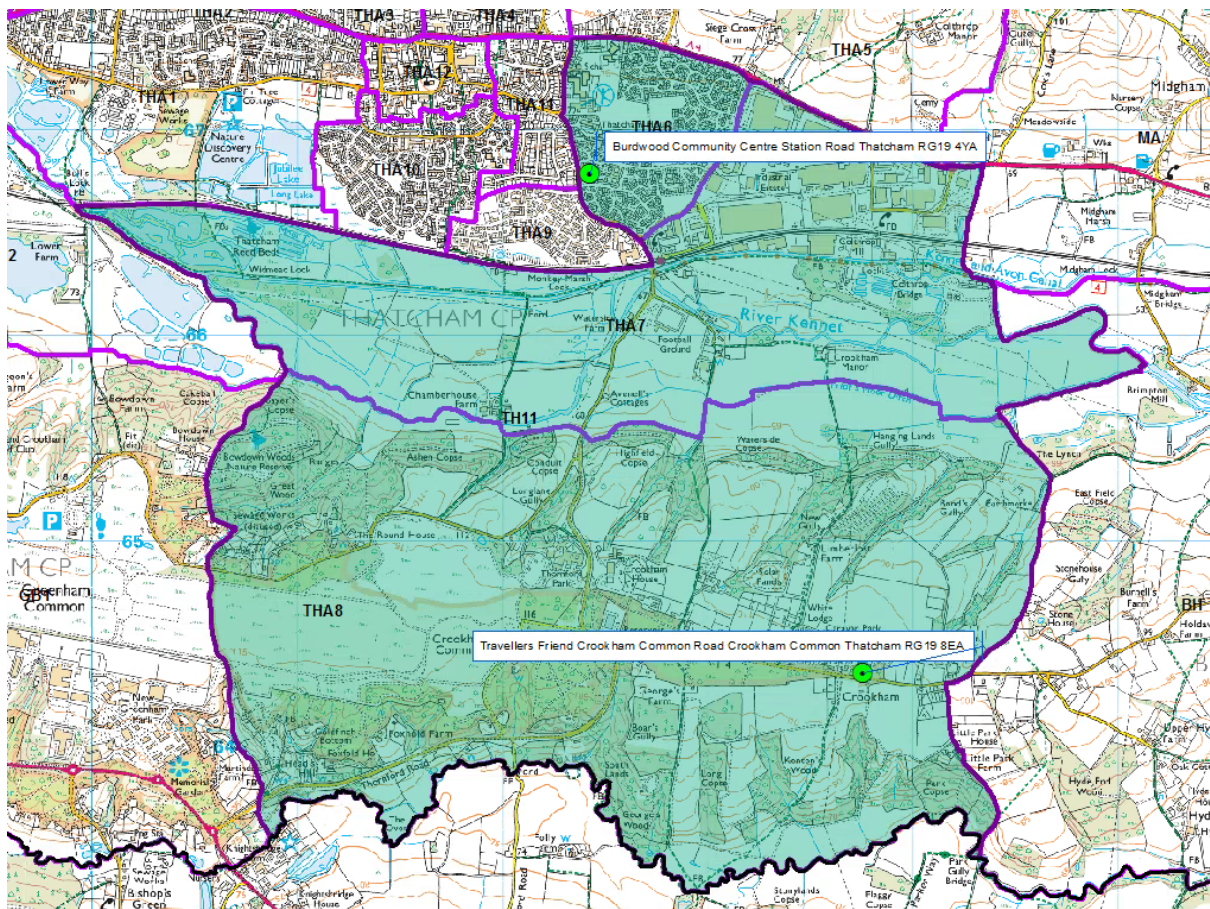
That the Swan Public House be used at a Polling Station for East Ilsley.

