

PART 1

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2010

COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH CONSULTATION PROCESS

Ward name and number	Polling Place	Comments
Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness	General comments on this Ward	<p>Cllr Constable – Not a large Ward but geographically spread out. Especially true of Blackness and its environs which are rural in character. In the interests of giving local electors reasonable access to a polling station, it is important that all the existing polling stations be retained at their present locations. Whilst accepting that no arrangement of polling stations will be ideal for every single elector, the present number and locations of polling stations are realistically as good as they can be and any reduction or change of location would be a disincentive to many more electors than it would benefit.</p> <p>The geographic spread of the main urban settlements that make up Bo’ness make the careful choice of polling place location important to encouraging electors to use their vote. Blackness Primary is also centrally located for the majority of electors.</p> <p>The location of the polling stations has been refined over the years relative to boundary changes, educational requirements, the availability of suitable premises and disability access. Whilst no system is perfect, this realistically is the best that can be achieved and any alteration would be an inconvenience and therefore a disincentive to many people to go out to and vote.</p>
	Cowdenhill Community Hall	No problem with continued use.
	St Mary’s Primary School	Concern regarding the use of the school, with the increased number of in-

		<p>service days and the number of elections over the last few years, parents are concerned that St Mary's PS is being used too often. There are other Council-owned buildings in the Ward, so why does the school have to be used? Surely the resources being impacted should be shared. Parent Council would like to know how this can be taken forward and asks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can another Council-owned building be used? 2. Does the school have the right to refuse permission to be used for election purposes? 3. <p><i>Note: Bo'ness Recreation Centre would be a suitable alternative polling place. While it is not DDA compliant via the main entrance to the complex due to the number of stairs, the large games hall is on ground level with a door at the side of the building. It would be simple to have a ramp provided, either on a temporary or permanent basis. The premises are staffed until 11pm.</i></p>
	Blackness Primary School	<p>No problem with continued use although, as with all schools, it is essential to consider alternative polling places to reduce the impact on school closures as a result of elections.</p> <p><i>Note: Blackness Community Hall is next door to school. It is run by the local community and the school uses it for PE and for the children's lunches. It is also used some days by Barnardo's.</i></p> <p>Response from Acting Head: <i>Disruption to the school by using the hall for polling purposes. Hall is where school meals area served. One option is to feed the children in the school, which means wheeling hot dishes from the hall into the school. Food has to be served at a specific temperature which would be compromised. Other option is to ask parents to send packed lunches, but this would be at the parents' discretion. One child has free school meal entitlement and would have to be allowed a hot meal. The cook would require to have access to the hall to prepare and then tidy up.</i></p> <p><i>Visiting specialists in PE and music use the hall. Currently the hall is not used for these purposes on a Thursday but this can alter to accommodate staffing issues.</i></p>

		<i>The playgroup uses the hall on a Thursday morning from 9.30-11.30am. Acting Head offers to look into this arrangement if required.</i>
		<i>There is no ramp into the hall but this could be provided if required.</i>
	Bo'ness Town Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Salvation Army Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Kinneil Primary School	No problem with continued use. <i>Note: There is limited alternative provision in the area for use as a polling place instead of the school. One option investigated was St Mary's RC Church which is adjacent to the school but it was considered unfeasible for the following reasons:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. hall is relatively small and there are c2,200 electors</i> <i>2. a Church service is held daily at 10.30am with the hall area as the access point to the Church.</i>
	Kinneil Bowling Club	No problem with continued use.
	Deanburn Primary School	No problem with continued use. Sufficient parking and easy access for the disabled.
Ward 2 - Grangemouth	General comments on this Ward	Grangemouth Community Council – satisfied with the existing arrangements.
	Dalgrain Community Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Newlands Community Centre	This centre is ideally suited for everyone. It caters for the disabled, is well situated and many people look forward to meeting friends they haven't seen since the previous election.
	Grangemouth Town Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Bowhouse Community Centre	No comments received.
	Dundas Resource Centre	No comments received.
	Oxgang School – Moray Primary School	This is a school for pupils with additional support needs and each time it is used as a polling place it interrupts the education they have missed over previous years. Grangemouth Town Hall is used for elections. It is not far from Oxgang School and an additional booth there would be preferable to the disruption caused to the pupils' education and to Moray Primary School who are almost always bothered by voters going to the wrong

