



## The Returning Officer's **Final** Proposals

### Oadby St. Peters

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Polling Place / Station(s)</b>	<b>Disabled Access</b>
A	1,778	Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Road	Yes
B	1,547	United Reformed Church Hall, Rosemead Drive	Yes

#### **Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses**

No consultation response(s).

#### **Returning Officer's Final Proposals**

No change(s).

### Oadby Grange

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Polling Place / Station(s)</b>	<b>Disabled Access</b>
C	1,889	Immaculate Conception Church Hall, New Street	Yes
D	1,893	John Foster Hall, Facilities Building, Manor Road	Yes

#### **Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses**

No consultation response(s).

#### **Returning Officer's Final Proposals**

No change(s).

### Oadby Uplands

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Polling Place / Station(s)</b>	<b>Disabled Access</b>
E	3,291	The Barnabas Centre, St. Paul's Close	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## Oadby Woodlands

### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
F	3,343	Woodland Grange Primary School, Beaufort Way	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## Oadby Brocks Hill

### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
G	3,178	Coombe Park Pavilion, Coombe Rise	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

The feedback to the proposal is noted: however, the anecdotal complaints raised by electors to the consultees are not substantiated in the Returning Officer's formal records.

At the combined local elections in 2021, a temporary re-location of one of the two polling stations to the then nearby Brocks Hill Visitor Centre was implemented successfully with a review of the relevant records finding no complaints were logged or received in relation to 'remoteness', the pedestrian walk along Washbrook Lane or the walking distance generally.

For the average elector affected in the polling district, the use of Parklands Leisure Centre would reduce, or be comparable to, the walking distance to Coombe Park Pavilion. An analysis of the turnout between the 2019 and 2021 local election data-sets showed less than 2% difference in the polling station turnout, suggesting electors were not discouraged.

For the reasons set out in the Returning Officer's draft comments, the Pavilion is simply not big enough to accommodate a second polling station, least of all in the corridor, because of the need to provide two sets of staff, polling booths, equipment and notices that are essential for a double station to satisfy the Electoral Commission's pre-existing requirements.

Establishing a second polling station at the Pavilion would significantly compromise voter privacy, the comfort, wellbeing and health and safety of staff during a 16-hour polling day, as well as leaving insufficient space to accommodate wheelchair users and those with a right of access to oversee polling proceedings, such as agents or accredited observers.

The new voter ID and accessibility requirements - as introduced by the Elections Act 2022 which will apply for the first time at local elections on 4 May 2023 - compounds these issues further as each polling station is required to have separate, secluded area for the private checking of electors' identities (if requested by the elector).

Furthermore, in line with new Electoral Commission guidance, an additional poll clerk per polling place is to be allocated in anticipation of likely queue management issues as a result of voter ID checks being carried out for every elector voting in person.

In terms of accessibility, the 2022 Act creates a specific legal requirement to ensure polling stations are resourced in such a way to provide for the purposes of 'enabling, or making it easier for, relevant disabled persons to vote independently and in secret'.

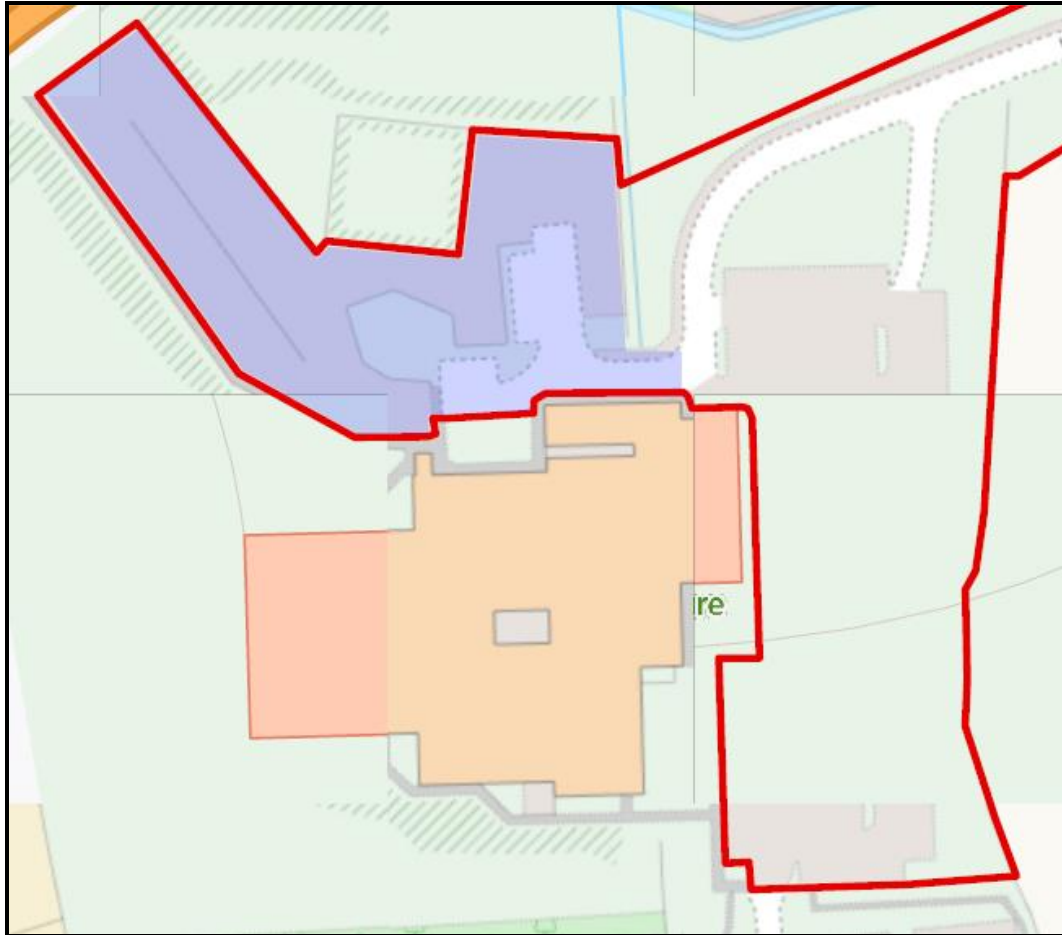
In the Returning Officer's judgement, Parklands Leisure Centre, and its Function Suite, is able to offer improved facilities and space requirements for voting, both in general and in such a way to ensure compliance with the new conditions of the 2022 Act. As set out in the Returning Officer's draft comments, the issue of electors who may visit Parklands by vehicle, and having to "pay-to-vote", has been anticipated and provided for.

