**APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

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| Responder | Area: | Comment: |
| Individual | Berry Hill | Please remove Berry Hill School as a polling venue. My daughter was forced to miss 2 days of her vital early education in the space of a month this year. There are more than enough churches in our ward which can be used instead. Please end this archaic practise and stop penalising our children by closing their schools. If a parent takes their child out of school we’re issued a fine (rightly), why do you think it’s acceptable for you to force them to miss a day? I know many parents share this view, PLEASE listen. We already have a church in place for polling less than a mile from school, I think that’s sufficient. Anyone who would struggle to get there could apply for a postal vote. |
| Chairman Ashfield and Mansfield Conservatives | Berry Hill | Thank you for the consultation information, which we have considered carefully. We note that the location of the Polling Station for BHC is not within the boundaries of that Polling District. In addition, Polling Station for BHC is some distance from the electorate and that there is no direct road or route between the two locations. Presumably, over time, there is an expectation for BHC to be populated further, but in the meantime these residents will find the Polling Station location inconvenient and it may well discourage some residents from voting. |
| Individual | Berry Hill | I’m amazed to see schools as polling stations. Why disrupt education when there’s churches and other community buildings that could be polling stations – every community should have a community building that isn’t a school. Eg. Berry Hill ward could hopefully use one of the buildings on Berry Hill Park, which will hopefully be reinvigorated as Corporate Trusteeship is processed, instead of needing to close Berry Hill School for polling. Surely in these days of portacabins something temporary could be used if needed? |
| Individual | Eakring | I know this won’t get anywhere, but I live on Vale Close NG18 4HR. Berry Hill School was my polling station for at least 40 years. Then the boundaries changed now I have to get across the very busy Southwell Road all the way to half way down Big Barn Lane which means I use my car because its easier to go out of Jenny Beckett Lane onto Berry Hill Lane and turn back down Southwell Road than it is to get across. Most people on my close are older. Is there any way that people who live this side of Southwell Road could have their polling station back at the school please. It is the closest to where we live, but still for the ward we are in. I know some stations have more than one ward in them. Not only is the new ward irrelevant to us but now we have to go further than our nearest polling station to vote. Thank you. |
| Individual | Grange Farm/Ladybrook | Please can you stop using my children’s school as a polling station as this disrupts their education as if I kept them at home I would get into trouble but it is ok for you to close their school whenever voting takes place. Also could it make possible to vote at our nearest polling stations as my voting station is further away from my house than my nearest one. My polling station is Ladybrook Community Hall which is a 20 minute walk from my house. |
| Individual | Lindhurst | Brighter lighting in the community centre where vote wouldn’t go a miss. Larger ballot paper need to be available for partially sighted people. Perhaps a voting booth wider than usual to enable two people to go in so the sighted person can read and show the partially sighted person what is where on the paper and enable then to cast their vote in confidence (obviously leaving them in private once they know where things are on the ballot paper to give them their privacy). Thus us wrote from personal experience with my husband at last voting. |
| Individual | Ling Forest | I have been made aware of the polling place review on the Mansfield DC website. I would like to request that St Patrick’s School is not used for Ling Forest. Every time there’s an election of some kind it results in a major inconvenience (and often expense) for the parents of the children who attend the school, many of whom do not live in this ward due to the large catchment area that Catholic Schools tend to cover. Every day that the school is closed for polling is also a day that students need to try and catch up, in their usual, scheduled class time. I don’t know whether it’s necessary that every polling station is within the ward or not, so it’s difficult to suggest an alternative. I would imagine that the Oak Tree leisure centre would be far more appropriate. Or if it’s necessary to use a school, that it alternates with the other primary schools in the area; Wynndale Primary, so that it isn’t just St Patrick’s families that are affected. |
| Councillor for Holly Ward, County Councillor for East Mansfield | Maun Valley | I have a comment to make re Maun Valley Ward. At a time when we are trying to encourage to residents to engage and take part in registering their choices at the ballot box I feel we could be doing more to help some of the residents of Maun Valley Ward. MVB polling district takes in the Barringer Road estate without anyone having far to travel or walk. The MVA polling district conveniently takes in the Heatherley, Ridings and Sandlands estates plus, inconveniently part of Old Mill Lane, Laurel Avenue, George Street, Flint Avenue, Dorothy Drive, Wheatley Close, Victory Drive, Victory Close and Atlee Avenue areas.  The Vast majority of the residents on the afore mentioned streets etc are elderly and find it difficult or are unwilling to travel or walk all the way to the polling station at Heatherley Primary School, which in itself isn’t the easiest place for elderly to access. My suggestion is to make a small third polling district ‘MVC’ within Maun Valley ward and use Forest Town Methodist Church as their Polling Station for those named streets, it would be much more convenient, flat and with no major roads to cross much more accessible and safe. |
