

Open

Council

Agenda

To be held remotely
6pm
Wednesday, 9th December 2020



Council

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COUNCIL MEETING

1st December 2020

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMEN

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held remotely **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 9th December 2020.**

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct (“the Code”) requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members’ Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council’s constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI’s and ODI’s are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council’s Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council’s business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 9th December 2020

To be held remotely

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers To be read by Rev Robert Legge, Team Vicar for The Parish of Kidderminster East.	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd September 2020.	9
5.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's scheme for public speaking at meetings of Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 30 th November 2020. <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	

6.	<p>Questions</p> <p>Four questions have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order Section 7, 1.8 by Members of the Council.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline (Monday 30th November 2020), and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	15
7.	<p>Chairman's Communications</p> <p>To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.</p>	16
8.	<p>Leader of the Council Announcements</p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
9.	<p>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>One motion has been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).</p> <p>1. Notice of Motion from Councillor M Hart on behalf of the Conservative Group</p> <p><i>Given that the Coronavirus restrictions are likely to be with us for some time and given the social distancing requirements it is highly unlikely if not impossible even at 1 metre apart to hold a meeting of full council physically given the number of people that would need to be present in the council chamber and that all members are now fully acquainted with zoom and how virtual meetings work and in the interests of democracy this Council:-</i></p> <p><i>Resolves to reverse the emergency constitutional amendments made at our extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 21st April in respect of length of virtual meetings of full council and all other such meetings of the council and the other such amendments in respect to limiting the number of notices of motion and for members questions and return to the previous full suite of constitutional arrangements in respect of all democratic areas of the council including planning and resolves that the Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council take the necessary steps for implementation by 31st December 2020.</i></p>	
10.	<p>Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider motions in the order they have been received which, by reason of special circumstances, should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1 (vii)).</p>	

11.	<p>Polling Place Review</p> <p>To consider a report from the Returning Officer for the Council to take decisions following the review of polling districts and places in Blakebrook & Habberley South and Franche & Habberley North which was commissioned by Council on 26th February 2020.</p>	17
12.	<p>Policy and Budget Framework</p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>(a) Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5th November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid Year Report 2020/21 <p>(b) Recommendations from Cabinet – 10th November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Portfolio Fund Temporary Arrangements for Acquisition Geography <p>(c) Recommendations from Cabinet – 10th November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Homeworking Consultation <p>(d) Recommendations from Cabinet – 10th November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery Scheme <p>(e) Recommendations from the Licensing and Environmental Committee – 7th December 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Fees and Charges for the Council’s Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2021/22 <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p><i>To follow</i></p>
13.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
14.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

15.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

HELD REMOTELY

23RD SEPTEMBER 2020 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: S Miah (Chairman), P W M Young (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, G W Ballinger, C J Barnett, J F Byng, V Caulfield, S J Chambers, A Coleman, R H Coleman, B S Dawes, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, N Gale, S Griffiths, I Hardiman, P Harrison, M J Hart, K Henderson, L J Jones, A L L'Huillier, N Martin, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, S E N Rook, D R Sheppard, J W R Thomas, A Totty and L Whitehouse.

C.31 Prayers

Prayers were said by Rev Megan Gibbins, Parish of Ribbesford with Bewdley & Dowles and Wribbenhall Parish.

C.32 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C.33 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of Interest were made.

C.34 Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor G W Ballinger nominated Councillor J Aston as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/2021. This was seconded by Councillor P Dyke.

Decision: Councillor J Aston be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/2021.

C.35 Acceptance of Office by the Vice-Chairman

Councillor J Aston verbally made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman. The Chief Executive informed Members that the Declaration would be signed, and the Badge of Office presented, at an appropriate later time.

The Chairman of the Council welcomed Councillor J Aston as Vice-Chairman and expressed his sincere thanks to Councillor P W M Young for the contribution he had made to the role.

C.36 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2020 and the special

meeting held on 28th July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.37 Public Participation

In accordance with the Council's scheme for public participation at meetings of Full Council, one Member of the Public had registered to speak in order to present a petition. The Chairman explained to Members that despite Officers' best efforts they had been unable to contact the speaker to discuss them addressing the Meeting. The Chairman felt that, in order to give the Member of the Public every opportunity to present their petition, the item should be postponed until the December meeting.

Decision: The acceptance of the petition titled 'Install a nature square in Kidderminster town centre' be delayed until the December meeting to allow the member of the public submitting the petition every opportunity to attend the Council meeting and have their say on the issues behind the petition.

C.38 Questions

No questions had been received.

C.39 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman announced the addition of a donation cheque received from Mr Gora who runs the supermarket in Comberton.

C.40 Leader of the Council Announcements

The Leader of the Council referred Members to his tabled report.

C.41 Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders

There were no motions submitted under Standing Orders.

C.42 Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders

There were no Urgent motions submitted under Standing Orders.

C.43 Committee Appointments

Councillor G W Ballinger nominated Councillor M Rayner as Chairman of the Ethics and Standards Committee, Councillor C J Barnett as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor P W M Young as Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/2021. This was seconded by Councillor F M Oborski, MBE. This filled the two expected casual vacancies and also the vacancy that had arisen since the publication of the agenda. Members were also asked to approve the revised table of political balance that had been circulated.

Upon a show of hands the recommendations, as amended, were carried unanimously.

Decision: Council

- 1.1 Agreed the appointment of Councillor Mary Rayner as Chairman of the Ethics and Standards Committee, Councillor Claire Barnett as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor Peter Young as Vice-Chairman of Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.**
- 1.2 Approved the revised table of political balance in Appendix 1 of the report.**

C.44 Overview & Scrutiny Committee Final Report and Recommendations – Consideration of the Flooding Motion from Council

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M J Hart, delivered the final report and recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He thanked Council for mandating this piece of work and expressed thanks to members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their contribution and diligence. He also thanked the Chief Executive, the Principal Committee and Member Services Officer and the Technical Support Engineers for their work in making the meetings a success and especially enabling members of the public and professionals to address the virtual meetings.

Evidence was considered from a variety of sources, including statutory partners and members of the public, and he was keen that the wording of the report articulated the devastating effects of the floods to properties across the district and the effect of the floods on local businesses. Councillor M J Hart reiterated that the recommendations were unanimously supported by Members across the Council with Cabinet Members and the Leader of the Council observing the exercise. He talked Council through each of the recommendations in detail.

Councillor T L Onslow seconded the recommendations. Councillors were keen to express their support for the findings of the Committee and were grateful to those agencies and members of the public, who took time to address the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with incredible detail. They recognised that residents were still suffering the aftereffects of the flooding with many homes still not fully recovered.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the manner in which the scrutiny committee was conducted, and named all of the residents personally who contributed to the meeting to acknowledge the contribution they made.

Upon a show of hands the recommendations were carried unanimously.