Thatcham Central Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5527	5633	4	No changes proposed.
Thatcham Central	Baptist Church, Wheelers Green (THA11)				
	Moorside Centre, Urquhart Room (THA9)				
	Scout Hall, Church Gate (THA10)				
	St Mary's Church, Church Gate (THA12)				

Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		2743	2768	2	.
Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham	Burdwood Centre (THA6)				
	Travellers Friend, Crookham Common Road (THA8)				

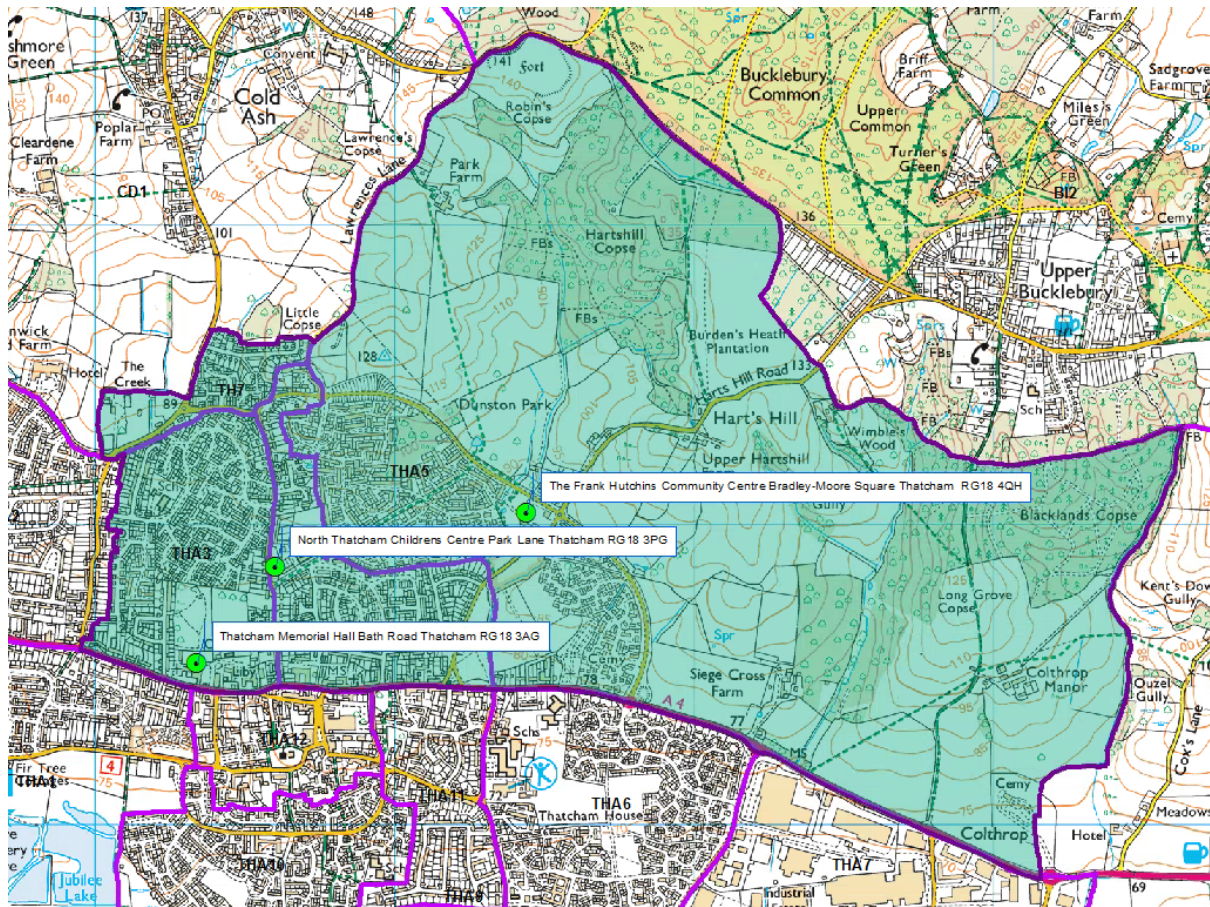
Comment:

As part of the review the Council has taken the opportunity to make minor changes to some Polling Districts to ensure that electors continue to vote in the most appropriate Polling Station. In the case of the Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham Ward it is proposed to create a new Polling District (THA7) as set out below. These residents will continue to vote in the Travellers Friend.

Recommendation

That a new Polling District (THA7) be created for all those residents located south of the Railway Line and Crookham Hill. These electors will continue to use the Travellers Friend as their Polling Station.