The side and overflow parking areas situated immediately adjacent to the Function Suite, as shaded blue in the plan below, will be exclusively designated for use by electors (and by extension polling staff, candidates, agents etc.) free of charge and suitably enforced by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers.

Arrangements will also be made for the message 'Free Designated Parking For Voters' (or similar) to be printed on affected electors' poll cards and for the following additional signage to be procured and erected at Parklands to signpost the free designated parking areas.



**Free Voter Parking Signage**



**Parklands Leisure Centre Car Park**

No alternative polling place, other than the Pavilion, has been suggested by consultees. In view of the imminency of the local elections in May, and the additional workload pressures arising from the 2022 Act, the Returning Officer does not recommend any other alternative venue, which otherwise would delay and incumber elections planning unnecessarily.

In any case, the Returning Officer's final proposals are effectively a stopgap solution until the long-term availability and suitability of the polling arrangements within polling district G can be assessed during the next compulsory review in late 2023.

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

That until the long-term availability and suitability of the polling arrangements can be assessed during the next compulsory review in late 2023, and similar to the successful temporary arrangements implemented at the 2021 combined local elections, the temporary designated polling places and polling stations arising from an informal register spilt be:

<b>Register Spilt</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station</b>
Electors residing in those streets located west of, and including, Briar Walk and Briar Meads	Parklands Leisure Centre, Washbrook Lane	Function Suite
Electors residing in those streets located east of, but excluding, Briar Walk and Briar Meads	Coombe Park Pavilion, Coombe Rise	Pavilion Building

## Wigston St. Wolstans

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
H	1,726	Freer Community Centre, 242A Leicester Road	Yes
I	1,707	Glenmere Community Primary School, Estoril Avenue	Yes
J	1,505	Freer Community Centre, 242A Leicester Road	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## Wigston Meadowcourt

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
K1	2,181	Meadow Community Primary School, Meadow Way	Yes
K2	547	Meadow Community Primary School, Meadow Way	Yes
L	2,378	Club House, South Leicester Rugby Club, Welford Road	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## Wigston All Saints

Existing Arrangements			
Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
M	2,130	Thythorn Hill Community Centre, Horsewell Lane	Yes
N1	2,231	The Elms and Ex-Services Social Club, Bushloe End	Yes
N2	287	The Elms and Ex-Services Social Club, Bushloe End	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## Wigston Fields

### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled Access
O	2,135	Central Avenue Christian Church Hall, Central Avenue	Yes
P1	2,575	Bethel Evangelical Free Church Hall, Burleigh Avenue	Yes
P2	357	Bethel Evangelical Free Church Hall, Burleigh Avenue	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).

## South Wigston

### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors	Polling Place / Station(s)	Disabled access
Q	1,935	The Menphys Hub, Bassett Street	Yes
R	1,620	Blaby Road Park Pavilion, Blaby Road Park	Yes
S	2,453	Fairfield Community Primary School, Cheshire Drive	Yes

### Returning Officer's Comments to Consultation Responses

No consultation response(s).

### Returning Officer's Final Proposals

No change(s).