

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023

The Polling Review is based on the current arrangements from the previous Polling District and Polling Place Review that came into effect on 1 February 2020 and the revised amendments to Parish boundaries following the Community Governance Review in July 2023 which will come into effect for Stroud District and Parish Council Elections in May 2024.

We have created a polling district [document](#) to assist you with your submission with associated [maps](#). Further information about the review can be found on our website [here](#).

The electorates figures used for this Review are based on the 1 July 2023 electoral register. It is also worth noting that the electorate is the total electors for the polling station and includes those who have a postal vote in place.

To view the final Community Governance Review report on agreed boundary changes, please click [here](#).

CHALFORD						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Chalford (Hill Ward)	CHC	Chalford Hill Methodist Church , Methodist Church Rooms, Midway, GL6 8EN	We are proposing a replacement polling station.	1524	Chalford Sports and Social Club , Highfield Way, France Lynch, Chalford Hill, Stroud, GL6 8LZ	CHC

Issues, Options and Reasons for Stroud Acting Returning Officer Proposals

CHC – Historically the polling venue used was Chalford Hill Methodist Church, however the premises has now closed and therefore an alternative venue has been located for the electorate of this polling district. The proposed polling station is Chalford Sports and Social Club which is an appropriate venue with good space within the building with ample parking and good access for disabled electors. The premises is located within the required polling district and is located up the road from the Methodist Church.

DURSLEY						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Dursley (Central Ward)	DA	Dursley Methodist Church (Gabriel Hale Room), Castle Street, GL11 4BS	<p>There is limited parking available at the venue however we are not aware of any issues that relate to parking historically.</p> <p>We are also aware there is a narrow alley for disabled voters, however this has not caused any issues in the past.</p> <p>Proposed to become a double station due to the size of the electorate almost reaching the maximum threshold of 2,250.</p>	2475	To remain as Dursley Methodist Church	DA

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DA – Each polling station’s electorate should not exceed 2,250 electors as a single station, therefore due to population growth within the Dursley area there is now the requirement to make the Dursley Methodist Church into a double station to comply with the recommended threshold. Due to the requirement to make the polling station into a double station, the requirement of a bigger room from the Gabriel Room is now also necessary and therefore it is a proposed the polling station is located to a larger room within the premises.

HARDWICKE						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Standish	HI	St Nicholas Church, Standish, GL10 3EU	Venue has limited outside lighting therefore additional lighting could be provided to polling station staff. The venue can also be cold in the winter months and we have previously provided heaters to the venue.	344	To remain as St Nicholas' Church	HI

Issues, Options and Reasons for Stroud Acting Returning Officer Proposals

HI - At the last Community Governance Review in 2018, Stroud District Council made a commitment to undertake another Community Governance Review once the development and community networks within Great Oldbury had been established. Following the recent Community Governance Review the creation of a new parish called Great Oldbury was proposed to recognise the significant development in the area and support community cohesion and identity in the growing community which was consulted with the residents being proposed to move into this new Parish. The new boundary will incorporate the transfer of land only from HI, Standish into SF (proposed Great Oldbury). Please note that this is subject to the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to make the Parish and District ward boundaries coterminous and on the basis the LGBCE reject the proposal to include the HI land in the proposed SF, Great Oldbury the consultation on the Polling District and Polling Place Review will be extended and consultation documents amended to reflect their decision.

It was also agreed at the Community Governance Review a further review of the Great Oldbury and Standish boundaries would be undertaken once parcel PS19a has begun development which would require the polling districts to be further altered at a future review. From this amendment the polling district boundary now needs to be amended to reflect the change in the parish boundary for Standish and create the new parish boundary for Great Oldbury.

