

ARO REPORT ON CURRENT POLLING PLACES WITHIN KETTERING BOROUGH/CONSTITUENCY

Ward	Polling Place	ARO Comments
All Saints	North Park Pavilion, Bath Road, Kettering NN16 9LW	This polling station was first used in 2013 as a replacement for Maplefields School which was no longer available as it had closed. The use of a mobile building on the Maplefields site was unsuccessful due to issues with access to the site when the building was delivered. A comparison in turnout levels between the new site and the old site shows a drop in expected levels in voter footfall and no rise in postal voting. The other site investigated in this area was the All Saints Church hall, but it was not considered particularly suitable due to size and conflicts with other regular Thursday bookings. Parking and access at the new site are good. It is a KBC owned premises.
	St Andrews Church Hall, Crown Street, Kettering, Northants	This is a long-standing polling place which has been used successfully for many years, with good parking on site and around the adjacent area. On polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
	Park Infant School, Park Avenue, Kettering, NN16 9RU	These premises have been used for many years for polling. The only issue is that complex access routes to the polling station require clear signage both on and off site. Parking is on adjacent streets and the access inside the building is good.
	Park Junior School, Wood Street, Kettering, Northants	These premises have been used for many years for polling. The only issue is that complex access routes to the polling station require clear signage both on and off site. Parking is on adjacent streets and the access inside the building is good.
	Carey Baptist Church Room, Nelson Street, Kettering, Northants	These premises have been used for a shorter time than nearby buildings in the same Ward. Care always needs to be taken in respect of signage to ensure voters go to the correct door as the building is on the corner of two streets. Parking is adequate as is access to the building, although many electors have quite a long walk to the premises.
Avondale Grange	The Space, Jean Road, Kettering, Northants	There has been confusion in the past regarding access to the building used for polling, as it is separate and adjacent to the neighbouring school. It is important to ensure that signage therefore is accurate. There is also poor lighting in surrounding streets. The physical access to this fairly modern building is good.
	Crescents Community Centre, Laburnum Crescent, Kettering, Northants, NN16 9PH	These premises have been used for many years for polling. Parking and access arrangements are good.

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Barton	Barton Seagrave Primary School, Belvoir Drive, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6QY	This building has been used for many years as a polling station, and has not been the subject to any issues apart from the provision of adequate signage on the long drive leading to the building. Parking and access arrangements are adequate.
	Barton Seagrave Community Centre, Castle Way, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6ST	These premises are fine for polling purposes and there is plenty of adjacent parking and the access to the building is good. However, there have been some complaints over the years relating to the locking of a gate on the site of the adjacent school which prevents voters from one of the nearby housing estates from obtaining easier access to the site. Despite many requests, the school refuses to open the gate on security grounds and it appears unlikely that this will happen in 2015 which given the anticipated increase in tur-out may be problematic again.
	Church House, St Botolphs Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6SR	These premises have been used for many years for polling. Parking and access arrangements are good. On polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
Brambleside	Brambleside Primary School, Cleveland Avenue, Kettering, Northants, NN16 9JG	This busy station has been the subject of a considerable amount of building works in recent years but they appear now to be complete, and it is hoped that full access arrangements are now available. The access to the building is expected to be good, and car parking is available in the school. As there are four busy stations at the premises, it is important to ensure that signage is clear and accurate, particularly in terms of which voters go to which polling station.
Burton Latimer	The Civic Centre, High Street, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants	This is a fairly new polling place and was utilised at the request of Burton Latimer Town Council. It has been relatively successful, although the premises are on the small size for the amount of electors that would go through them at a busy poll. It is important therefore to have effective signage. It will be necessary to re-structure the allocation of voters to each of the Burton Latimer polling stations from 2015 onwards to have a more sensible geographic allocation of voters to polling places now that the Eastlea St Mary Primary School is no longer used for these purposes. Access and parking are both good at these premises.