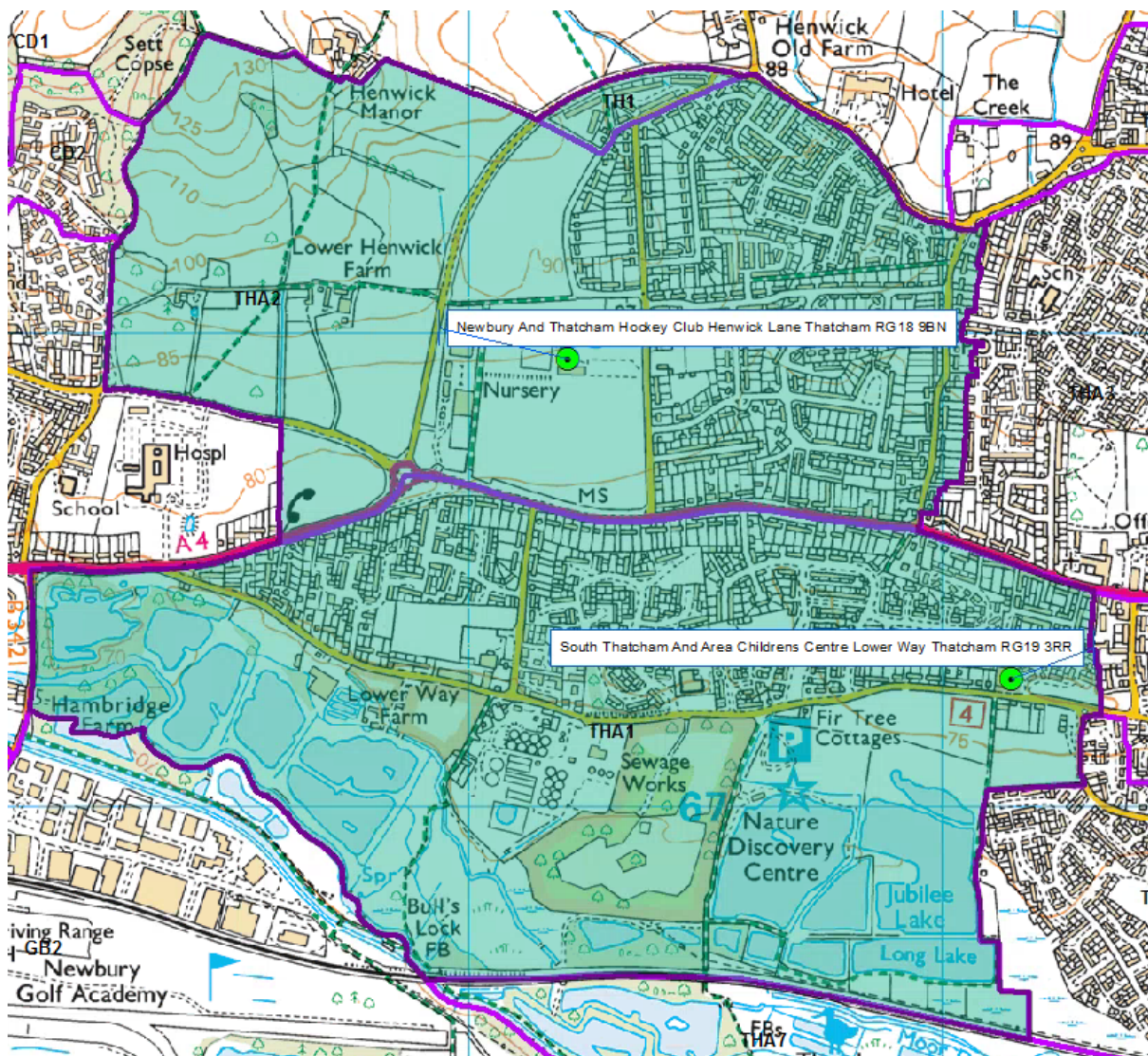
Thatcham North East Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		6011	6004	3	No changes proposed.
Thatcham North East	Memorial Hall, Bath Road (THA3)				
	North Thatcham Children's Centre, Park Lane (THA4)				
	Frank Hutchings Hall (THA5)				

Note: Those residents part of the Little Copse Polling District (in Cold Ash) Parish will use north Thatcham Children's Centre as their designated Polling Station.

