

Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2023

Representations received:

Date and time of receipt	From	Polling District / Polling Place	Representation	Comments from Officers
6.20pm, Monday, 2 nd October 2023	David Coates (Presiding Officer)	Harrowgate Hill Working Men's Club	Fine with mine Harrowgate Club from a Presiding Officer perspective.	Officers are satisfied that Harrowgate Hill Working Men's Club continues to provide a viable option as a Polling Place.
10.06am, Tuesday, 3 rd October 2023	Rachel Swain (Walworth Castle Hotel)	Walworth Castle Hotel	We are still happy for DBC to use the hotel as a polling station if required.	Officers are satisfied that Walworth Castle Hotel continues to provide a viable option as a Polling Place.
1.11pm, Wednesday, 4 th October 2023	Mick Birch, Chairman, Darlington Mowden Park RFC	Eastbourne Ward	I would like to offer the Darlington Arena to be considered as a possible location as a polling Station. The Darlington Arena has a variety of easily accessible areas with unlimited easy access car parking. I	Darlington Arena is situated in Polling District EAC, which is currently served by a Polling Place at Pilmoor Green Community Centre. The current Polling Place is much more central to the residential area than the Darlington

			look forward to hearing your thoughts.	Arena.
6.46pm, Wednesday, 4 th October 2023	Judith Myers	Hurworth Primary School	My only comment around the review is that I think it is disappointing that students have to miss out on a day of education when Hurworth Grange is up the road that could be used as a polling station, rather than the primary school. Given the emphasis on attendance it seems silly to use a school when there is an alternative.	Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place. Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.
1.51pm, Tuesday,	Hurworth Parish	Hurworth Ward	In the past the DBC Election team has visited Hurworth Grange, and after their	Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim

<p>10th October 2023</p>	<p>Council</p>		<p>inspection confirmed that it would be a suitable location for a Polling Station, as there are suitable rooms, disabled entrances and toilets plus ample parking facilities.</p> <p>Hurworth Grange is owned by Hurworth Parish Council, and we have no objection to DBC using this facility for forthcoming elections.</p> <p>Hurworth Parish has expanded quite appreciably over the last seven years, and with the growing Elderbrook estate opposite the Darlington Arena, and Hurworth Springs at Skybridge, it now quite widespread.</p> <p>The view of the Parish Council is that you are welcome to utilise Hurworth Grange, but we do not wish to influence your committee, if you think it is more appropriate to use the school premises and Linden Court.</p> <p>Individuals may contact you independently with their views, which is quite natural.</p>	<p>review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.</p>
<p>7.37pm,</p>	<p>Laura</p>	<p>Hurworth Primary</p>	<p>I wanted to write to you as a parent from</p>	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community</p>

<p>Saturday, 21st October 2023</p>	<p>Walton</p>	<p>School</p>	<p>Hurworth Primary School And as the chair on school's PTA.</p> <p>I would like to raise my concerns about using the school as the polling station and closing it for the day to the pupils</p> <p>I am concerned they have already had 8 days off due to national strike days</p> <p>They missed so much education through lockdowns with Covid and then your wanting to close the school to use it for the village's polling day.</p> <p>I do not know why the primary school has been a venue anyway when it means 210 pupils missing an educational school day for it and all the parents that work and have to find alternative childcare for that day or take time off work.</p> <p>Especially as there are other very suitable options/venues to use within the village location my suggestions would be The Grange community centre or the mustard tree cafe/ Methodist chapel</p> <p>Both these venues have disabled access,</p>	<p>Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.</p> <p>As much as possible, Officers must seek venues that offer security of tenure, especially in relation to snap/unplanned elections. Unfortunately, businesses such</p>
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7.51pm, Saturday, 21st October 2023	Nicole McLaren	Hurworth Primary School	<p>I would like to formally request that you consider moving the Hurworth on Tees polling station it is currently located at the primary school which means that every polling day all of the children have to miss a day of school. This has a huge impact on the local community as parents have to arrange alternative childcare arrangements. I would propose it is moved to the Grange community centre which is partially owned I believe by the parish council. There is parking onsite, plenty of room, it is fully accessible for people in wheelchairs or have mobility issues and acts as a hub for the community. It would also not adversely</p>	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School</p>

