

**Vale of White Horse District Council
Polling Places and Polling Districts Review**

Appendix one

Polling place / polling district	Electorate	Initial recommendation	Summary of comments received	Final recommendation	Reason
<p>Abingdon Ock Meadow No.13</p> <p>The polling place is at St. John Ambulance Caldecott Road</p> <p>There are two stations within the polling place one for Abingdon No.12 and the other for Abingdon No.13.</p>	796	No specific recommendation but one of the local district councillors had asked that another polling place be identified for residents of Ock Street due to concerns regarding accessibility.	<p>District Councillor Comments received regarding the distance residents required to travel to vote and fight traffic jams. Has deterred electors from voting Urged consideration is given to allowing Ock Meadow residents who live north of the River Ock to vote in Trinity Church Hall and those who live south of the river continue to vote at Caldecott School.</p> <p>Agent Concerned about distance residents of Ock Meadow have to travel, some on busy roads, to vote.</p>	<p>That Baptist Church Hall, Ock Street Abingdon is designated as a polling place.</p> <p>That it be agreed that voters for the part of the parish of Abingdon Ock Meadow be required to vote at the Baptist Church Hall, Ock Street.</p>	<p>In response to concerns regarding accessibility to the St John Ambulance for the residents of the part of the parish (Abingdon Ock Meadow No.13) it is proposed that a more conveniently located polling place be agreed. Officers have considered the concerns raised and believe they are valid having regard to the busy nature of the roads to access the existing station for part of the ward and the lack of alternative routes due to the limited crossings of the River Ock. Officers are of the view that the River Ock can be regarded as a barrier to access and therefore an alternative venue should be sought.</p> <p>The Baptist Hall is a suitable venue within the Abingdon Ock Meadow parish.</p> <p>This would be of benefit to 800 electors.</p> <p>Baptist Church Hall has parking and facilities and is within easy walking distance.</p> <p>One station would remain at St John Ambulance for Abingdon Ock Meadow No.12 (1500 electors) which is a reasonable amount of electors for one station.</p>
<p>Chilton (UKAEA) parish</p> <p>Harwell (UKAEA) parish</p> <p>The polling</p>	<p>Chilton – 21</p> <p>Harwell - 129</p>	To consider whether an alternative polling place can be found in view of the number of voters being less than 200. Also Cockcroft Centre	None received.	<p>That Cockcroft Centre UKAEA cease to be designated as a polling place.</p> <p>That electors for the Chilton (UKAEA) parish</p>	<p>There are already polling places within Chilton and Harwell for parts of those parishes respectively. It seems reasonable and convenient for voters for the other parts of the parishes respectively to vote at the same polling place. The polling places are reasonably convenient and there are no barriers to access.</p> <p>There are polling places at Chilton village hall and Harwell village hall which can accommodate the additional voters. There would be no need for double stations in either case.</p>

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station is at Cockcroft Centre UKAEA Harwell		is closing down and therefore an alternative venue needs to be found.		be required to vote at Chilton village hall. That electors for the Harwell (UKAEA) parish be required to vote at Harwell Village Hall.	Of the 150 electors 90 voted in person at the last parliamentary election with 20 opting for a postal vote.
Denchworth parish The polling place is at Denchworth village hall Goosey parish The polling place is in a mobile unit at Goosey	Denchworth – 146 Goosey - 103	To consider whether an alternative polling place can be found in view of the number of voters being less than 200. Combining the two polling places into one was suggested. The use of the Church in Goosey was also suggested.	District councillor – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goosey is as close to Charney Bassett as Denchworth and Stanford are also close though out of ward. I think residents would oppose not having a polling station in the village. Mobile toilets are used with the current mobile and could be used with the church. Goosey electorate although below 200, is larger than many small villages and hamlets. District Councillor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree with the comments above. There are no transport links from Goosey to Denchworth and it is rarely visited by Goosey residents, as it is not on a main route. The use of the church in Goosey would be a better solution with toilet facilities either at the adjacent church 	That the mobile unit at Goosey cease to be a designated polling place. That the electors for the parish of Goosey be required to vote at Denchworth village hall.	Goosey and Denchworth parishes both fall within the district Ward on Longworth. Denchworth is the neighbouring parish to Goosey. Officers do not consider that the use of the Church in Goosey is a viable option due to lack of toilet facilities and disabled access. Toilet facilities have been offered in a neighbouring barn or a suggestion made that a unit be hired but this adds additional costs which could fall on the parish. The access to the Church is across a gravelled surface which when wet is not ideal for disabled access. Furthermore, the layout of the Church is not conducive to the operation of a polling station and the heating and lighting is uncertain. Denchworth village hall is 1.9 miles from the village of Goosey (4 minutes car journey along a direct country route). There are no known public transport services. There is no footpath access but the roads are country roads with light local traffic. There are no barriers to access such as rivers, major roads, railway lines or steep hills. Denchworth village hall can accommodate the additional voters as it has adequate parking and facilities, although it is noted that the disabled facilities are not ideal. However they are no worse than those at the mobile unit which it is proposed to remove or the Church which has been suggested as an alternative. There would be one station accommodating two registers –