		entrance to the building.
	Bothkennar Community Hall	No comments received.
Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock	General comments on this Ward	Cllr Blackwood – satisfied that the polling places are convenient to the electors and that there are no location or access issues.
	Dunipace Church Hall	Delighted to have the church halls used by the community in this way.
	Denny Westpark Church Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Fankerton Village Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Nethermains Primary School	No comments received.
	Archibald Russell Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Bankier Community Centre	No problem with continued use. <i>Note: name is Banknock and not Bankier Community Centre.</i>
	Allandale Bowling Club	No comments received.
Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	General comments on this Ward	Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council – discussed at October meeting. No comments on the current facilities used.
	Airth Community Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Carron Primary School	Available for use as a polling place but why close a school for elections when Stenhousemuir Sports Centre (just across the road) could be used instead?
	Tryst Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Stenhousemuir Primary School	Happy for the school to continue to be used. However, if an alternative could be found, eg community centre, it would be better for working families as they would not have to take time off when the school is closed to pupils.
	Dobbie Hall	No problem with continued use. Central Scotland Police comment – the Dobbie Hall is unique in being the only premise covering three polling districts but this never been found to

		be an issue in terms of accessibility, parking and general numbers attending.
Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert	General comments on this Ward	Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council – discussed at October meeting. No comments on the current facilities used.
	Stenhousemuir Primary School	See comments at Ward 4 above.
	Dobbie Hall	See comments at Ward 4 above.
	Larbert Village Primary School	No problem with continued use.
	Torwood Mobile Unit	School closed but site not yet put on the market and due to the economic climate, it is unlikely to be put up for sale in the near future. Premises are completely boarded up and without power. Car park site can continue to be used for siting a mobile polling station. Education Services to advise of any changes to situation in due course.
	Bonnybridge Primary School	No problem with continued use.
	Bonnybridge Community Centre	No problem with continued use. Remedial works now complete following flood damage early 2010.
	Antonine Primary School	No problem with continued use.
Ward 6 – Falkirk North	General comments on this Ward	None.
	Bantaskin Primary School	No comments received.
	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Bainsford Community Centre	No comments received.
	Dawson Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Thornhill Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Westfield Community Centre	No comments received.
	Leishman Tower Club Room	Request that this location remain in use as a polling place as there is a large community of elderly and disabled people in the area.
	Woodlands Games Hall	No problem with continued use.
Ward 7 – Falkirk South	General comments on this Ward	None.
	Easter Carmuir Primary School	No comments received.
	Carmuir Primary School	No problem with continued use.

	Tamfourhill Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	No problem with continued use.
	Bantaskin Primary School	See comments at Ward 6 above.
	Camelon Education Centre	No comments received.
	Woodlands Games Hall	See comments at Ward 6 above.
	Salvation Army Hall	No problem with continued use. Change of rate per hour notified.
	Glen Village Bowling Club	No comments received, but not a satisfactory polling place. Dark and dank environment for polling staff.
	Hallglen Sports Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Shieldhill Primary School	<p>Concerns expressed by education staff and parents in relation to the continued use of the school as a polling place, due to the disruption to children's education as a result of school closures for election purposes. The school has disabled access to the main space used for polling, is centrally placed within the community and has a car park. However, the children lose a day of schooling by being closed for polling. Also, some costs are incurred which come from the school budget. Parents also may find it difficult to take time off work to look after children on what would otherwise be a school day.</p> <p><i>Note: Shieldhill Welfare Hall is a suitable alternative. Disabled access direct from pavement. On-street parking.</i></p> <p><i>Second alternative is Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish Church, Main Street, Shieldhill, which has a hall that is accessible to disabled. The Minister is agreeable to its use as a polling place and will seek approval from Kirk Session.</i></p>
Ward 8 – Lower Braes	General comments on this Ward	None.
	Laurieston Community Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Laurieston Primary School	No problem with continued use. Query why the Community Centre in Park Avenue is not able to accommodate all of Laurieston.
	Westquarter Primary School	Concerns expressed by the Headteacher about the school closing to pupils when used as a polling place. However, as there is no other facility within this area, it is recognised that local residents would find it difficult to vote