			<p>affect a good proportion of the residents and not result in further disruption of our children who have missed enough school as a result of strike action and Covid restrictions.</p>	<p>within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.</p>
<p>10.09pm, Saturday, 21st October 2023</p>	<p>Anne-Marie Hall</p>	<p>Hurworth Primary School</p>	<p>I am writing to implore you to consider changing the venue for the polling station for Hurworth residents.</p> <p>Currently it is at Hurworth Primary School causing the school to shut for the day. Due to Covid and teacher strikes the children are finally having their first full year, in four years, of education. Have the polling station there is another excuse to push the children's education aside for something that could be done in another venue in the village.</p> <p>I would suggest either the Grange Community Centre that has access for all abilities or All Saints Church that also has access for all abilities, however parking is limited around the church.</p>	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill</p>

				Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.
9.56am, Tuesday, 24 th October 2023	A. J. Terry	Hurworth Primary School	Please stop the disruption of my child's education and move the Hurworth on Tees polling station from the primary school to the grange community centre. It has disabled access too.	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The</p>

				<p>Grange Community Centre.</p> <p>In terms of the loss of a school day, the Department for Education offer schools advice on how this can be made up or averted.</p>
<p>10.23am, Tuesday, 24th October 2023</p>	<p>Karen Wesson</p>	<p>Hurworth Primary School</p>	<p>I am writing to ask that Hurworth Primary School is not used as a Polling Station.</p> <p>Closing the school is very disruptive for the children. As the Special Guardian for a child at the school I know that missing a day has a negative impact on the childrens' education and wellbeing.</p> <p>There are other suitable places in the village which could be used instead of the primary school, for example, Hurworth Grange.</p> <p>I find it ridiculous that parents can be fined if their child doesn't attend school, but by closing a school for an election the state is essentially condoning children missing school. This is a very mixed message.</p>	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill Road, and again, Hurworth Primary</p>

				<p>School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.</p> <p>In terms of the loss of a school day, the Department for Education offer schools advice on how this can be made up or averted.</p>
10.31am, Tuesday, 24 th October 2023	Chris Barron	Hurworth Primary School	<p>As a parent of a child attending Hurworth Primary School, I wanted to register my opinion that the school, located on Westfield Drive, is a poor choice of venue as the village’s usual polling station.</p> <p>Every election, it means hundreds of children losing a day from their education, plus a dramatic knock-on effect for parents having to arrange additional childcare or time away from work. Given the current cost of living crisis, this additional expense can be significant.</p> <p>This is unnecessarily disruptive.</p> <p>A far better choice of venue would be Hurworth Grange Community Centre, which has sufficient interior space and car parking, is disabled accessible, and is</p>	<p>Officers visited The Grange Community Centre last year during the interim review and we were satisfied that the venue in itself would be suitable as a Polling Place.</p> <p>Our only slight concern is that The Grange Community Centre sits on the very western boundary of Polling District HUB. One of the criteria we are required to consider when establishing Polling Places is a location which provides the greatest convenience to local residents. Hurworth Primary School is sited central to the Polling District, sitting in the heart of one of the main housing estates. The position of Hurworth Primary School within the Polling District makes it very convenient for residents to attend, either on foot or by car, and cast their vote. We are also conscious of the new housing developments on Roundhill</p>

			<p>sufficiently central that it could potentially even serve as the village's sole polling station, negating the need to run a second station in Hurworth Place.</p> <p>Furthermore, as our local dedicated community centre, functioning as a polling station is surely within its core mission.</p> <p>For these reasons, I think it would be sensible to move the polling station from Hurworth Primary School to Hurworth Grange in time for the next polling day.</p>	<p>Road, and again, Hurworth Primary School would provide a closer Polling Place for these residents than The Grange Community Centre.</p> <p>In terms of the loss of a school day, the Department for Education offer schools advice on how this can be made up or averted.</p>
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