Thatcham West Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5461	5855	2	No changes proposed.
Thatcham West	Swings and Smiles Children's Centre, Lower Way (THA1)				
	Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, Henwick Worthy (THA2)				

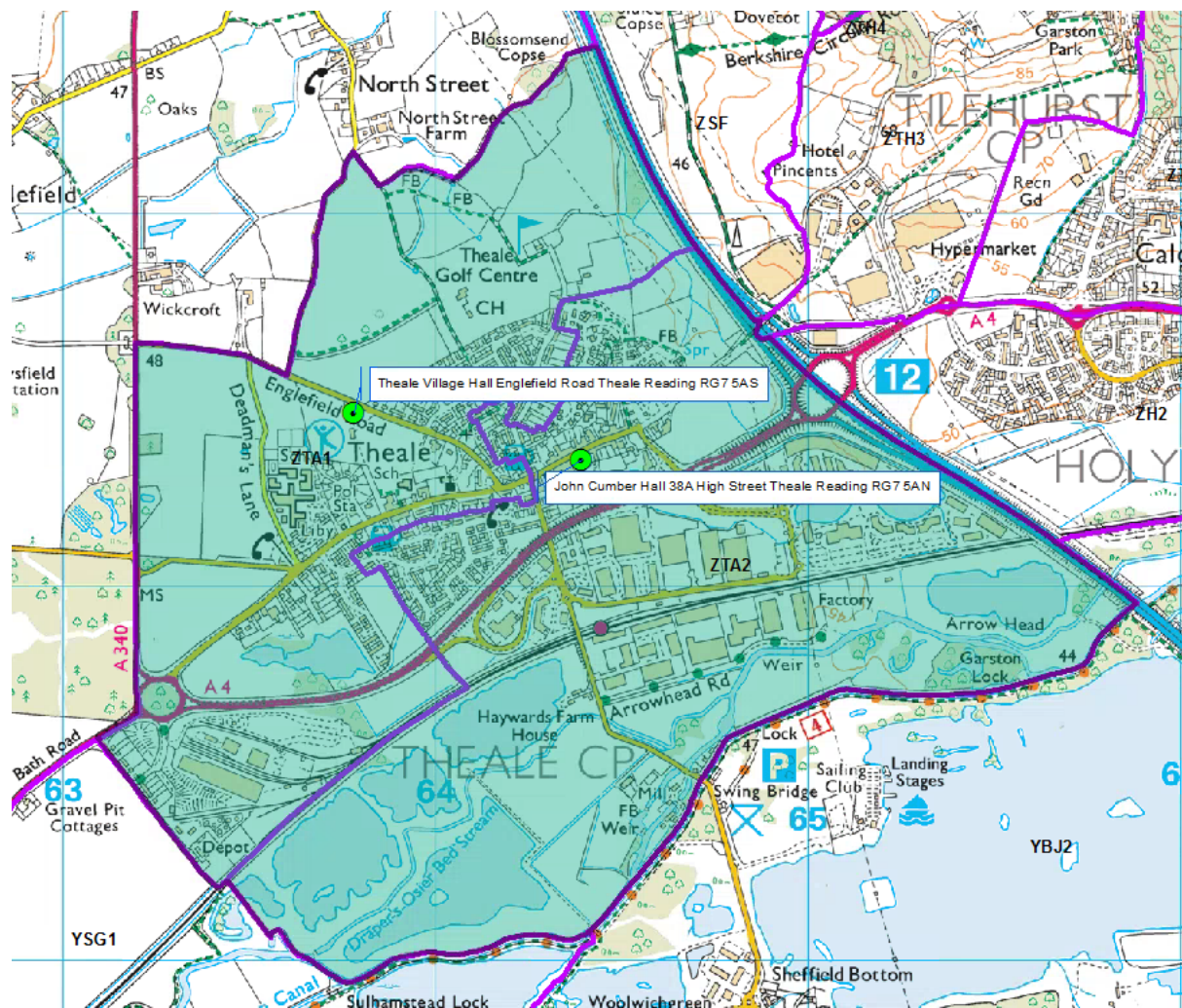
Comments:

The proposals set out below did not attract any comments arising from the consultation.