		anywhere else. The Headteacher is supportive of the school being used as a polling place for future elections in the absence of an alternative.
	St Margaret's Primary School	<p>Several representations received, including one from Cllr Nicol and one from the Headteacher, all suggesting that Polmont Sports Centre be used instead of the school. The sports centre is c200 yards from the school and using it as a polling place would be less disruptive to the pupils' education.</p> <p><i>Note: Polmont Sports Centre is a suitable alternative for use as a polling place. Community Services agreeable to this proposal..</i></p>
	Greenpark Community Centre	No comments received.
	Brightons Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Reddingmuirhead Institute	<p>No problem with continued use.</p> <p><i>Change of name to Reddingmuirhead Community Centre.</i></p>
	Maddiston Community Centre	No problem with continued use. Big enough to accommodate a third polling station and remove the requirement for Maddiston Old Folks' Hall to be used (Ward 9).
Ward 9 – Upper Braes	General comments on this Ward	<p>Cllr McLuckie – happy with all polling places in this Ward except United Reformed Church Hall, Avonbridge. Would prefer school or community hall.</p> <p>Also, with regard to the Post Office now having its outreach service in Limerigg Community Hall on a Thursday morning, Cllr McLuckie is happy with the proposals that the Post Office continues with business as usual on polling day. The Post Office uses the small room within the premises and possibly the voter turnout would be increased with the Post Office functioning on polling day.</p>
	Whitecross Primary School	<p>No problem with continued use.</p> <p><i>Note: There is a small community building called the Power Station Youth Club on Station Road which would be suitable to accommodate the polling station rather than close the school for the day. Co-ordinators agreeable to this proposal.</i></p>

	Maddiston Old Folks Hall	No problem with continued use.
	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	See comments at Ward 8 above.
	Brightons Community Centre	See comments at Ward 8 above.
	Maddiston Community Centre	See comments at Ward 8 above.
	California Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Drumbowie Primary School	No problem with continued use.
	United Reformed Church Hall, Avonbridge	Hall not particularly suitable for polling staff. Dull and dank surroundings. Access not of high standard. <i>Note: Avonbridge Community Hall – refurbishments nearing completion. Community Services agreeable to the use of the premises for polling purposes. Communication required with the Hall Committee. Hall adapted to make it accessible to disabled users.</i>
	Limerigg Community Hall	No problem with continued use. See comments above with regard to the Post Office using the premises for its outreach service on a Thursday morning. This is not thought to be problematic but might improve elector turnout.
	Slamannan Community Centre	No problem with continued use.
	Shieldhill Primary School	See comments at Ward 7 above.
General comments and feedback received		
	Capability Scotland	General comments offered but not in a position to offer detailed feedback on individual polling places. Strongly recommend that a full access audit be carried out on each polling station to ensure that they are fully accessible to people with disabilities. Recommend that we contact Falkirk Access Panel to discuss this. Lengthy response from Capability Scotland outlining criteria to be used in identifying potential areas for improvement. Capability Scotland point out that it is essential for Falkirk Council to be aware of its legislative duties in relation to the accessibility of polling

		<p>stations. The need to designate accessible venues is found in RoP 1983, placing a duty on local authorities to, “so far as is reasonable and practical”, designate polling stations in locations that are accessible to disabled people. <i>(Note: All current polling places are DDA compliant)</i>. Furthermore, the DDA requires those providing goods and services to the public to make reasonable physical adjustments to their premises. The DDA also includes a duty on public authorities to promote disabled people’s equality, with a specific focus on involvement in public life. The Equality Act is gradually replacing the DDA as the main anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people in the UK. This Act maintains and in many areas improves the provisions under the DDA which aim to remove physical barriers and improve access for disabled people to goods and services.</p>
	Cathy Peattie MSP	<p>Happy with the polling stations in general but hopes that during this review Falkirk Council will try to keep the use of schools to a minimum. One suggestion is that perhaps Shieldhill Primary School could be revisited as the Welfare Hall now has disabled access. It may be that the polling place could be moved from the school to the hall. <i>See comments under Shieldhill Primary School at Ward 7 above.</i></p>
	Central Scotland Police	<p>Given that the vast majority of polling places are schools and community centres, they are readily accessible and more than suitable for polling purposes. They are well positioned to meet the needs of the community and still ably cater for the increase in population in areas such as High Bonnybridge, Dennyloanhead, The Inches and Kinnaird Village in Larbert.</p> <p>Further comments regarding Dobbie Hall under Ward 4 above.</p> <p>Many of the polling places contain multiple polling districts, which reduces the burden on police officers visiting the polling places.</p> <p>Further comment from CSP relates to confrontation between candidates in relation to the display of election materials but does not relate to this review.</p>
	Community Services HQ	<p>All polling places continue to be suitable. Some have had upgrades to</p>