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			<p>cottage by arrangement or by mobile unit. Previously one resident had a booth in her front porch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain to maintain the democratic process. <p>Parish meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object strongly to the proposed move to Denchworth on the following grounds: virtually all the residents in Goosey Parish can access the polling station without a car. This will not be the case if it is moved to Denchworth. The stated reason is that there is no disabled access; however the Denchworth polling station has similar drawbacks. The alternative option of the Church was not accepted because of any toilet facilities. This can be provided at Church Farm which is less than a 2 minute walk from the Church. If acceptable, a covered facility in a barn which would obviate the need to provide the mobile station could be provided. Easy access to a voting facility is an important part of democracy. Moving to Denchworth is a retrograde step. 		<p>Denchworth – 146 electors and Goosey 103 electors, being a total of 249 electors for this polling place.</p> <p>There are just over 100 voters affected. Indeed having regard to the comments regarding turnout the reality is that very few voters would be affected. At the last parliamentary election of the 102 electors only 65 voted in person with 8 opting for a postal vote.</p> <p>The deletion of one station would reduce costs and address difficulties in recruiting staff.</p>
Kennington parish	1723	To consider whether an	None received.	That St Swithuns	St Swithuns School is not an ideal polling place in view of access and that the school still remains open and hence there are

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<p>(Kennington parish was formerly split into north and south but is now one parish but with two registers)</p> <p>The polling place is at St Swithuns School, Kennington</p>		<p>alternative polling place can be found in view of the polling place being at a school. The school does not close for polling day but the room used does not have good disabled access.</p>		<p>School Kennington cease to be used as a polling place.</p> <p>That electors for the parish of Kennington be required to vote at Kennington Village Hall.</p>	<p>children safety concerns. Furthermore, there is very limited parking at the school.</p> <p>The village hall at Kennington is a short distance away. It has adequate parking and other facilities including disabled access. The hall can accommodate an additional station.</p> <p>There would be two stations within polling place accommodating two registers (Kennington is split into two registers) Kennington – 1590 electors and Kennington 1723 electors being a total of 3313 electors for this polling place.</p> <p>The deletion of one station at St Swithuns School Kennington would reduce costs in terms of hiring of hall facilities only as an additional station would be needed at the polling place in the village hall.</p> <p>The deletion of this station would eliminate existing confusion for voters in that all electors in the parish would all vote at the same place.</p>
<p>Wantage Segsbury parish</p> <p>The polling place is at Stockham Primary School.</p>	3299	<p>To consider whether an alternative polling place can be found in view of the polling place being at a school.</p> <p>Officers had suggested consideration of the Ambulance Station at Naldertown or St Mary's Convent,</p>	<p>District councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is essential we make it easy for our voters to access polling stations. The Stockham School was not perfect but was central. I am content with either of the alternative halls. I would prefer just one hall to lessen confusion. St Mary's hall has lots of parking. St Johns I agree will not have the parking facility but is no more difficult than the Cricket club in Charlton. My preference would be St Mary's for all Segsbury voters 	<p>That Stockham Primary School cease to be used as a polling place.</p> <p>That St Mary's Convent Wantage and the St Johns Ambulance Hut, Naldertown be designated as polling places and that electors</p>	<p>Officers consider that there are two alternative options for electors in the Wantage Segsbury parish. All electors (3299) could be required to vote at the Convent. There is parking and the place is accessible via highways and footpath links. However, the Convent has expressed some concern regarding traffic and parking. This is a densely populated area in close proximity and it is likely that many electors would walk to the polling place. However, this cannot be guaranteed.</p> <p>An alternative option would be to split the register for the parish with approximately 700 electors from the Naldertown part of the parish being required to vote at the Ambulance Station. This is a suitable venue in terms of accessibility and convenience but the parking is limited. It is considered that it would be sufficient for this level of electors.</p>

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		Wantage as alternative polling places for this parish.	<p>but would be content with St Johns Hall as a secondary station as it would service well Naldertown side of Segsbury Ward.</p> <p>District councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I endorse the comments above. 	<p>in the Wantage Segsbury parish south of the St Johns Ambulance Hut be required to vote at that venue and those electors in the Wantage Segsbury parish north of the Hut be required to vote at the convent.</p>	