Decision: Council agreed that;

- a) Following the initial review by the Environment Agency in relation to a permanent flood scheme for Beale's Corner, Bewdley, it is imperative and an**

absolute priority that a business case be worked up. A letter be sent to the Environment Agency indicating strong support for permanent flood defences in that area;

b) submissions be made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other relevant authorities to support the case for Government funding to alleviate flooding in the Wyre Forest area, both for specific flood defence schemes in the district, in particular Beale's Corner, Bewdley, and for water management interventions being developed by the River Severn Partnership;

c) the Environment Agency be asked to review its barrier deployment procedure for Bewdley in light of the experience in February; to take account of the possibility of extreme local rainfall events. Assurance be sought from the Environment Agency that, until such a time as there is a permanent solution, the temporary barriers are not removed and continue to be deployed in an appropriate way ensuring that they are fit for purpose and that they are an appropriate height. The Environment Agency be invited back to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give formal feedback on the review;

d) a letter be written to the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest seeking his full support to lobby for permanent flood defences at Beale's Corner, Bewdley;

e) the authority works with the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), all relevant partners and the Environment Agency in the composition of the business case;

f) while noting that other areas of the district were flooded, in light of the compelling and persuasive arguments received during the scrutiny exercise, the first priority is to press for permanent defences at Beale's Corner, Bewdley on the Wribbehall side;

g) endorsement that the multi-agency approach with the statutory and voluntary partners within the Wyre Forest should continue and that there are appropriate relevant and timely means of communication by all interested stakeholders in particular with those most directly affected, namely businesses and residents;

h) the Environment Agency be asked to look very carefully at the issues surrounding the major impact that Dowles Brook had on the flooding events and to include this area in any future water management interventions.

C.45 COVID-19 Recovery Framework – Results of Remote Working Councillor Survey

The Leader of the Council introduced the item and the Chief Executive presented a report conveying to Council the results of the Members' survey on remote working. He stated that the results were inconclusive with some Members feeling that remote working was going well and some preferring face to face meetings but with new

Agenda Item No. 4

guidance having just been released from central Government, and a constantly changing situation, there would not be a change to current practices for the foreseeable future. It was noted that there had been an increase in Members attending meetings as observers since meetings had been held virtually.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged that not everyone was ideally placed to work from home, but committed to supporting those with issues where possible.

Discussion from Members ensued with universal appreciation for the ICT Team for the support they offered to allow working from home and successful virtual meetings. Councillor N J Desmond added that he felt face to face meetings were optimal due to the interaction with other Members and Officers, and explained the difficulty of 6pm meetings for Members with young families at home. It was agreed that the situation had gone on longer than most people expected and Councillor N J Desmond suggested that it would be in the interest of democracy to revert to thirty-minute questions, to allow supplementary questions, lift the cap on motions and to consider the standing orders that require meetings to be finished by 8pm. Although these restrictions had been put in place to help initial meetings, he felt that virtual meetings were going well enough to mean that these restrictions were no longer needed. Altering them would enable the executive to be held to account and would be in line with Worcestershire County Council.

The Solicitor to the Council informed Members that the previous agreements had been put in place for 6 months so changes could be proposed at the next full Council meeting. The Leader of the Council responded that all comments would be considered but he would not comment on possible changes until Officers and Group Leaders had been consulted.

Councillor S Griffiths raised the issue of ensuring there was adequate mental health support for staff. Councillor M J Hart agreed that it was as important to ensure there were no risks to mental health as to physical health.

Decision: Council;

1.1 NOTED the findings of the Members' Survey – Remote Working summarised in the report;

1.2 NOTED that remote meetings by members will be kept under review, in consultation with the Chairman of Council and Group Leaders, taking the findings of the consultation into consideration when changes to the current arrangements become possible.

C.46 Policy and Budget Framework – Matters which require a decision by Council

(a) Recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 8th September 2020

- Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2019-20**

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor M J Hart presented the recommendations for approval. He thanked Members of the Treasury Management Review Panel for the work they had completed, which he stated was

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even more important at the current time. The Leader of the Council seconded the proposal.

Decision:

1.1 The actual 2019-20 prudential and treasury indicators in the report be approved;

1.2 The actual 2019-20 non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund property acquisitions be approved;

1.3 The annual treasury management report for 2019-20, including information on the non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund acquisitions be noted.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:29pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
9TH DECEMBER 2020**

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor Anna Coleman to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

With an aim to safeguard the future of the Bewdley Museum and the Guildhall and give a reassurance to the taxpayers, would Cabinet Member agree to investigate a Right of First Refusal to WFDC or other community organisations/funding partners with a public consultation prior to a Right of First Refusal being exercised?

2. Question from Councillor L Whitehouse to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader believe he has the resilience required to perform the role of Leader of the council during this pandemic?

3. Question from Councillor L Whitehouse to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader describe what he & his Cabinet are doing to address the financial position?

4. Question from Councillor L Whitehouse to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader make assurances that he will do everything in his power to ensure all WFDC staff members will not be made redundant & local residents are supported, given the probability many of them have / will face losing their homes & livelihoods?

Chairman's List of Functions – 2020/21

SEPTEMBER 2020

29/09 – Stourport Mayors Charity Coffee Morning – Kings Arms

OCTOBER 2020

-

NOVEMBER 2020

08/11 - * Remembrance Sunday – Wreath laying at Memorial

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**COUNCIL**
9 DECEMBER 2020**Polling place review**

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Nicky Martin, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being & Democratic Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	The Returning Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Saunders, Electoral Services Manager Ext 2762
APPENDICES: (These appendices are being circulated electronically only)	Appendix A – Notice of Review Appendix B – ARO response Appendix C – Survey responses Appendix D – Email and written responses

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the Council to take decisions following the review of polling districts and places in Blakebrook & Habberley South and Franche & Habberley North which was commissioned by Council on 26 February 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to:

- 2.1 **Consider the report and consultation and confirm that NO CHANGES are made to the polling places in the wards of Blakebrook & Habberley South and Franche & Habberley North.**

3. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW - BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 and introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and places. The review had to be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. The result of the review was due to have been reported to the Council meeting on 11 December 2019 but that meeting was cancelled as a consequence of the Parliamentary election, and the results of the review was therefore reported and decided at the next available meeting of Council on 26 February 2020.
- 3.2 In light of representations received about polling arrangements that affect the Habberley estate, Council resolved that a further review of polling districts and polling places in Franche & Habberley North and Blakebrook & Habberley South. It was intended that the review would take place in time to be reported to the Council meeting in July. The review was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic but this has not

had any impact in practical terms because all elections have been suspended by statute until May 2021.

4. PURPOSE

4.1 The aim of any such review as outlined in Electoral guidance is:

- Seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities as are practicable in the circumstances
- Seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place which the local authority is responsible for is accessible to electors who are disabled

5. THE REVIEW

5.1 The consultation period ran from 30 September 2020 to 6 November 2020, with the options of completing an online survey or responding in writing or email and began with the publication of The Notice of Review which is set out in Appendix A.

5.2 The Notice of Review proposed changes to the wards of Blakebrook & Habberley South and Franche & Habberley North and invited comments on the current set up of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

5.3 The consultation sought views on some proposed changes: in Blakebrook and Habberley South, the relocation of the polling place currently at Gainsborough House Hotel to the Habberley Club on the Habberley Estate; and that electors in polling district BHS-4 would vote at Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Football Club and electors in BHS-5 would vote at Habberley Social Club.

5.4 The proposed changes in the Franche & Habberley North ward were that electors in polling district FHN-3 would vote at Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Football Club and electors in FHN-4 would vote at Habberley Social Club.