		enhance accessibility for people with disabilities.
	Development Services (Construction Support Officer)	<p>DDA works ongoing at Avonbridge Community Hall, which is a potential alternative polling place instead of the United Reformed Church Hall. This work involves the formation of a disabled toilet facility off the main hall and the widening of two internal doors to allow easier passage for wheelchair users between the two halls. External works include the formation of an exit ramp from the existing fire exit.</p> <p>Similar DDA works have been undertaken at Bowhouse Community Centre, Brightons Community Centre and Hallglen Sports Centre.</p>
	Falkirk Access Assessment Group (Peter Rowe)	<p>It may be worth talking to traffic wardens or the Police to check the feasibility of setting up temporary arrangements where there is no provision for disabled parking at polling place premises. Most of the larger halls and community centres have such parking but parking for blue badge holders at smaller venues could be a problem.</p> <p>List of the current status of disabled blue badge parking at polling places has been provided for information (available on request from Election Office). This will change as community centres are being upgraded to comply with the DDA. Designated parking places are being marked out wherever possible.</p>
	Social Work Services	No comments to make.
	West Lothian Council (Graham Hope, Chief Executive and Returning Officer)	No comments to make on the polling places and districts in the Falkirk Council part of the shared constituency of Linlithgow and East Falkirk.
On-line Survey Responses	Summary	<p>16 responses received. Summary to be provided separately. 11 responses identified their current polling places, 5 skipped the question:</p> <p>Brightons Community Centre Carron Primary School (2) Denny Westpark Church Hall Dundas Resource Centre</p>

		<p> Larbert Village Primary School Limerigg Community Hall Polmont (no further definition) Reddingmuirhead Institute Salvation Army Hall, Falkirk Postal vote (1) </p> <p>No alternative polling places were suggested.</p> <p>The majority of responses in relation to rating various aspects of the polling places were Good. The details are included in the survey summary sheet.</p> <p>Two additional comments were received:-</p> <p>“Whilst it might create some congestion for the period of the ballot it would be of great benefit if parking restrictions for some meters in front of the (Salvation Army) hall (Falkirk) were lifted. The time it takes to vote means there would be a rapid turnover in the allotted zone. The bus service is very good for those on the scheduled route but pretty awful if you are not.”</p> <p>“We cannot comment as have recently moved here, but would like to stress that we think it is ridiculous closing so many schools for the purpose of voting! Surely there are other options available such as community centres etc, object strongly to our family losing out on valuable education over the years when schools have so many holidays already!!”</p>
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PART 2

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2010

FEEDBACK FROM ELECTED MEMBERS ON PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS

WARD NAME	COUNCILLOR NAME	COMMENT(S)
Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness	Councillor Constable	<p>Bo’ness Recreation Centre – distance from St Mary’s Primary School isn’t a problem. This move would bring the polling place closer to Grahamsdyke residents. Premises not a problem if there is disabled access into a ground floor room suitable for this purpose.</p> <p>Not in favour of removing Salvation Army Hall as a polling place. The hill up to Bo’ness Town Hall requires negotiation and there are several older people who use the Salvation Army Hall as their polling place. Less comfortable with this proposal.</p> <p>Satisfied with the rest of the proposals.</p>
	Councillor Mahoney	<p>Would prefer to retain St Mary’s Primary School to meet the needs of the older electorate but can appreciate the views of Education Services and School Board/PTA.</p> <p>Comfortable with the removal of Salvation Army Hall and using Town Hall instead, but there might be concerns regarding older people having to climb the hill to the Town Hall.</p> <p>In favour of using Blackness Community Hall instead of the school. Could possibly still use the kitchen for any free school meals?</p>
	Councillor Ritchie	No comments received.
Ward 2 – Grangemouth	Dep Provost Black	No comments received.