Recommendations

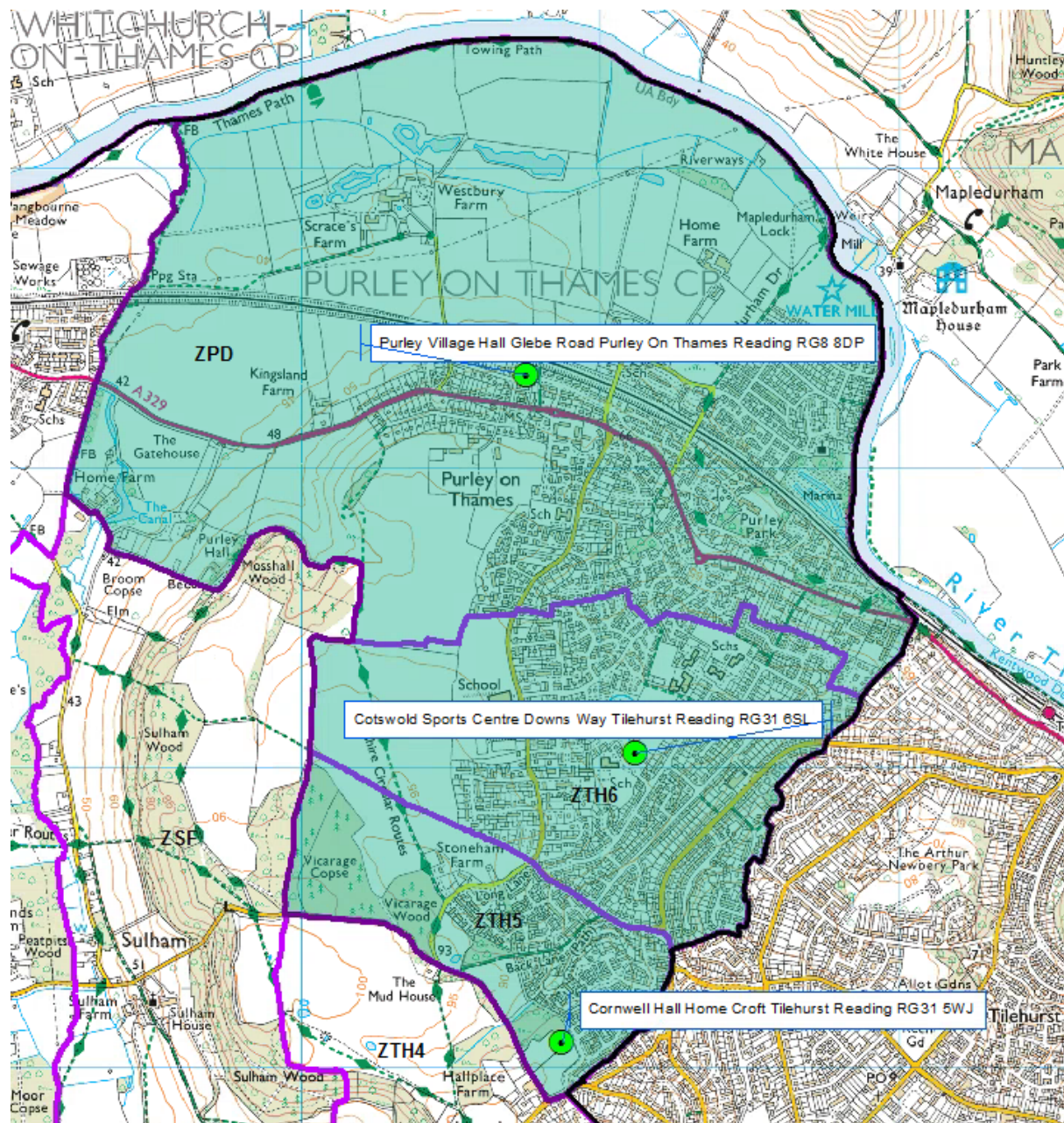
- (i) That electors located in the Polling District of Florence Gardens (Cold Ash Parish) use the Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, Henwick Worthy as their Polling Station.
- (ii) That electors on the eastern side of Northfield Road use the Hockey Club, as opposed to the Memorial Hall due to the ward boundary move.

