

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED

Consultation responses received as part of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review

ELECTORAL WARD BAGLAN

Comment Record PDR-NPT-1
Electoral Ward: Baglan
Polling District(s): AB3 – Blaenbaglan
Current Polling Station(s): Blaenbaglan Primary School
Respondee: Local Resident
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The local resident felt that it was not appropriate to use school premises as polling stations due to the impact on children and parents. The local resident proposed that Baglan Boys and Girls Club or Baglan Community Centre as potential alternative venue locations.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>Wherever possible the Returning Officer looks to avoid utilising education premises as polling stations in order to limit disruption to children and families but this is not always viable due to achieve.</p> <p>However, the suggested alternative polling station locations, while practical fall outside the relevant polling district location and as such the use of the school remains the only practicable option as a site location that is located within the polling district area.</p> <p>It is also important to note that the Returning Officer always notifies all relevant schools of the dates of all scheduled polls at least 12 months in advance and head teachers are strongly encouraged to ensure that inset training dates are scheduled to coincide with polling days to minimise disruption to parents and pupils alike.</p>

ELECTORAL WARD: BRITON FERRY WEST

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-2
Electoral Ward: Briton Ferry West
Polling District(s): AD1 – Hengwrt and AD2 – Brynhyfryd
Current Polling Station(s): Hengwrt Community Sports Centre
Respondee: Local Resident
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The respondent felt that the location of the current polling station was not familiar to the electorate. The respondent also felt that there was insufficient parking on site.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>The Returning Officer is supportive of the current polling arrangement. There are currently no practical alternative venues which can be utilised within the town council community ward of Brynhyfryd. However, this will be kept under review and other venues considered as and when they become available.</p>

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-3
Electoral Ward: Briton Ferry West
Polling District(s): AD1 – Hengwrt and AD2 – Brynhyfryd
Current Polling Station(s): Hengwrt Community Sports Centre
Respondee: Local Resident
Summary of Response: The resident felt that the location of the current polling station was not located centrally in relation to the electorate living in the community ward of Shelone Wood. The resident also felt that this presented difficulties for some electors due to lack of public transport. The resident proposed that the Vernon Place Community Hub be utilised instead.
Acting Returning Officer Comment: The Returning Officer supports the current arrangement. At present, the polling station located at Hengwrt Community Sports Centre serves electors within the Brynhyfryd community ward. The Vernon Community Hub and the Me, Myself and I facility (Brynhyfryd House) are utilised as polling stations to serve electors in the Shelone Wood community ward which are located in the community area.

ELECTORAL WARD: MARGAM AND TAI-BACH

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-4
Electoral Ward: Margam and Tai-bach
Polling District(s): AL9 – Goytre
Current Polling Station(s): Wesley Church Schoolroom
Respondee: Elected Member
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The respondent proposed that a polling station be located in Goytre due to the number of elderly residents living in the village and poor transport links to the Tai-bach area. The elected member stated that he had previously received representations from residents on the matter.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>At present it is not feasible for the Returning Officer to locate a polling station in Goytre due to the limited community facilities available in the village with safe walking routes for electors. Previously, following the closure of St. Peter’s Church a mobile unit had been placed directly onto Goytre Road. Continuing this arrangement is no longer viable due to traffic safety concerns with polling station staff being placed in a vulnerable position on a main road with limited traffic calming available and poor facilities.</p> <p>Furthermore, there are currently no suitable alternative sites to place a mobile polling station which would ensure suitable personal safety for electors and polling station staff alike.</p> <p>However, following a number of recommendations received during the consultation period the Returning Officer will look to trial relocating the polling venue from Wesley Church on Incline Row to the Operatic Society Headquarters (to the rear of Tai-bach Library).</p>

While this arrangement is still not ideal as it requires an element of travel for electors, it is easily located on a main public transport route with regular services for electors who do not have access to personal transport. This arrangement will be kept under review and the Returning Officer will continue to look for safe and secure venue options to utilise within Goytre.

Electors who do have difficulty in travelling to their local polling station continue to have the option to apply for a postal vote to allow them to vote in the comfort of their own homes or to look to appoint a friend or family member as a proxy voter to vote on their behalf if they so wish.

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-5
Electoral Ward: Margam and Tai-bach
Polling District(s): AL9 – Goytre
Current Polling Station(s): Wesley Church Schoolroom
Respondee: Local Resident
Summary of Response:
The respondent proposed that a mobile polling station be re-instated on the main road in Goytre. The respondent commented that electors found it difficult to vote in person due to the distance from Goytre to the current polling station in Wesley Church in Tai-bach.
Acting Returning Officer Comment:
At present it is not feasible for the Returning Officer to locate a polling station in Goytre due to the limited community facilities available in the village with safe walking routes for electors. Previously, following the closure of St. Peter's

Church a mobile unit had been placed directly onto Goytre Road. Continuing this arrangement is no longer viable due to traffic safety concerns with polling station staff being placed in a vulnerable position on a main road with limited traffic calming available and poor facilities.

Furthermore, there are currently no suitable alternative sites to place a mobile polling station which would ensure suitable personal safety for electors and polling station staff alike.

However, following a number of recommendations received during the consultation period the Returning Officer will look to trial relocating the polling venue from Wesley Church on Incline Row to the Operatic Society Headquarters (to the rear of Tai-bach Library).

While this arrangement is still not ideal as it requires an element of travel for electors, it is easily located on a main public transport route with regular services for electors who do not have access to personal transport. This arrangement will be kept under review and the Returning Officer will continue to look for safe and secure venue options to utilise within Goytre.