| Councillor for Maun Valley Ward) | Maun Valley | Just a quick comment about the polling area of the Maun Valley Ward. It is quite an expansive ward and I believe it would help if Trinity Road Methodist Church, Clipstone Road, could be used as a polling station. The reason for this is that I believe it would help people especially yhe elderly on the Laurel Avenue estate, at the moment they have to go down to Heatherley primary school. Would it be feasible? It could be shared by Holly Ward. Just a few of my views and thoughts. Thank you. |
| Individual | Meden Ward | Meden Ward and Warsop Town Hall. If you have limited mobility it is difficult to park close enough to access the building. The access into the building is difficult and not wheelchair accessible. The booths are also too high and narrow to be wheelchair accessible. It is a great location though. |
| Individual | Netherfield/Warsop Carrs | Having Church Warsop school as a polling station is bad. My child has to miss a days education, you have said I can’t not take my child out of school and even threatened to fine me if they’re off school. But you can just shut it down for polling when a church with a hall s close, a pub with a function room is close too. |
| Head Teacher, John T. Rice Infant and nursery school | Newlands | I recently received a notification that my school John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School has been identified as a potential polling station. Whilst I recognise polling stations are needed, I wanted to put forward a few reasons as to why our school may not be ideal.  The school was a polling station for many years and the previous Head teacher requested for the Sure Start building next door to actually take this role over in recent years. It is my understanding that this will not be able to happen after March 2020 but am not totally sure why?  If our school was a polling station the children would not be able to attend on polling days as the school hall is needed for lunchtimes and there is no way securing the building and ensuring the children are safe. Parents would need to find additional child care and this may cause additional expense for families already on tight budgets.  Our school site manager finishes work at 6pm so we would have to request payment to cover his additional hours for polling days as it is my understanding that polling stations stay open until 10pm. As mentioned above I totally understand the community needs as convenient place to vote but wonder if there is a different venue that would have less disruption for the children and parents of the immediate community. Thank you for taking the time to read my view and I would appreciate it is someone could get back to me about the Sure Start buildings suitability. |
| Individual | Oak Tree | Having looked at the map for Oak Tree I will make the same observation that I have done in the past when I had the privilege of being a Ward Councillor and then as a Governor of Oak Tree Primary School. If possible Polling Stations should, wherever possible, not be within a school campus. Therefore I think that an enhanced polling station at the Leisure Centre would deliver at this time. There is after all only one polling station in the Eakring Ward for example and perhaps this might lead to a reduction of costs to the electorate. |
| Individual | Ransom Wood | By using Heathlands School on polling day this causes the school to be closed with child care problems for working parents. Why cannot the Methodist Church be used. It is more central. |
| Head of School at Heathlands Primary School | Ransom Wood | Thank you for your letter regarding the review of polling places.  I am the Head of School at Heathlands Primary School, and I have discussed this matter with our Executive Head, Shaun Walker and also with governors.  We are all unhappy about having to close the school for polling.  If possible, we would want an alternative venue to be used.  If this is not possible and Heathlands is needed as a polling station, then we would propose that instead of closing the school and using the hall, we use our multipurpose room instead. This room can be locked separately from the rest of school, so school staff and pupils and the members of the public would be safe and in two separate areas. This multipurpose room can also be accessed without using the main school entrance and without accessing the playground. The room has its own toilets and kitchen facilities.  It is a smaller area than the hall, but we believe it would still give ample space.  You are welcome to come to see the room we are proposing if this would help in your decision . |
| Individual | - | I’d like to see an online option introduced ASAP. We do the majority of shopping and banking online these days so why not voting? If it’s acceptable to do your tax return via the internet why not political voting? Come on, this is 2019. |
| Individual | - | I don’t think these should take place in a school unless on a teacher training day. |
| County Councillor for North Mansfield | North Mansfield | After studying the polling arrangements for each of the wards in the North Mansfield division, I am happy that all the current locations are suitable. A long as the electors are content with the arrangements there should be no need to change them. |
| Oakham Suite Manager | Oakham | We are happy for you to continue to use the Oakham Suite as the polling station. |