Theale Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		2313	3118	2	No changes proposed.
Theale	Englefield Village Hall Englefield Road (ZTA1)				
	John Cumber Hall, High Street (ZTA2)				

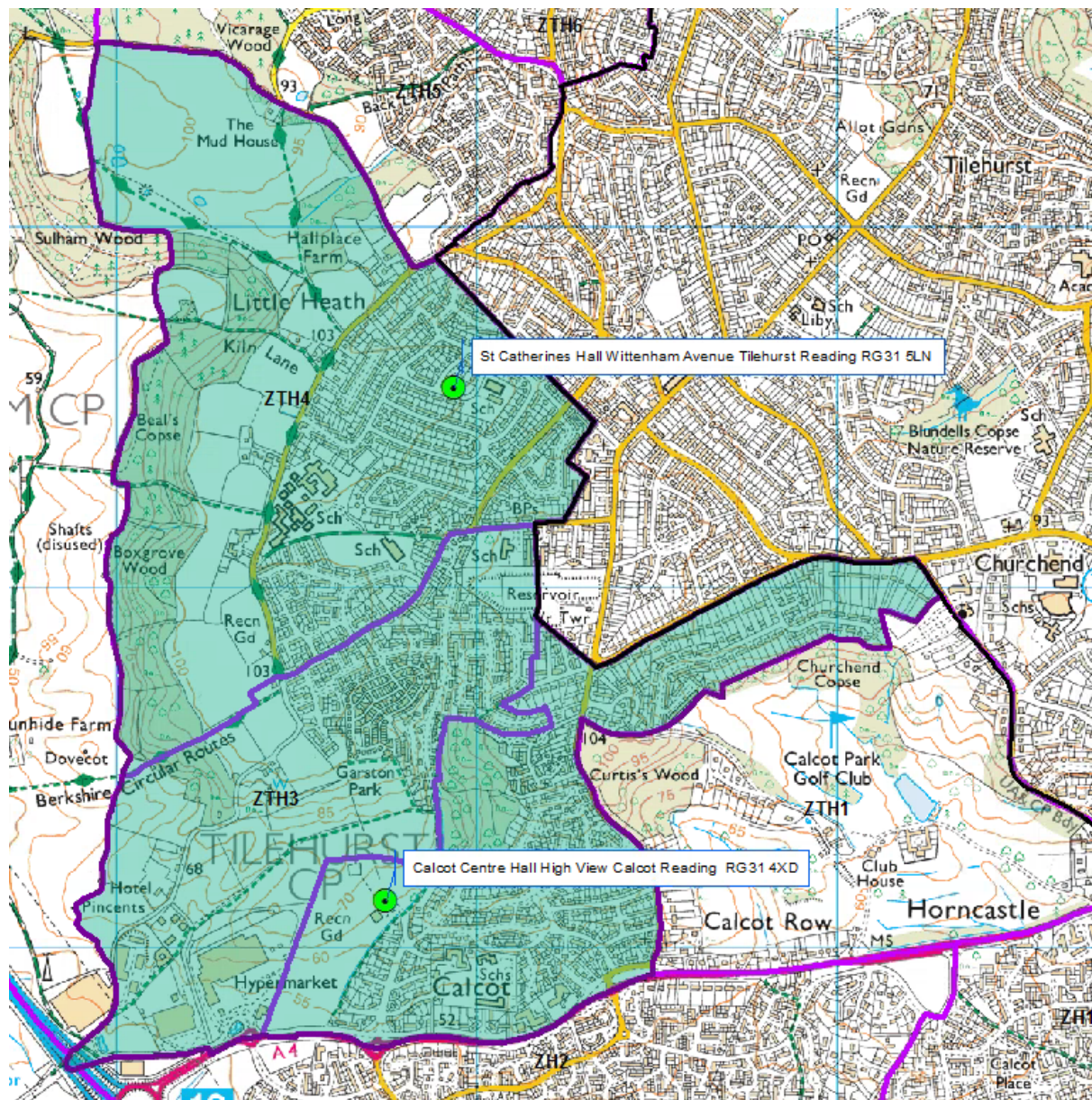
Tilehurst and Purley Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		8526	8890	3	No changes proposed.
Tilehurst and Purley	Memorial Hall, Purley, Glebe Road, Purley (ZPD)				
	Cotswold Sports Centre, Downs Way (ZTH6)				