Electors who do have difficulty in travelling to their local polling station continue to have the option to apply for a postal vote to allow them to vote in the comfort of their own homes or to look to appoint a friend or family member as a proxy voter to vote on their behalf if they so wish.

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-6
Electoral Ward: Margam and Tai-bach
Polling District(s): AL9 – Goytre
Current Polling Station(s): Wesley Church Schoolroom
Respondee: Elected Member
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The respondent commented that the residents of Goytre Village encountered a barrier when voting in person due to the distance between the current polling station and the community. It was proposed that the mobile polling station be returned to the village.</p> <p>In addition, the respondent suggested that if it was not possible to re-instate a polling station in the village that electors potentially be relocated to the Operatic Society Headquarters to the rear of Tai-bach Library instead of Wesley Church, due to its close proximity to public transport links and parking provision.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>At present it is not feasible for the Returning Officer to locate a polling station in Goytre due to the limited community facilities available in the village with safe walking routes for electors. Previously, following the closure of St. Peter's Church a mobile unit had been placed directly onto Goytre Road. Continuing this arrangement is no longer viable due to traffic safety concerns with polling station staff being placed in a vulnerable position on a main road with limited traffic calming available and poor facilities.</p> <p>Furthermore, there are currently no suitable alternative sites to place a mobile polling station which would ensure suitable personal safety for electors and polling station staff alike.</p>

However, following a number of recommendations received during the consultation period the Returning Officer will look to trial relocating the polling venue from Wesley Church on Incline Row to the Operatic Society Headquarters (to the rear of Tai-bach Library).

While this arrangement is still not ideal as it requires an element of travel for electors, it is easily located on a main public transport route with regular services for electors who do not have access to personal transport. This arrangement will be kept under review and the Returning Officer will continue to look for safe and secure venue options to utilise within Goytre.

Electors who do have difficulty in travelling to their local polling station continue to have the option to apply for a postal vote to allow them to vote in the comfort of their own homes or to look to appoint a friend or family member as a proxy voter to vote on their behalf if they so wish.

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-7
Electoral Ward: Margam and Tai-bach
Polling District(s): AL9 – Goytre
Current Polling Station(s): Wesley Church Schoolroom
Respondee: Elected Member
Summary of Response:
The respondent commented on the distance that electors had to travel from Goytre to Wesley Church in Tai-bach in order to vote in person.
The respondent stated that they had received representations from residents who were keen for the mobile polling station to be re-instated in the village.

In addition, the respondent suggested that if it was not possible to re-instate a polling station in the village that electors potentially be relocated to the Operatic Society Headquarters to the rear of Tai-bach Library instead of Wesley Church, due to its close proximity to public transport links and parking provision.

Acting Returning Officer Comment:

At present it is not feasible for the Returning Officer to locate a polling station in Goytre due to the limited community facilities available in the village with safe walking routes for electors. Previously, following the closure of St. Peter's Church a mobile unit had been placed directly onto Goytre Road. Continuing this arrangement is no longer viable due to traffic safety concerns with polling station staff being placed in a vulnerable position on a main road with limited traffic calming available and poor facilities.

Furthermore, there are currently no suitable alternative sites to place a mobile polling station which would ensure suitable personal safety for electors and polling station staff alike.

However, following a number of recommendations received during the consultation period the Returning Officer will look to trial relocating the polling venue from Wesley Church on Incline Row to the Operatic Society Headquarters (to the rear of Tai-bach Library).

While this arrangement is still not ideal as it requires an element of travel for electors, it is easily located on a main public transport route with regular services for electors who do not have access to personal transport. This arrangement will be kept under review and the Returning Officer will continue to look for safe and secure venue options to utilise within Goytre.

Electors who do have difficulty in travelling to their local polling station continue to have the option to apply for a postal vote to allow them to vote in the comfort of their own homes or to look to appoint a friend or family member as a proxy voter to vote on their behalf if they so wish.

ELECTORAL WARD: NEATH SOUTH

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-8
Electoral Ward: Neath South
Polling District(s): NQ1 – Gnoll, NQ2 – Westernmoor, and NQ3 – Hillside
Current Polling Station(s): Clive Roberts Hall (Cimla Scout Hall) and St. Joseph's R.C Church Hall
Respondee: Elected Member
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The respondent suggested utilising the Workingmen’s Hall next to Cimla Common as a potential alternative to the existing polling stations in the electoral ward of Neath South, currently the Clive Roberts Hall (Cimla Scout Hall) and St. Joseph's R.C Church Hall.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>The Returning Officer is supportive of the current polling arrangements and no immediate alteration is deemed necessary, however the alternative venue location has been recorded and will be evaluated as a potential reserve facility in the event the current venues become unavailable.</p>

ELECTORAL WARD: SANDFIELDS EAST

Comment Record: PDR-NPT-9
Electoral Ward: Sandfields East
Polling District(s): AN2 – Sandfields (Darwin)
Current Polling Station(s): Aberavon Green Stars RFC
Respondee: Local Resident
<p>Summary of Response:</p> <p>The respondent suggested utilising the 11th Port Talbot (Little Warren) Scout Hall as an alternative to the current polling station situated in the Aberavon Green Stars RFC. The respondent stated that the Scout Hall was previously utilised as a polling station until the roof was damaged during a storm. The respondent stated that the roof had been repaired and the building fully refurbished. The respondent added that the building had level access throughout and on the approach, as well as external lighting.</p>
<p>Acting Returning Officer Comment:</p> <p>The Returning Officer is supportive of the current polling arrangements and no immediate alteration is deemed necessary, however the alternative venue location has been recorded and will be evaluated as a potential reserve facility in the event that the current venue becomes unavailable.</p>