6. RESPONSES

6.1 The Acting Returning Officer (ARO) provided his response on 19 October 2020 which can be found in Appendix B.

6.2 In short the ARO had no objections to the proposals and acknowledged that some electors have a desire for a polling station to return to the Habberley estate.

6.3 The Consultation had 144 responses of which 138 were responses to the online survey.

6.4 All questions were optional in the survey and were:

- Respondent's name
- Post Code
- The capacity in which they were responding
- Do you agree with the proposal?
- Any comments?

6.5 A breakdown of the response to the main questions is set out in Tables 1 to 3 and the full responses to the call for comments can be found in Appendix C.

Table 1 – Question 2 – Post Code?

	Responded
DY10	5
DY11	131
DY12	2
Skipped	0

Table 2 - Question 3- Please identify the capacity in which you are responding

	Responses
Voter	131
MP	0
County Councillor	0
District Councillor	4
Town/Parish Councillor	2
Disability organisation	0
Other	1
Skipped	0

Table 3 - Question 4 – Do you agree with the proposals of the alteration of the polling districts and polling places?

	Responded
Yes	68
No	61
Skipped	9

6.6 41 people skipped the question asking for comments whilst 97 people left a comment. The comments supporting the proposals included comments like ‘happy to vote on Habberley’, ‘it will give greater access for people to vote’, ‘Habberley seems a good alternative to Gainsborough’ and ‘Habberley Club is much better (and safer to get to!)’. The comments objecting to the proposals included ‘I am happy with the Gainsborough continuing as my polling station’, ‘this will just make it harder to vote’, ‘this is an unnecessary change’ and ‘Keep Gainsborough Hotel’.

6.7 A small number of comments recommend having additional polling stations to the existing setup including Habberley as an extra station and not as a replacement for Gainsborough House Hotel.

7. Email and written responses

7.1 Four email responses and 2 written responses were received.

- 7.2 All 4 of the email responses and both of the written responses were against the proposed changes.
- 7.3 The email and written responses can be found in Appendix D.

8. Overall response

8.1 The overall response gave no clear result and is inconclusive. Table 4 shows both the survey and email and written responses.

8.2 Table 6 – All responses ‘Do you agree with the proposals?’

	Responded
Yes	68
No	67
Skipped	9

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The consultation was undertaken within existing resources and involved only use of staff time.
- 9.2 No additional financial implications will arise from this report if Council agrees the recommendation to confirm no changes to the polling districts and polling places.
- 9.3 Any alternative approach, to add a polling place in addition to the existing polling places, would result in higher cost in the delivery and administration of future elections. This could be considered somewhat irrational when the consultation has not produced a clear consensus in favour of change, postal voting is available on demand and bearing in mind the current financial situation at all levels of Local Government including at Wyre Forest District Council. In May 2021, elections are due to be held for Worcestershire County Council, Kidderminster Town Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and they would be affected by any such approach.

10. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Review has been carried out in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2013 and Representation of the People Act 1983.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report as it does not recommend any change. However, all elections and electoral registration activity have due regard to the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In particular, the review of polling places has to consider their suitability for access by disabled people. The current polling places are considered to provide suitable access, having regard to which buildings may be available in any given polling district.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 12.1 All elections and electoral registration work is supported by robust risk management plans to ensure contingency arrangements are in place for meeting electoral legislation at all times.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Council is invited to consider the recommendation that the inconclusive outcome of the review of polling districts and polling places should be that no changes are made to the existing polling districts and polling places in the wards of Blakebrook & Habberley South and Franche & Habberley North.

14. CONSULTEES

- 14.1 Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being & Democratic Services
14.2 Corporate Leadership Team

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 The Electoral Commission's guidance on conducting the Polling district and polling places review can be found at

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews>

- 15.2 The report of the statutory Polling District, place and polling station review as agreed at Council in February 2020 can be found at

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc55799_20200226_council_minute.pdf

APPENDIX A – NOTICE OF REVIEW

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notice of Review of a Polling Place

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Section A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, Wyre Forest District Council gives notice that it is conducting a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places for Parliamentary and Local Government elections.

The Council welcomes views or comments from electors and any persons or bodies with expertise in access to premises or facilities for persons with any type of disability. Local political parties, District and County Councillors and Parish and Town Councils will also be consulted.

The proposals for polling places will be published by Monday 28 September 2020 and will be available for inspection at Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF and on the council's website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk Information on the current polling districts and polling places is contained within the proposals.

Representations should be made by email to electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or in writing to the Electoral Registration Office, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Details of representations received will be made available for public inspection. The deadline for making representations is 5pm on **Friday 6 November 2020**.

The Council will consider the proposals on Wednesday 9 December 2020 and the outcome of the review will then be published.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Electoral Services on 01562 732733.

Ian Miller
Electoral Registration Officer, Wyre Forest
28 September 2020

APPENDIX B – RETURNING OFFICER’S RESPONSE

Ian Miller
(Acting) Returning Officer
Wyre Forest Parliamentary Constituency
Tel: 01562 732700
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19 October 2020

Dear Mike,

**REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES IN THE DISTRICT OF WYRE FOREST –
BLAKEBROOK & HABBERLEY SOUTH AND FRANCHE & HABBERLEY
NORTH**

Thank you for consulting me about this review. I am replying in my role as (Acting) Returning Officer for the Parliamentary constituency of Wyre Forest.

I have no objection to the proposals made in this review which involve a change of polling place (Gainsborough House Hotel) for the Blakebrook & Habberley South ward although this would then allow further changes in respect of the designated polling place for some voters in that ward and the Franche & Habberley North ward. I am aware that there has been a long-running desire by some voters on the Habberley estate to have a polling place located on that estate, which used to be the case.

While any change may cause inconvenience to some voters, for example because they have to travel further to vote in person, postal voting on demand remains available. I would like to stress that I offer no objection to the proposal on the basis that the proposal is to replace one polling place with another. It is sufficient challenge to staff the existing pattern of polling stations. Adding a polling place would add to that challenge and would of course also add to the cost of each set of elections.

My views on the proposed polling place are as follows:

Proposed Polling Place

Proposed polling place	Comment
Habberley Social Club, Truro Drive, Kidderminster, DY11 6DN	<p>I have no objection to the designation of Habberley Social Club to replace Gainsborough House Hotel. Habberley Social Club's facilities are considered to be ideal to accommodate a double polling station for an electorate of approximately 2,929 in the BHS-5 polling district and 1,542 in the new FHN-4 polling district.</p> <p>The building is located 776m from the current polling station with car parking available at the Social Club, which is located more centrally to the</p>

	polling district. Use of the car park on polling days will not face competition with users of the hotel as happens at Gainsborough House Hotel. While the car park slopes to a degree, it does not seem as steep as parts of the car park at the hotel.
Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Football Club, Marlpool Lane, Kidderminster DY11 5HP	I support the continued designation of Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Football Club as a polling place. The building has worked well as a polling station and will be able to accommodate the additional electors. The facilities are considered to be ideal to accommodate a double polling station for an electorate of approximately 321 in the BHS-4 polling district and 4,567 in the FHN-3 polling district.