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	Burton Latimer Community Centre, Pioneer Avenue, Burton Latimer NN15 5LJ	These premises are new in terms of use for polling having been used from 2013 onwards. The access and the parking are good, but it is important to have effective signage as polling at these premises will be new to many voters in 2015 with the anticipated increased turnout. It will be necessary to re-structure the allocation of voters to each of the Burton Latimer polling stations from 2015 onwards to have a more sensible geographic allocation of voters to polling places now that the Eastlea St Mary Primary School is no longer used for these purposes.
Desborough Loatland	Desborough Leisure Centre, Ironwood Avenue, Desborough NN14 2JJ	These new premises were used as a polling station for the first time in 2014, which was mainly well received although a small number of complaints were made about the move from Loatlands Primary School. However, in the past there had been probably more complaints about the use of the school. Issues that arose in 2014 identified a long walk inside the premises to the polling stations. Access and parking are both good.
Desborough St Giles	St Giles Church Community Centre, Lower Street, Desborough, Kettering, Northants	This very busy station has to be set up in two rooms for it to be effective and to ensure that crowding doesn't become an issue. It is important that clear and effective signage is in place so that voters know which room to go to and then which polling station to go to. Access and parking are reasonable.
Ise Lodge	Ise Lodge Community Centre, St Vincents Avenue, Kettering, NN15 5DR	This is another busy station that benefits from good signage. Access and parking are good. On polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
	Millbrook Infant School, Churchill Way, Kettering, Northants, NN15 5BZ	This is another busy station that benefits from good signage, and the arrangements introduced for 2014 worked well. Access and parking are good when the school is not functioning on polling day. In 2014 the school requested that it be allowed to remain open on polling day, and a number of measures were put in place to enable this to happen. These were only partially successful. It is unlikely that this will be able to happen in 2015 due to the anticipated increased turnout, and the School have verbally acknowledged this. Finding an alternative venue that would be satisfactory in this part of the Ise Lodge Estate would be very difficult as the only other similar facility is another school that shares the same geographical location.

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Northfield	Melton Community Centre, Cross Street, Kettering, Northants	This is a long established polling place that is centrally situated in the area it serves and is a KBC owned premises. Access and parking are good although it is important that signage ensures voters go to the correct door as the building is on the corner of two streets. The lighting around the building is poor in areas.
Pipers Hill	Kettering Science Academy, Windmill Avenue, Kettering	Although there has been polling places on this site for many years, this is a newly-constructed building which now houses the polling station in the dance studio of the community area of the premises. As it is a modern building it has been constructed to deal with modern issues, and it is necessary to have an additional member of staff on site to open the electronic security doors as votes enter the station. The Academy has expressed concerns about damage to the dance floor and a cover has to be arranged to prevent this. The Academy generally remains open on polling day although physically this is not a problem. Access and parking are good.
	Tresham Institute, Windmill Avenue, Kettering, NN15 6ER	Since the re-development of this site, the polling station has been situated in many different rooms in the building, none of which have been particularly suitable. In 2014, it was re-located to the gym which whilst offering adequate space, parking and internal access, provided difficult external access due to a pavement that rose quite steeply. However, finding an alternative venue that would be satisfactory in this area would be very difficult.
	Corn Market Hall, London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA	Although this polling place is some way from where some of the voters live in the polling district it serves, it is really the only satisfactory building available, since St Edwards RC Church made their Church Hall unavailable. The only other building that has been used is Woodcroft Scout Centre at the opposite end of the polling district, but that suffers from an extraordinarily steep access. However, the Corn Market Hall does provide very good access and parking arrangements, but on polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
Queen Eleanor & Buccleuch	Cranford Village Hall, Grafton Road, Cranford, NN14 4JE	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate. At nights the lighting is poor.
	The Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington, Kettering, NN14 1AZ	The Village Hall is fairly modern extension to the old premises and offers good access and parking. There is poor mobile phone reception in the area.

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	The Village Hall, Grafton Underwood, Kettering, NN14 3AA	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate. At nights the lighting is poor.
	Little Oakley Village Hall, Main Street, Little Oakley, Corby, Northants, NN18 8HA	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate. A ramp is provided for elections each year by KBC.
	The Classroom at Newton Field Centre, Newton, Kettering, NN14 1BW	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is via a long unlit path but it is the only venue available in the village.
	The Village Hall, Warkton, Kettering, Northants	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate.
	The Village Hall, Weekley, Kettering, Northants	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate. At nights the lighting is poor.
Rothwell	Rothwell Methodist Church, Market Hill, Rothwell NN14 6BW	This is likely to revert to Rothwell Infants School again from May 2015 onwards. It is not considered that the Church Room is large enough to accommodate combined Parliamentary/Borough Council/Town Council elections. The Head teacher has indicated that he is happy for the school to be used from 2015 onwards. The School was unavailable due to re-development in 2014, so it will be necessary to inspect the premises again to record what the new arrangements will be.
	The Community Centre, Well Lane, Rothwell, NN14 6DQ	This is a KBC owned premises that has been used for polling for many years. Car parking and access are good although the lighting is not good in hours of darkness. At times the premises have been somewhat dingy.
Slade	Broughton Baptist Chapel Room, High Street, Broughton, Kettering, Northants	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Concerns have been noted in relation to disabled access and car parking is limited.
	The Village Hall, Loddington Road, Cransley, NN14 1PY	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Concerns have been noted in relation to disabled access as the existing ramp is not in good repair. There are also concerns in respect of lighting in hours of darkness and car parking is limited.
	The Village Hall, High Street, Harrington	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate but there are concerns relating to lighting in hours of darkness..
	The Village Hall, Main Street, Loddington, NN14 1LA	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate but the lighting is a matter of concern in hours of darkness..
	Mawsley Community Centre, c/o 9 The Green, Mawsley, Kettering, Northants, NN14 1GY	This is a good building for a polling place provided a room is allocated that is sufficiently big enough to deal with the anticipated turnout at whichever election is being held. Access and parking are both good, but on polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
	The Village Hall, Church Road, Pytchley, Kettering, NN14 1EL	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate.

