

Respondent	Response
<p>Alison Williams</p>	<p>I live on the Brambleside Estate and as such my son goes to Brambleside School. Once again I find we are in a situation where by my sons, and 350+ other children’s education is disrupted due to the school being a polling station.</p> <p>It is frustrating that if I choose to take my child out of school, I am classed as a bad parent and risk being fined, but then appears for it to be considered acceptable for him to be taken out of education to suit the needs of the government. One rule for them, one rule for us. The government’s argument if I take my child out of school is that this effects their education, on top of this closing the school for the day puts another additional pressure on working families, who already have to juggle around school holidays and training days. I work at a school, which is not a polling station, and therefore cannot easily take the day off. I’m guessing the council will not be covering the costs of additional childcare required by working parents that day.</p> <p>When I wrote to our MP, he did pass my comments onto the council. I even suggested using the shops / pub next to the school. The council argued for health and safety reasons these could not be considered, even suggesting that by using the pub the council could be seen to be encouraging people to drink. Clearly my son’s education was way down on their list of priorities.</p> <p>I know I should be grateful that the school is only closed on 23rd May as we do not have local elections, otherwise I suspect it would be closed today also. I understand that there is currently a consultation process in place where the council are reviewing polling stations. Please can I urge you to look at this with the council, and support education and working families. Perhaps if the school really does have to shut the council in consultation with the schools could look at incorporating a polling day with a training day so that we are not affected twice.</p> <p>I thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Harrington Parish Council</p>	<p>Harrington Parish Council met on Monday 13th May.</p> <p>It is felt that in Harrington the best place to have a polling station is the present one, Harrington Village Hall.</p>
<p>Desborough Town Council</p>	<p>My Council would like to suggest that consideration be given to using the Town Council’s offices in the Desborough Library Building as a Polling Place. There is a decent sized room with DDA compliant access, toilet, and kitchen facilities.</p>

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Research and Development Committee	The committee raised concerns regarding the locations of certain existing polling stations being hard to find and asked that consideration be given to the placement of additional directional signage on the highway. These comments were made especially in relation to Highfield Barnes Community Centre and Counties Community Centre.
A6 Towns Forum	Members queried the possible use of temporary buildings as polling stations and polling station location directions on poll cards. The number of voters allocated to the Civic Centre was also queried as there had been an increase in the allocation of voters to this polling place as a result of largescale housing development in the vicinity. Positive feedback was received in relation to the use of Barton Seagrave Village Hall as a polling station for the European Elections held on 23rd May 2019.
Kettering Town Forum	It was suggested that the Mikado Pheasant public house be considered as a polling station to replace Highfield Barnes Community Centre. A new community centre was being developed at the former Maplefield School site and it was requested that once completed the building be considered as a polling place for future elections. A polling station had previously been located at Maplefield School prior to its closure some years ago.
Rural Forum	Cransley Village Hall had applied for funding from the Council's community fund. A discussion also took place around the use of schools as polling stations.