As required by the legislation, I set out information in the appendix about the location and numbers of polling stations that I would propose if the polling places set out in the consultation paper were confirmed. I look forward to being notified on the Council's decisions about polling places in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Miller
(Acting) Returning Officer, Wyre Forest Parliamentary Constituency

Appendix

BHS-4 & FHN-5	Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Football Club	Suitable room in the polling place. Two polling stations.
BHS-5 & FHN-4	Habberley Social Club	Suitable room in the polling place. Two polling stations

APPENDIX C – SURVEY RESPONSES

Q1 Name

Answered: 138 Skipped: 0

Habberley polling place review

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Nick Yarwood	11/3/2020 1:44 PM
2	Chris	11/2/2020 7:15 PM
3	Salter	11/2/2020 5:19 PM
4	preece	10/31/2020 11:00 AM
5	Zara Shutts	10/30/2020 10:12 AM
6	Dr David Craik	10/27/2020 7:55 PM
7	Suzanne Dunn	10/27/2020 4:15 PM
8	Nicholas Lansley	10/26/2020 2:08 PM
9	Julie Lansley	10/26/2020 1:04 PM
10	Drew Peacock	10/25/2020 7:49 PM
11	Marcella Eveson	10/25/2020 5:40 PM
12	Mrs Veronica Wilkes	10/24/2020 11:20 AM
13	Len Underhill	10/23/2020 10:26 AM
14	Dr David Gillett	10/22/2020 9:58 PM
15	Sandra shaw	10/21/2020 5:28 PM
16	Helen	10/21/2020 4:30 PM
17	Mrs guise	10/21/2020 4:24 PM
18	Kelly mellsop	10/21/2020 4:16 PM
19	B Lloyd	10/21/2020 3:39 PM
20	Robert Carter	10/21/2020 1:40 PM
21	Keith Oakley	10/21/2020 11:38 AM
22	Patricia Oakley	10/21/2020 8:55 AM
23	Erin Galloway	10/20/2020 11:54 AM
24	Kathryn Underhill	10/20/2020 11:08 AM
25	Donna wilkes	10/20/2020 9:14 AM
26	Gail Oliver	10/20/2020 8:29 AM
27	Megan Parker	10/20/2020 6:49 AM
28	Susie Griffiths	10/20/2020 12:32 AM
29	Nigel Brown	10/19/2020 7:53 PM
30	Mr Andrew Mackillop	10/18/2020 1:20 PM
31	Lee Millward	10/17/2020 10:39 PM
32	K REES	10/17/2020 6:18 PM
33	Kirsty jones	10/16/2020 5:38 PM
34	Poppy Tranter	10/16/2020 4:25 PM
35	Jonathan Briscoe	10/16/2020 2:31 PM
36	clare bryan	10/16/2020 12:54 PM
37	Lyn	10/16/2020 11:40 AM
38	Laura	10/16/2020 11:31 AM
39	Stella Hughes	10/16/2020 11:14 AM
40	Richard Hughes	10/16/2020 11:12 AM

Habberley polling place review

41	Philip Dyer	10/16/2020 5:43 AM
42	Jacqueline Tye	10/15/2020 6:32 PM
43	Sam Guille	10/15/2020 2:39 PM
44	J rigsby	10/15/2020 2:25 AM
45	Michael Needham	10/14/2020 12:11 PM
46	Alison Hinton	10/11/2020 11:05 PM
47	Susan Needham	10/11/2020 8:50 PM
48	John Knight	10/11/2020 10:28 AM
49	RE	10/10/2020 6:34 PM
50	Matt Wood	10/10/2020 6:51 AM
51	Hayley	10/9/2020 6:14 PM
52	Matthew Everett	10/9/2020 5:27 PM
53	Robert Caie	10/9/2020 3:30 PM
54	Heidi Worth	10/8/2020 4:02 PM
55	David & Brenda Duffield	10/8/2020 3:13 PM
56	Jane Rees	10/8/2020 6:56 AM
57	Sharon Simpson	10/7/2020 6:05 PM
58	Michael Devese	10/7/2020 4:39 PM
59	christine Bennett	10/7/2020 4:19 PM
60	margaret page	10/7/2020 3:57 PM
61	Julia Devese	10/7/2020 2:44 PM
62	Jennifer Wilcox	10/7/2020 11:33 AM
63	jane rosoman	10/6/2020 11:12 PM
64	margaret link	10/6/2020 10:12 PM
65	Patricia Taft	10/6/2020 8:27 PM
66	Sean Hardwick	10/6/2020 5:57 PM
67	A Murrells	10/6/2020 4:24 PM
68	Mr.L.Hadland	10/6/2020 1:48 PM
69	Helen Martin	10/6/2020 12:40 PM
70	Peter Jennings	10/6/2020 7:58 AM
71	Tom	10/6/2020 7:30 AM
72	Jessica	10/6/2020 7:04 AM
73	John	10/6/2020 12:00 AM
74	Kathleen Hill	10/5/2020 8:27 PM
75	Ruth Pheysey	10/5/2020 7:20 PM
76	Adam Leci	10/5/2020 6:53 PM
77	Jenny Evans	10/5/2020 5:12 PM
78	C Rixom	10/5/2020 4:56 PM
79	Sally Orton	10/5/2020 4:35 PM
80	Jack Lawley	10/5/2020 2:16 PM
81	Paul Guille	10/5/2020 2:07 PM

Habberley polling place review

82	Phil Key	10/5/2020 1:19 PM
83	Sarah westwood	10/5/2020 1:15 PM
84	Phil Key	10/5/2020 12:42 PM
85	J Lewis	10/5/2020 11:53 AM
86	emma busby	10/5/2020 10:51 AM
87	Sarah BEADSWORTH	10/5/2020 9:55 AM
88	Louise Steadman	10/5/2020 7:48 AM
89	Mark Steadman	10/5/2020 7:30 AM
90	David	10/4/2020 10:28 PM
91	Margaret Winfield	10/4/2020 8:58 PM
92	Jo Jones	10/4/2020 7:23 PM
93	Roderick Shaw	10/4/2020 7:04 PM
94	Tim Church	10/4/2020 6:38 PM
95	Rachael Hodgetts	10/4/2020 1:32 PM
96	Donna Lester	10/3/2020 9:04 PM
97	Jane Yarwood	10/3/2020 6:44 PM
98	Paul Raper	10/3/2020 4:33 PM
99	stephen maughan	10/3/2020 1:00 PM
100	Richard Matthews	10/3/2020 12:49 PM
101	Sonia Stowe	10/2/2020 10:39 PM
102	Helen Park	10/2/2020 8:47 PM
103	Jay Adkins	10/2/2020 6:19 PM
104	Chris Thacker	10/2/2020 5:40 PM
105	Mrs Gibbs	10/2/2020 5:26 PM
106	Kerryann Cheshire-Whatley	10/2/2020 5:22 PM
107	Ruth Rudd	10/2/2020 5:05 PM
108	Julie cooper	10/2/2020 4:40 PM
109	Carol Barker	10/2/2020 4:40 PM
110	Keri jordan	10/2/2020 3:41 PM
111	Jayne Wilson	10/2/2020 3:02 PM
112	Lynn Hyde	10/2/2020 10:11 AM
113	Verity Worthington	10/2/2020 9:56 AM
114	Sarah edwards	10/2/2020 7:06 AM
115	Jackie	10/2/2020 12:09 AM
116	Hilton Mayston	10/1/2020 9:54 PM
117	Julie Savage	10/1/2020 9:18 PM
118	Bob Ridge-Stearn	10/1/2020 7:18 PM
119	John Wilson	10/1/2020 7:11 PM
120	Paul	10/1/2020 6:46 PM
121	David Humphreys	10/1/2020 6:18 PM
122	Taylor	10/1/2020 5:25 PM