MINCHINHAMPTON						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Minchinhampton (Brimscombe Ward)	MBB	Brimscombe Methodist Church , Brimscombe Hill, Stroud, GL5 1DP	We are proposing a replacement polling station.	547	Holy Trinity Church , 4 Spinney Court, Walls Quarry, Brimscombe, Stroud, GL5 2PY	MBB

Issues, Options and Reasons for Stroud Acting Returning Officer Proposals

MBB - Historically the polling venue used was Brimscombe Methodist Church, however the premises has now closed and therefore an alternative venue has been located for the electorate of this polling district. The proposed polling station is Holy Trinity Church, 4 Spinney Court, Walls Quarry, Brimscombe, GL5 2PY. We are aware that the disabled access to this polling station maybe problematic to some electors due to the decline via the slope to the main entrance door or via the slopped steps. There is however disabled access to the top of the church, however we are proposing that the polling station is located in the lower part where the amenities are located and the lighting is better however, we would make clear to electors on poll cards that disabled access is an issue which due to the size of the electorate, we do not envisage this being an issue. Additionally, a ramp would be required to be provided for the step into the polling station location. We have explored other venues within the area that we are unfortunately unable to use due to a range of reasons such as suitability and cost.

Cotswold Acting Returning Officer Comments

As you say in the report, there are no other suitable alternatives in the area.

A suggestion to ensure accessibility would be the provision of extra lighting in the top room. The amenities are for staff only so no apparent issue with them going downstairs. This may be an easier option than providing a ramp and also for those less mobile electors.

If this isn't possible, please do make sure electors are aware of the possible challenges getting into/out of the building, this could be by including something onto poll cards, but could also include a letter to households once the change of station has been confirmed. This could include details of the access and how to apply for postal/proxy votes.

SEVERN						
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Eastington	SE	Eastington Village Hall, Alkerton Road, GL10 3AA	Satisfactory	1212	To remain as Eastington Village Hall	SE
Great Oldbury			This is a new polling station and polling district.	1,111	Great Oldbury Primary Academy, Veterans Way, Great Oldbury, Stonehouse, GL10 3WH	Proposed polling district reference SF
Whitminster	SF	Whitminster Village Hall, School Lane, GL2 7NT	Satisfactory	742	To remain as Whitminster Village Hall	SG

Issues, Options and Reasons for Stroud Acting Returning Officer Proposals

SE - At the last Community Governance Review in 2018, Stroud District Council made a commitment to undertake another Community Governance Review once the development and community networks within Great Oldbury had been established. Following the recent Community Governance Review the creation of a new parish called Great Oldbury was proposed to recognise the significant development in the area and support community cohesion and identity in the growing community which was consulted with the residents being proposed to move into this new Parish. The new boundary will incorporate the transfer of 605 properties (1,111 electors) from SE, Eastington into SF (proposed Great Oldbury) which Eastington Parish Council supported in addition to the Working Group and Keep Eastington Rural Community Group. From this amendment the polling district boundary now needs to be amended to reflect the change in the parish boundary for Eastington and create the new parish boundary for Great Oldbury.

Please note that this is subject to the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to make the Parish and District ward boundaries coterminous and on the basis the LGBCE reject the proposal to include the land at HI, Standish, land from STC, Stonehouse (Div2) and 130 properties from STA, Stonehouse (Div 1) into the proposed SF, Great Oldbury, the consultation on the Polling District and Polling Place Review will be extended and consultation documents amended to reflect their decision.

Due to the creation of a new polling district called 'Great Oldbury' it is proposed that the polling district references from 'SF' onwards are changed to continue in sequential alphabetical in order.

It is proposed that the polling station for Great Oldbury is Great Oldbury Primary Academy as an interim measure whilst the community hall is built. Once this has been built, we propose that the polling station is moved to the community hall.

STONEHOUSE							
Polling District	Polling District Reference	Current Polling Station	Comments	Electorate	Proposed Polling District	Proposed Polling Station	Proposed Polling District Reference
Stonehouse (Div 1)	STA	The Douglas Morley Hall , Elm Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2NP	There is limited parking outside of the venue other than disabled parking however there is additional parking on the surrounding streets which is short walk from the venue and flat. We have not received any complaints relating to parking at this venue.	1423	Stonehouse (North Ward Div 1)	To remain as The Douglas Morley Hall	STB
Stonehouse North Ward (Div 2)			This is a new polling district. See comment below.	207	Stonehouse (North Ward Div 2)	The Douglas Morley Hall , Elm Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2NP	Proposed polling district reference STAA
Stonehouse (Div 3)	STB	Stonehouse Community Centre , Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse, Glos, GL10 2NS	This polling station is a double station.	1629	Stonehouse (Central Ward)	Bethel Church , 28 Bath Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2JA	STC
Stonehouse (Div 2)	STC	St Joseph's Church Hall , Oldends Lane, GL10 2DG	This polling station is a double station due to the size of the electorate.	2570	Stonehouse (South Ward)	To remain as St Josephs Church Hall	STA
Stonehouse (Ryeford Ward)	STD	Stonehouse Community Centre , Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse, Glos, GL10 2NS	This polling station is a double station.	115			