	Councillor A MacDonald	Happy with removing Oxbang School. No other concerns except the access to the Dundas Resource Centre, which always has to be manned.
	Councillor McNeill	Not supportive of proposed removal of Oxbang School, with the transfer of electors to Grangemouth Town Hall. Considers that parking at the Town Hall is a problem and would prefer to retain the status quo. Agreeable to all other proposals.
	Councillor Spears	Recommend that boundary and polling places remain the same as at present. Not in favour of change.
Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock	Councillor Blackwood	Happy with all proposals.
	Councillor McNally	No comments received.
	Councillor Oliver	Suggests using either the games hall at the old Denny High School (recently refurbished) or Denny Fire Station, instead of Nethermains Primary School. (Denny High School games hall has been retained as a sports facility, managed by Community Services). Banknock Community Hall – lighting at the back (disabled access) isn't good. Requires attention.
	Councillor Waddell	No comments received.
Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaid and Tryst	Councillor Carleschi	Generally supportive of proposals.
	Councillor Kenna	No comments received.
	Councillor C MacDonald	Not agreeable to changing from Carron Primary School to Stenhousemuir Sports Centre. Main road would be a problem – very busy. Also, safety issue in using the underpass. Not a popular route to take locally. The school is central and has relatively easy access. Not sure about the proposals to use Stenhouse and Carron Parish Church.
	Councillor Craig Martin	Agrees with Cllr MacDonald's views on using Stenhousemuir Sports Centre. Would not be in favour of this – would prefer the continued use of Carron Primary School.
Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and	Councillor Buchanan	No comments received.

Larbert		
	Councillor Coleman	No comments received.
	Councillor Gow	No comments received.
Ward 6 – Falkirk North	Councillor Alexander	No comments received.
	Councillor Craig R Martin	No comments received.
	Councillor Meiklejohn	No comments received.
	Provost Reid	Agreeable to proposed use of Falkirk Town Hall.
Ward 7 – Falkirk South	Councillor Goldie	No comments received.
	Councillor Lemetti	No comments received.
	Councillor Patrick	<p>Not in favour of removing Greenbank Court Meeting Room. Well used polling place with high number of elderly electors.</p> <p>Agreeable to the removal of Glen Village Bowling Club and the electors voting at Hallglen Sports Centre instead.</p> <p>Agreeable to proposals for Lionthorn electors to go to Hallglen instead of Salvation Army Hall.</p> <p>Agreeable to the proposed amalgamation of electors currently voting at Woodlands Games Hall and some at Salvation Army Hall but would favour the retention of the Games Hall rather than the Salvation Army Hall. Larger hall, better parking.</p>
	Councillor Thomson	No comments received.
Ward 8 – Lower Braes	Councillor Jackson	Happy with proposals but would favour the retention of both polling places in Laurieston – Community Hall and the Primary School.
	Councillor Nicol	<p>Happy with proposal to use Polmont Sports Centre instead of St Margaret's Primary School.</p> <p>In favour of amalgamating Laurieston polling districts but would prefer to use the Primary School rather than the Community Hall.</p>

		Happy with proposal to use Grange Community Education Centre.
	Councillor Nimmo	No comments received.
Ward 9 – Upper Braes	Councillor Fry	No comments received.
	Councillor Hughes	<p>Agreeable to the proposal to use Avonbridge Community Hall instead of church hall.</p> <p>Would prefer to use Shieldhill Welfare Hall rather than Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish Church hall.</p> <p>Agreeable to the proposal to use the Power Station, Whitecross, instead of the Primary School.</p> <p>Comfortable with proposals to move electors from Brightons Community Centre to Reddingmuirhead Community Centre.</p> <p>Agreeable to the Post Office outreach service using Limerigg Community Hall on polling day (this weekly service is provided every Thursday).</p> <p>In favour of all proposals, in general.</p>
	Councillor McLuckie	<p>Agreeable to the proposal to use Avonbridge Community Hall instead of church hall. Has been working with local community to have the hall improved and would welcome increased usage of the premises.</p> <p>Would prefer to use Shieldhill Welfare Hall rather than Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish Church hall.</p> <p>Agreeable to the proposal to use the Power Station, Whitecross, instead of the Primary School.</p> <p>Comfortable with proposals to move electors from Brightons Community Centre to Reddingmuirhead Community Centre.</p>

		<p>Agreeable to the Post Office outreach service using Limerigg Community Hall on polling day.</p> <p>Generally agreeable to all proposals.</p>
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