Habberley polling place review

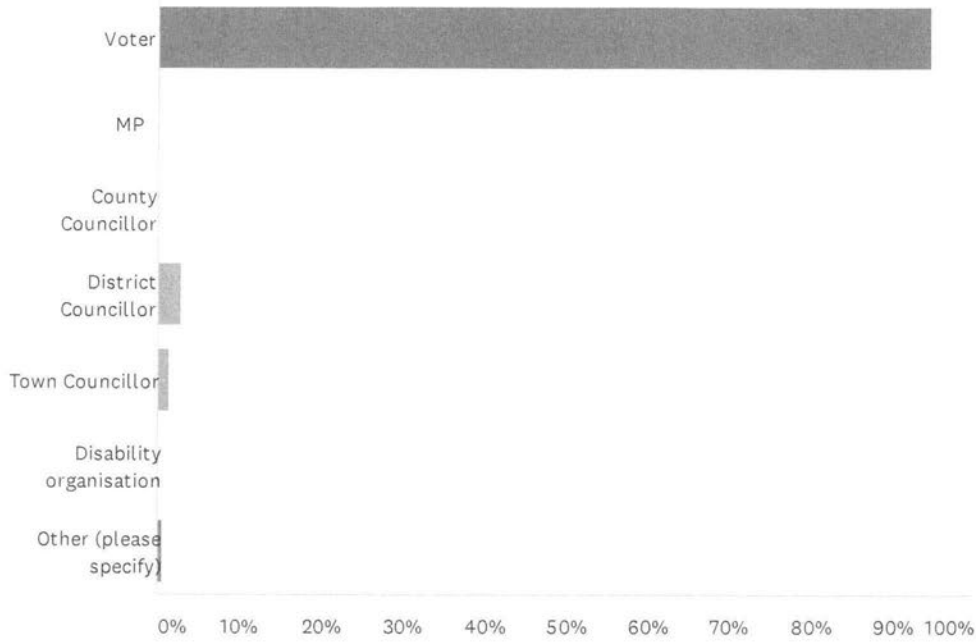
123	Joyce Hopkins	10/1/2020 4:45 PM
124	David J Haywood	10/1/2020 3:58 PM
125	Susie Griffiths	10/1/2020 3:42 PM
126	Robert Malbon	10/1/2020 3:40 PM
127	Nigel Knowles	10/1/2020 3:17 PM
128	Sarah Saunders	10/1/2020 3:10 PM
129	Paul Reid	10/1/2020 2:58 PM
130	Conan Norton	10/1/2020 2:53 PM
131	Sarah	10/1/2020 2:40 PM
132	G Gray	10/1/2020 2:36 PM
133	CLlr Leigh Whitehouse	10/1/2020 2:34 PM
134	Tracey	10/1/2020 2:25 PM
135	Tracey Onslow	10/1/2020 11:04 AM
136	Charlotte Bloor	9/30/2020 1:42 PM
137	Emma Harris	9/30/2020 1:14 PM
138	Middleton	9/30/2020 1:03 PM

Q2 Postcode

Answered: 138 Skipped: 0

Q3 Please identify the capacity in which you are responding?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 0

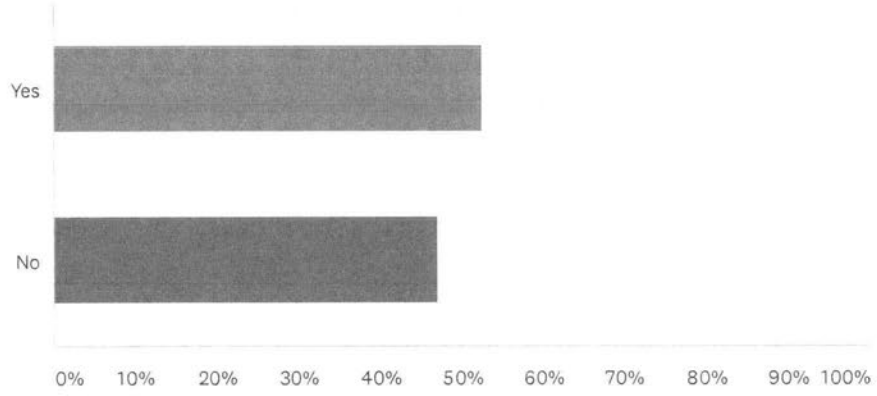


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Voter	94.93%	131
MP	0.00%	0
County Councillor	0.00%	0
District Councillor	2.90%	4
Town Councillor	1.45%	2
Disability organisation	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.72%	1
TOTAL		138

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	voting station	10/4/2020 10:28 PM

Q4 Do you agree with the proposals of the alteration of the polling districts and polling places?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	52.71%	68
No	47.29%	61
TOTAL		129