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	The Village Hall, Church Way, Thorpe Malsor, Kettering, NN14 1JS	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate.
	St Michael's Church, Garfield Street, Kettering, Northants	There is some concern relating to the size and the access arrangements of this polling place, particularly in 2015 for the anticipated higher level of turnout. The signage used at the polling station needs to be reviewed to ensure that it is clear for electors. There is also concern about the lighting in hours of darkness. Parking is reasonable but is largely on street. The only other suitable building in this area is Hawthorn Road Primary School although this has not been used as a polling place for some years now, as part of the policy to move polling places away from schools where there were other satisfactory premises available.
	Greenfields Primary School, Highfield Road, Kettering, NN15 6HY	Although the access and parking for this polling place are usually very good, in 2014 building works were in place which caused some issues. It is anticipated that this will not be the case from 2015 onwards.
	Counties Community Centre, Hertford Road, Kettering, Northants	This is the traditional venue for polling in the polling district. Access and parking is adequate but outside the venue is poorly lit in hours of darkness..
St Peters	St Thomas More School, Northampton Road, Kettering, NN15 7JZ	This polling place has served the area well for many years although there are restricted parking facilities.
	Hall Meadow Primary School, Packer Road, Kettering, Northants	This is a modern building which provides good access and parking.
Welland	The Village Hall, Main Street, Ashley, Market Harborough, Leics	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access is adequate.
	The Village Hall, Church Lane, Dingley, Market Harborough, LE16 8PG	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village and also serves Brampton Ash. Access and parking is adequate, but the lighting is poor.
	The Village Hall, Griffin Road, Braybrooke, Market Harborough, LE16 8LH	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access and parking is adequate, but the lighting is poor.
	The Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Rushton	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access and parking is adequate.
	The Village Hall, Ashley Road, Stoke Albany, Leics, LE16 8PZ	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access and parking is adequate, but the lighting is poor.
	St Mary the Virgin Church, Weston by Welland, Market Harborough, Leics	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access and parking is adequate, but the lighting is poor.
	The Village Hall, Carlton Road, Wilbarston, Market Harborough, LE16 8QD	This is the traditional venue for polling in the village. Access and parking is good.

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William Knibb	St Marys CEVA Primary, Fuller Street, Kettering, NN16 0JH	Although these premises have been used successfully as a polling place for many years, there remains issues with access and there is restricted parking. However, it is difficult to identify premises in this area where similar problems would not exist given the nature of the demographics of the area.
	William Knibb Centre, Alfred Street entrance, Kettering, NN16 8AE	Although this is a premises that has been used for many years, there remain issues relating to ensuring that access is available from both the adjacent streets to the east and west of the premises, and also with limited car parking. The lighting is poor in hours of darkness, and additional lighting has been provided by KBC for some years now. There are also issues with arranging entry to the premises which is always difficult and a matter for concern. The premises itself is fine inside although on polling day, it is not unusual for the premises to have other activities taking place throughout the day in other adjacent rooms.
	United Reformed Church Rooms, St Peters Avenue entrance, Kettering, NN15 6DU	These premises have been used for polling for many years and are part of an old building that abuts directly on to the street. The room used as a polling station can be quite cramped if there is a rush of voters. The lighting is poor in hours of darkness as the street lights have been turned off close to the premises. Access is adequate as is car parking, although the London Road car park is in relatively close proximity.
	Parish Church Rooms, Market Place, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0AL	This polling place is ideally located and is served well by access and parking. The lighting around the area is very good.