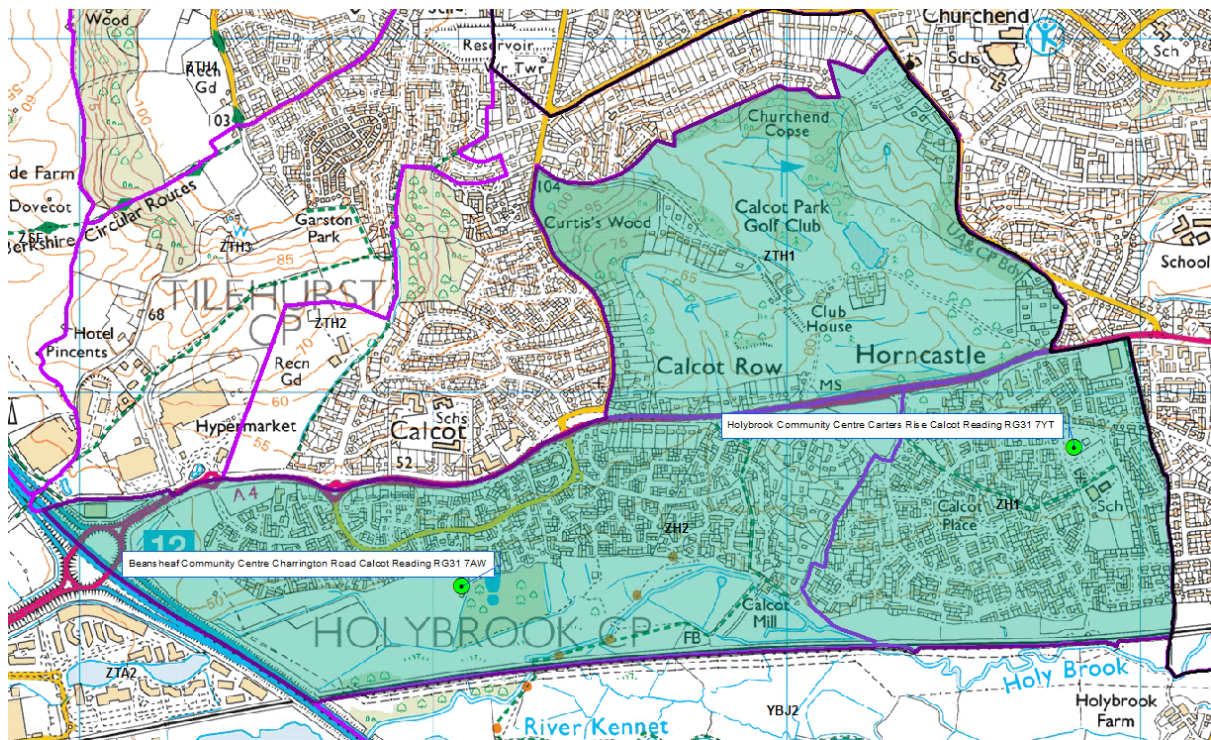
	Cornwell Hall (ZTH5)				
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Tilehurst Birch Copse Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		6110	6110	2	No changes proposed.
Tilehurst and Birch Copse	The Calcot Centre, High View (ZTH2)				
	St Catherine's Hall, Wittenham Avenue (ZTH4/ZTH3)				

Tilehurst South and Holybrook Ward



Polling District/Parish Ward	Current Polling Stations	2017 Electorate	2023 Electorate	Number of Polling Places	Comments
		5726	5809	2	No changes proposed.
Tilehurst South and Holybrook	Holybrook Centre, Carrers Rise (ZH1)				
	Beansheaf Community Centre, Charrington Road (ZH2)				

Comment:

As part of the review the Council has taken the opportunity to make minor changes to some Polling Districts to ensure that electors continue to vote in the most appropriate Polling Station. It is proposed that electors north of the A4 in Calcot Row, New Lane Hill and the Golf Course form a new Polling District (ZTH1), using the Beansheaf Community Centre and its Polling Station.

This proposal did not attract any comments arising from the consultation.

Recommendation

That the electors north of the A4 in Calcot Row, New Lane Hill and the Golf Course form a new Polling District (ZTH1), using the Beansheaf Community Centre and its Polling Station.