Q5 Comment box

Answered: 97 Skipped: 41

Habberley polling place review

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	This appears to be very reasonable until one looks at the map of polling stations and polling districts. It certainly works for Habberley, and there's a demand from electors in that area to be able to vote locally and conveniently. But voters in BHS 5 in the Habberley St and Mill Ln areas will have more distance to travel. They would be better off voting at the Carolians. BHS 4 voting at Carolians makes no sense at all. There's a polling station at St Georges right next to the town centre, so use it. In conclusion, polling stations should be convenient for electors in order to support the democratic process.	11/3/2020 1:51 PM
2	Polling needs to be accessible by Bus.	11/2/2020 7:15 PM
3	The changes should only be permitted where there is statistical data that supports there has been no significant change in the demographics that could be affected by the change. No evidence has been provided to support the change in this manner.	11/2/2020 5:27 PM
4	The Gainsbourg polling station is to far and have always hated going there as not enough disabled parking, to far too walk and dangerous as hubby in wheelchair, I would prefer the polling station on Habberley estate at the social club people know where it is and its easily accessible for disabled and elderly people	10/31/2020 11:07 AM
5	In the 2015 & 2017, some residents of Habberley complained of disenfranchisement and in other neighbourhoods of unacceptable queues. In the interests of democracy & fairness, a polling station needs to be re-reestablished at Habberley.	10/27/2020 7:58 PM
6	I feel that the Gainsborough Hotel is a good place to allow a large number of residents to vote. It is accessible for all and the hotel can meet the needs of all voters including wheelchair users and easily meets the current distancing regulations etc...	10/27/2020 4:18 PM
7	Happy to vote on Habberley, though parking could be extremely difficult especially at peak times	10/26/2020 2:09 PM
8	Concern about parking. Roads around the social club are narrow & parking limited.	10/26/2020 1:06 PM
9	I prefer to go to the Rugby Ground. never been to or know where the Social Club is.	10/24/2020 11:21 AM
10	Agree with the new Polling District but do not agree with the Polling Station being moved from the Gainsborough House Hotel. I would be very concerned and strongly object if the realignment of polling districts was an advance move to allow more planning and house building on adjacent land,	10/22/2020 10:06 PM
11	Don't know why they changed it in the first place conservative government once again	10/21/2020 5:31 PM
12	Makes sense to have a polling station in the estate you live on, especially for those without transport	10/21/2020 4:25 PM
13	This would be the second time of change, will probably affect peoples voting behaviour. Your website address for this survey should be at the top of the page not bottom	10/21/2020 3:51 PM
14	Within walking distance.	10/21/2020 11:39 AM
15	At present we drive to the rugby club. We would walk to the social club the new venue. Much better.	10/21/2020 8:57 AM
16	I am happy with the Gainsborough continuing S the polling station for my ward	10/20/2020 11:09 AM
17	Bring back our polling station!! There are many people on this estate who struggle to get far and we have already had sp much taken away from us! The bus service, the post office, the post box, the church, the pub, now the polling station!!	10/20/2020 6:50 AM
18	Habberley voters have been short changed for too long...really needed	10/20/2020 12:32 AM
19	I would still want to vote at the Gainsborough House Hotel	10/19/2020 7:56 PM
20	The polling station at the Gainsborough Hotel should be retained, because the parking is far superior to that at the proposed polling station at the Habberley Social Club. An additional polling station at the Habberley Club might work if the Gainsborough was retained as there would less traffic using the club venue.	10/18/2020 1:24 PM
21	Habberley seems a good alternative to Gainsborough. More accessible to non car drivers on Habberley estate.	10/17/2020 6:19 PM
22	It will give greater access for people to vote	10/16/2020 5:39 PM
23	More venues should be open instead.	10/16/2020 2:31 PM

Habberley polling place review

24	Its hard enough getting to the Gainsborough. This will just make it harder for some to vote	10/16/2020 12:55 PM
25	The Gainsborough is situated in an ideal location for people to walk to. I object to it moving elsewhere as this will increase traffic congestion.	10/16/2020 11:20 AM
26	I do not think the Gainsborough polling station should be closed. It is ideally situated for people to walk to whereas making people vote elsewhere will increase traffic and congestion.	10/16/2020 11:16 AM
27	It is too far to get to Gainsborough Hotel at present for the elderly or disabled A town Centre polling station is needed .	10/16/2020 5:45 AM
28	Keep voting at The Gainsborough Hotel where there are adequate parking facilities and a pleasant atmosphere	10/15/2020 6:34 PM
29	We are able to vote around the corner at Franche Community Church, to which the local elderly and vulnerable are able to attend easily enough. It also helps support the local community hall.	10/15/2020 2:42 PM
30	Retain the Gainsborough Hotel - better access and parking. Habberley site is poor for both	10/14/2020 12:12 PM
31	No change in location from The Gainsborough House	10/11/2020 11:08 PM
32	Parking at Habberley Social Club will be very congested. Polling Station should remain at The Gainsborough for easy access by road and good parking	10/11/2020 8:52 PM
33	This an unnecessary change and will effect many constituents ability to cast their democratic vote	10/11/2020 10:30 AM
34	Parking is better at the rugby club. Always lots of broken glass around by the social club. Overgrown and does not feel safe.	10/10/2020 6:36 PM
35	Moving voting to Habberley is a 30 minute walk from my postcode. Being at Gainsborough is not great either. The rugby club or in town would be much better	10/9/2020 6:17 PM
36	My only concern is that I won't have to walk too far to get to a polling station, as I don't have a car. I would be fine about my polling station being changed to the Rugby Club, which is in fact nearer to me than the Gainsborough Hotel--my existing polling station. However, it would cause me problems if my polling station was changed to Habberley Social Club, as this would be a very long distance for me to walk.	10/9/2020 5:29 PM
37	Habberley Club is a much better (and safer to get to!) Option for us on Habberley estate	10/8/2020 4:03 PM
38	We wish to continue to vote at The Gainsborough House Hotel Kidderminster	10/8/2020 3:14 PM
39	Location, access and parking are much better at The Gainsborough House Hotel than at Habberley Social Club. Habberley Social Club has a rough surface car park with no marked parking bays. It is difficult to find and access is poor via a single track driveway. It is located in the depths of housing estate, off a road where residents park which would result in congestion on polling days. It is also located at the far edge of the ward, rather than being central.	10/7/2020 6:39 PM
40	We can walk to the Gainsborough Hotel. We would have to drive to Habberly South polling station. I am not happy about this change.	10/7/2020 4:41 PM
41	I think the polling station should remain at the Gainsbouough House. I believe to club on Habberley Estate is unsuitable due to access & parking issues	10/7/2020 4:21 PM
42	stay at gainsborough hotel	10/7/2020 3:58 PM
43	The Gainsborough polling station is within walking distance for myself and my neighbour's. It is central and conveniently located for the majority of the residents living in blakebrook/habberley area, moving the polling station would discourage a lot of voters.	10/7/2020 2:49 PM
44	I think the Gainsborough Hotel is still the best venue.	10/7/2020 11:34 AM
45	i am disabled with limited mobility and the ggainsborough is ideal with disabled parking close to the main entrance and level access any concerned professional body should be able to agree thi sassessment	10/6/2020 11:18 PM
46	Keeping the Gainsborough Hotel Also having an extra station on the estate	10/6/2020 8:30 PM
47	As we have a large number of old and retired people on the estate a local poll station would be very beneficial.	10/6/2020 5:59 PM
48	Prefer Polling station kept at Gainsborough House Hotel.	10/6/2020 4:25 PM