Issues, Options and Reasons for Stroud Acting Returning Officer Proposals

STA, STAA & STC - At the last Community Governance Review in 2018, Stroud District Council made a commitment to undertake another Community Governance Review once the development and community networks within Great Oldbury had been established. Following the recent Community Governance Review the creation of a new parish called Great Oldbury was proposed to recognise the significant development in the area and support community cohesion and identity in the growing community which was consulted with the residents being proposed to move into this new Parish. The new boundary will incorporate the transfer of 130 properties (207 electors) from the current named STA Stonehouse (Div 1) and transfer of land only from the current named STC.

Stonehouse (Div 2) into SF (proposed Great Oldbury) which Stonehouse Town Council supported in addition to the Working Group. From this amendment the polling district boundary now needs to be amended to reflect the change in the parish boundary for Stonehouse and create the new parish boundary for Great Oldbury.

Please note that this is subject to the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to make the Parish and District ward boundaries coterminous and on the basis the LGBCE might reject the proposal to include the land from the STC, Stonehouse (Div 2) and 130 properties from STA, Stonehouse (Div 1) in the proposed SF, Great Oldbury, it is instead proposed that a new polling district STAA (North Ward Div 2) is created whilst we await confirmation that a District Ward Boundary Review is required to be conducted and another Polling District and Polling Place Review then subsequently conducted thereafter to move the 130 properties into Great Oldbury (SF).

STA, STAA, STB, STC & STD – The Working Group as part of the Community Governance Review also explored the polling district boundaries within Stonehouse and the naming arrangements for the current divisions. The Working Group agreed to change the polling district boundary for the current named STB, Stonehouse (Div 3) to follow the main Bath Road and tidy the boundary along Laburnum Walk. Additionally, the current STB, Stonehouse (Div 2) would absorb most of the current STD (Ryeford Ward) polling district with a small rectangle of land at the north being absorbed into the current STA, Stonehouse (Div 1), therefore to abolish the polling district STD. The abolishment of STD (Ryeford Ward) was decided due to confusion the single member ward caused at elections and that the elector representation was not reflective and instead the new proposed warding arrangements allowed for better proportional representation in terms of Councillors representing the electorates.

Additionally the naming of the current polling districts will be changed from the current division set up (Div 1, 2 and 3) and changed to warding arrangements which will help reduce costs to the Town Council when it comes to Town Council By-elections compared to the current division arrangements. It is proposed that the warding arrangements and Councillor allocations are as follows:

Current STA – Stonehouse Div 1 to be changed to STB - Stonehouse (Central Ward) – 4 Councillors

Current STB – Stonehouse Div 3 to be changed to STC - Stonehouse (South Ward) – 4 Councillors

Current STC – Stonehouse Div 2 to be changed to STA - Stonehouse (North Ward) – 6 Councillors

The proposed warding arrangements will also correct the error in the divisions of 2 (STC) and 3 (STB) being around the wrong way from the last polling district review.

It is also proposed that based on the above comments relating to the decision of the LGBCE and the District Ward Boundaries, the new polling district of STAA is created and named North Ward Div 2 which would then subsequently make the proposed new STA above STA (North Ward Div 1) whether both Div 1 and 2 form North Ward.

STB – We are proposing that the polling station that the electorate of the current STB, Stonehouse (Div 3) is changed from the Stonehouse Community Centre to Bethel Church. This is because the church is located within the polling district boundary whereas the Community Centre is located out of the polling district. We have used Bethel Church for a number of Town By-Elections and the May 2021 elections due to requiring a larger venue for social distancing under the Covid-19 requirements. The venue worked well and has sufficient room within the premises and for car parking and we did not receive any complaints from electors or staff to suggest the Church was not suitable.