Haberley polling place review

49	I would like polling station to remain at the Gainsborough. I don't drive so getting anywhere else would be very difficult. I don't want to use a postal vote in case I want to change my mind of who i vote for	10/6/2020 12:41 PM
50	The Gainsborough Polling Station should remain in place. The results of the previous consultation also clearly showed the majority of votes cast had requested the Gainsborough Polling Station should remain in place. There is therefore no justification in introducing this inconvenience on residents who have used the Gainsborough polling station for many many years	10/6/2020 8:02 AM
51	Should never have removed a polling station from Haberley estate	10/6/2020 7:31 AM
52	Keep Gainsborough Hotel	10/6/2020 12:01 AM
53	I did vote at The Gainsborough but happy to go and vote at one of the new proposed venues which will be the same distance if not closer to my house.	10/5/2020 7:21 PM
54	I don't think HETA club is sufficiently accessible to act as a polling station. Unlike the Gainsborough Hotel, which has a 2-way driveway and a large car park, the Haberley Club is down a narrow private road where cars cannot pass one another. Using the club as a polling station would also significantly increase traffic through Haberley estate where children often play in the roads, particularly before and after school (when adults will likely be looking to vote).	10/5/2020 6:56 PM
55	Polling station should be in Franche	10/5/2020 5:13 PM
56	Why remove the Gainsborough. Surely the original survey failed to be promoted resulting in just 10 ! respondents. This in no way can be considered as representative. By All means add another venue if it is deemed suitable for the volumes expected but the Gainsborough has worked well for a few years now.	10/5/2020 5:00 PM
57	please retain Gainsborough Polling Station and create an additional one on Haberley Estate. Dint recall being asked to comment on the original survey.	10/5/2020 4:36 PM
58	However, access would deter as there is not adequate room for cars to pass, turn, and park in this area. Thus causing a disadvantage for disabled drivers.	10/5/2020 2:09 PM
59	I'm perfectly happy voting at the Gainsborough, plenty of car parking for if weather is bad. Easily accessible.	10/5/2020 1:16 PM
60	Whilst I understand that access to a "Polling Station" for the residents of Haberley Estate and Manor Avenue is very poor, moving the polling station from the "Gainsborough Hotel" to to the "Social Club" and the "Rugby Club" would equally disadvantage residents that live off "Bewdley Hill" and "Blakebrook." The "Social Club" is nearer to where I live, on foot, but by car the access is problematic. A lot of the elderly residents in the ward rely on cars to travel even very short distances and would find access to Haberley Estate inconvenient. I would prefer that an additional "Polling Station" be established at a convenient location on "Haberley Estate" for the residents of that area only.	10/5/2020 12:14 PM
61	all of haberley should be allowed to vote back nearer to us marpool is to far franche is closer but haberley should have a polling station for ALL residents I personal have a hip problem and have to walk as dont drive I prefer to physical but my slip in a box and do not like the idea of a postal vote if we could go to franche or gainsborough that would be better but we have to go to marpool	10/5/2020 10:53 AM
62	To have two stations will increase cost and no evidence has been given that people on the estate would vote if they didn't have to go to the hotel. A station on the estate will be in walking distance for some, equally the hotel is in walking distance of what I guess would be a similar sized population. As you acknowledge the social club is not ideal in term of access, parking and scouts that meet there. Given that only 10 people responded to the initial consultation, doesn't that tell you that people don't find this an issue and you are flogging a dead horse? I trust this is being paid for with Tory funds and not by council tax payers! If you'd like to do something useful, how about getting the section of pavement resurfaced in St. John's Avenue [REDACTED] which was looked at 20 years ago but has never been repaired, despite further moans, and is a mess. Thank you	10/5/2020 10:06 AM
63	Will make life so much easier voting in the area that we reside.	10/5/2020 7:31 AM
64	So much easier to go to Haberley Social Club, where we can walk to rather than use the car to go to the Gainsborough Hotel	10/4/2020 8:59 PM
65	I'd prefer to vote at the rugby club	10/4/2020 7:24 PM
66	[REDACTED] - Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Club is convenient for me and	10/4/2020 7:06 PM

my wife to cast our vote. Why change when it is fine where it is and it is well used.

67	Needs to be closer	10/4/2020 6:39 PM
68	Keep the polling station at the Gainsborough house	10/3/2020 9:06 PM
69	Since the polling station being removed from Habberley Estate I get many calls from elderly friends who do not drive for a lift to Gainsborough hotel or the Rugby club. They all say it is a shame as a stroll to Habberley Club would be part of their daily exercise but the other venues are too far to walk and in the case of the Gainsborough a very busy road to cross.	10/3/2020 6:49 PM
70	No concerns about this.	10/3/2020 4:33 PM
71	Voting at Kidderminster Carolians is convenient and easy to get to. I never miss voting	10/2/2020 10:40 PM
72	we should have a polling station back on Habberley Estate, trying to vote at the Gainsborough (a major trading business in the area) is a nightmare.	10/2/2020 5:42 PM
73	We need a polling station on Habberley. So many disabled people need access.	10/2/2020 5:24 PM
74	I am disabled 88 years old and cannot walk to the Gainsborough Hotel. Also there is no bus service at all for the whole habberley estate which has stopped me from doing so many things so voting g for me at that hotel is a no go	10/2/2020 5:11 PM
75	Make voting easier if in local walking distance	10/2/2020 4:42 PM
76	A lot closer too home too vote as it's in walking distance	10/2/2020 4:41 PM
77	The polling station should definitely be on the Habberley Estate, it should never of left it should of always been at the Habberley club.	10/2/2020 3:43 PM
78	Much better for it to return to Habberley especially for older and people with no transport	10/2/2020 3:03 PM
79	It would make more sense for FHN-3 to have a second polling station created in Habberley Club. And FHN-4 to vote at the Rugby Club giving most people the ability to walk to the polling station, therefore reducing the carbon foot print. Not everybody has a car and a lot of people do not want to use a postal vote, and as Habberley does not have a regular bus service how are people supposed to vote. And most of the people in the Marpool Area would drive past the polling station at The Rugby Club to go and vote.	10/2/2020 10:40 AM
80	The Gainsborough is more central to the ward surely?	10/2/2020 9:57 AM
81	Expecting a person to travel twice as far to a polling station forces them to have access to their own transport. When previous access could be made on foot.	10/1/2020 9:58 PM
82	Parking is important, public bus route and good access	10/1/2020 9:18 PM
83	I guess there are good reasons for the proposals and I do not want to stand in the way, so I'm OK with them even though I live very close to a closing polling station	10/1/2020 7:20 PM
84	Parking a real problem at gainsbrough Hotel and most of car park on steep slope	10/1/2020 7:11 PM
85	There fine	10/1/2020 6:46 PM
86	I prefer to vote locally rather than use a postal vote.	10/1/2020 6:19 PM
87	The Gainsborough Hotel is a great distance to travel for anyone who does not drive, especially as we have no bus service now on Habberley. Also there is a considerable amount of elderly people living on Habberley Estate who have mobility issues so a nearwr polling station is an excellent idea.	10/1/2020 4:47 PM
88	Typically I walk to the polling station to vote, as I also do whenever possible for health and environmental reasons. If the location of the Habberley venue is where I believe it to be, this would be further than I can comfortably walk and would have to use a car. Possibly I have misunderstood something, but I would have thought that any changes to arrangements would need to have the effect of reducing voter vehicle use.	10/1/2020 3:45 PM
89	For too long it has been too difficult for a lot of voters in..if they are elderly or have a disability , to vote locally.These proposals make it much more accessible to vote at The Habberley club	10/1/2020 3:43 PM
90	I do not agree as stated in your proposals to have all the roads/ voters identified on Marlpool Gardens going to Habberley Social Club when they could easily go to Kidderminster Carolians Club to Vote and visa versa all the roads/voters living on Habberley Estate could easily vote at the Social Club on Habberley.	10/1/2020 3:23 PM
91	yes	10/1/2020 3:11 PM

Habberley polling place review

92	Waste if miney scrap wyre forest and Kidderminster Bewdley and Stourport. Just have one council Worcestershire County Council.	10/1/2020 2:54 PM
93	It's near,no need to drive	10/1/2020 2:37 PM
94	I agree with the 'majority' of residents who completed the initial consultation, in that an additional polling station should be provided on Habberley Estate	10/1/2020 11:08 AM
95	I find the current location of Gainsborough Hotel easily accessible when walking.	9/30/2020 1:43 PM
96	Habberley Social club is quite out of the way. I believe you would deter voters popping in on their way home from work	9/30/2020 1:14 PM
97	About time too	9/30/2020 1:04 PM

APPENDIX D – EMAIL AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

From:
Sent: 05 November 2020 11:52
To: Mike Saunders
Cc:
Subject: External Email : Proposed Changes to your Voting Station

This email originated from outside of the organisation

STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?

THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.

Dear Mike,

I suggest the proposal should be re-visited as I do not see the necessity to introduce another polling station for the electors in the St Barnabas Division. Since alerting by letter all the residents who will be affected by this change I have had numerous people contact me who would prefer to cast their vote at the Rugby Club, Marlpool Lane, because of the sheer convenience of its access to the Polling Station as opposed to the myriad of narrow roads to the entrance of the Habberley Social Club. I urge a re-think on this issue for the sake of the voters at next years Worcestershire County Council Elections.

Yours sincerely

Anne Hingley

County Councillor St Barnabas Division

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Disclaimer

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Monitoring of Email

Worcestershire County Council may monitor traffic data and the content of email for lawful business purposes.

Mr David Lewis

12 OCT 2020

ageUK

9TH OCTOBER 2020

SIR,

REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT CONSULTATION ON
THE GAINSBOROUGH POLLING STATION.

A FEW DAYS AGO I RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION
FROM THE CONSERVATIVES ON THIS MATTER.
FIRST, MAY I SAY THIS IS NEWS TO ME
AND NO WONDER THAT ONLY 10 OUT OF 3150
ENABLE VOTERS RESPONDED! - PERHAPS
I AM NOT THE ONLY VOTER WHO WASN'T
NOTIFIED.

MAY I ADD MY VOICE TO THE DEBATE
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

I BELIEVE THE POLLING STATION
SHOULD REMAIN AT THE GAINSBOROUGH.
I HAVE SEVERE ARTHRITIS IN BOTH LEGS
AND GETTING DOWN THE HILL TO VOTE AT

THE GAINSBOROUGH IS A REAL PAIN.
TO HAVE TO VOTE AT THE HABBERLEY
SOCIAL CLUB OR SCOUT HUT WOULD
ENTAIL A JOURNEY AT LEAST THREE
TIMES AS LONG IN DISTANCE AND TIME!

MOVING THE POLLING STATION TO THE
HABBERLEY ESTATE MIGHT BENEFIT THE
RESIDENTS THERE, BUT WOULD DISADVANTAGE
VOTERS ON BEWLEY HILL AND BEYOND.

ALTHOUGH GIVING HABBERLEY IT'S OWN
POLLING STATION WOULD HELP US ALL, BUT
WOULD IT NOT INCUR EXTRA COST?
WHICH, PRESUMABLY, WOULD BE PASSED ON
TO THE TAX PAYING PUBLIC (OF WHICH I
AM ONE).

YOURS SINCERELY,

Dad Lewis

From:
Sent: 08 October 2020 16:30
To: Mike Saunders
Subject: External Email : Consultation - Gainsborough Polling Station

This email originated from outside of the organisation

STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?

THINK : Before you **CLICK** on any links or **OPEN** any attachments.

Diana Udall



I do not agree with the proposal to move the Gainsborough Polling Station to Habberley Social Club.

I think that the Gainsborough Polling Station should remain and that there should be an additional polling station to serve the Habberley Estate and surrounding area, and that the Social Club would be ideal. Polling stations should be situated at places which are easily accessible either on foot or by public transport and as such would encourage voters to come out and vote.

Diana Udall

From:
Sent: 07 October 2020 16:43
To: Wyre Forest Electoral
Subject: External Email : Consultation - Gainsborough Polling Station.

This email originated from outside of the organisation

STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?

THINK : Before you **CLICK** on any links or **OPEN** any attachments.

i) G J Bulmer

ii) [REDACTED]

iii) I DO NOT agree with the proposal to move the Gainsborough Polling Station to the social club on Habberley Estate.

iv) I OBJECT to asking residents their opinion and then ignoring the concensus of opinion. If the availability of the Gainsborough should change in the future, then all possible options, all possible sites should be consulted upon, not just one picked at random. Where is the democracy in that.

Allow local residents to decide for the benefit of the local residents.

Thank you.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From:
Sent: 01 October 2020 14:54
To: Mike Saunders
Cc:
Subject: External Email : Polling Stations

This email originated from outside of the organisation
STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?
THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.

Hi Mike,

Thank-you for your email regarding Review of Polling Stations in Franche & Habberley North. I have read the proposed changes and attempted to respond to your survey. However, when I tried to log on, the survey informed me it was closed!

I hope you will accept my comments here.

I cannot agree to your proposal to have the electors on Marlpool Gardens having to go to The Social Club on Habberley Estate to Vote and in turn the electors on Habberley Estate having to go to the Carolinans Club, Marlpool Lane, to Vote. What is the logic in this proposal? Surely, the idea is to make it easier for people to be able to vote by providing Polling Stations that are easily accessible.

Kind regards,
Nigel Knowles

Sent from my iPad

23 OCT 2020

E.J. Howse



I do not agree with the proposal to move Gainsborough Peelling Station. This facility is convenient to local residents and should remain at the Gainsborough.

E.J. Howse

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
9TH DECEMBER 2020

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
5TH NOVEMBER 2020

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Overview & Scrutiny agenda. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website. See the report on page 48 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56121_20201105_o_and_s_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
<p>Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2020-21</p> <p>Recommend to Council to:</p> <p>1.1 Approve Treasury Management Mid-year Review and updated Prudential Indicators and Ratios in the report.</p>	<p>Councillor M Hart</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
9TH DECEMBER 2020

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET
10TH NOVEMBER 2020

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website. See the report on page 27 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56166_20201110_cabinet_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Capital Portfolio Fund Temporary Arrangements for Acquisition Geography</p> <p>RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:</p> <p>1.1 That until further notice, only within district purchase proposals are considered for the balance of the Capital Portfolio Fund.</p> <p>1.2 That the Capital Strategy is temporarily amended to reflect 1.1 above.</p> <p>1.3 That for the duration of the period in 1.1 above, for acquisitions made through the Capital Portfolio Fund a threshold of a score of 200 will be used when assessing proposals against the scoring criterial matrix.</p>	<p>Councillor G Ballinger</p> <p>Councillor F Oborski</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
9TH DECEMBER 2020

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET
10TH NOVEMBER 2020

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

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http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56166_20201110_cabinet_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Response to Homeworking Consultation</p> <p>RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO:</p> <p>1.1 Note the responses which were submitted in response to the consultation process;</p> <p>1.2 Agree to proceed with a review of teams and the services they deliver with a view to enabling more individuals to operate on a hybrid model working at home and in the office where it is feasible for employees to do so; and to introduce such working from 1st April 2021 or when the Government advice is such that a return to working from the office is safe, in the event that this is later than 1st April 2021.</p>	<p>Councillor N Martin</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
9TH DECEMBER 2020**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET
10TH NOVEMBER 2020**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council’s website. See the report on page 67 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc56166_20201110_cabinet_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery Scheme</p> <p>RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT:</p> <p>There is an amendment to the Capital Programme to include expenditure of £300,000 to provide Green Homes Grants fully matched by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funding.</p>	<p>Councillor N Martin</p>