

Consultation Responses

No.	From	Response
1.	Booking Agent, Colwell Arts Centre	<p>We have been a polling station within Gloucester for many years now and I think it works very well.</p> <p>We're very happy to continue to be used as a polling station.</p>
2.	Site Manager, Linden Primary School	<p>I have been asked by the Head to request that we are no longer a School to be used for a polling station. It has a massive impact on our School day, we have to vacate 2 of our Reception classrooms and re locate the children to different parts of the school.</p> <p>We have to completely empty of move all the furniture out of the classrooms, take down hanging displays and cover up pictures and names of the children.</p> <p>The adults that are located there all day often complain it is cold in the winter and have to use the small children's toilets and unfortunately we cannot offer a fridge for them either.</p> <p>We do have a children's centre that is on the same site as the school and we could easily get the staff to park in the School playground for voting days, also there is the New City Church in Seymour Road.</p> <p>Both these would be suitable places without causing too much disruption.</p>
3.	Booking Agent, Longlevens Rugby Club	<p>Regarding your letter dated 15th July 2019 I only wish to say that Longlevens Rugby Club is happy to be a polling station and would like to continue doing so.</p>
4.	Headteacher, Meadowside Primary School	<p>I am the Head Teacher at Meadowside School and, as such, the Keyholder for the site when utilised as a Polling Station.</p> <p>I would like to submit the following comments as part of the Polling Review process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadowside School politely request that an alternative venue is sought for the Green Farm electorate and that our Primary School no longer be utilised. • We have been on this site since September 2000 and have always been used as a Polling Station. However, the school population has grown considerably and no longer has an appropriate space to house the Polling Station securely, without closing the school to pupils. When the Hall is used, we cannot serve cooked meals, cannot ensure categorically that pupils will not come into contact with members of the public and pupils and families cannot arrive and depart the school site safely, without the complication of cars entering our car park/walk-through during the school run.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years, we have had to close the school at short notice (eg Police Commissioner Elections, Referendum, snap General Elections). As these are unscheduled, the children miss an additional day of education, because we cannot reschedule our planned INSET programme. • The Pre-School site next door to us is willing to be considered as an alternative venue and would be willing for the Electoral Services Team to assess their site for compatability with requirements for a Polling Station. I spoke to a member of the team more than 18 months ago to request this, but no-one has been to assess and our school continues to be used. <p>The school family (children, parents, staff and Governors) are a supportive school community and will always do our utmost to uphold these values within Quedgeley and Gloucester as a Local Authority School. However, we feel after several years as a Polling Station and the occasions we have had to lose days of education, that an alternative urgently needs to be found.</p>
5.	Parent and Governor, Meadowside Primary School	<p>I am a parent and governor at Meadowside Primary school in Glos and I have just received a letter from the Head about another potential day that the school will have to close due to a polling day.</p> <p>This is becoming ridiculous now. To fine parents for taking their children out of school because of the detriment to their education on one hand, only to force these establishments to close in order to carry out elections on the other is an outrage.</p> <p>I'd like you to explain why this school needs to continue to be used, when the Little Meadows early years facility next door, has offered to be the venue instead?</p> <p>The impact on pre school children, and a much lower number of them, would surely make more sense than affecting 240 children.</p> <p>Not to mention their working parents who will need to make alternative childcare arrangements that day.</p> <p>I look forward to receiving an explanation.</p>
6.	Parent, Meadowside Primary School	<p>Please could you stop using Meadowside school as a place for the elections. It has a disruptive effect on my child's schooling and a massive disruption to my work.</p> <p>It appears that elections are called more and more often at short notice and therefore this does not allow for my work shifts to be changed to allow for childcare. Also for my child this disrupts his day/week.</p>

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7.	Parent, Meadowside Primary School	<p>Once again our children's school may have to close its doors for yet another election.</p> <p>Surely there should be another facility used instead of a primary school.</p> <p>Each time there is political decision to hold snap elections or planned elections our child's education has to be put on hold.</p> <p>It has been used as a polling station for many years and quite recently more so.</p> <p>There is a facility next door which could quite easily be used or a portacabin at the end of the road, at the dead end. There is an open space in the car park of Rea Bridge, why not there? It doesn't need to be huge, they only use the school hall but need to close the whole school due to safeguarding issues.</p> <p>As a member of the public I'm fed up of the political shouting matches on the telly but then get more fed up as a parent that our child's education has to stop.</p> <p>Please consider using elsewhere.</p>
8.	Parent, Meadowside Primary School	<p>I would like to voice my concern as a parent of a purple of Meadowside primary school Quedgeley. In light of recent events another government election is looking like a very strong possibility.</p> <p>For some reason Meadowside is one of the local polling stations which courses the school to close when any elections take place.</p> <p>I find it hard to understand why Gloucester County council thinks the closure of a school seems acceptable?</p> <p>Surely there is another location that can be used that doesn't disrupt children's education?</p>
9.	Parent, Meadowside Primary School	<p>I would like to voice my concerns re a possible Polling day for the possible general Election Day</p> <p>I find it is very disruptive for the school and children attending</p> <p>Surely there is s nearby village hall that could be used rather than disrupting a days education and also for the parents having to arrange care</p> <p>How about quedgeley village hall or little meadows where there wouldn't be as much disruption</p>
10.	School Business Manager,	<p>We would like to place our objection to being used as a polling station. Our school pupils rely on the school to provide a safe place of education during the school term and the majority of our pupils are able to obtain a free school meal.</p>

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	Tredworth Junior School	<p>By forcing the school to close the pupils education is disrupted, their welfare and safety is compromised and pupils are deprived of perhaps their only hot meal of the day.</p> <p>The school budget is also affected as the charge for use as a polling station does not cover the full caretaking, and administration time involved.</p> <p>The school has limited space for storage of the polling booths during the school day they must be left outside the school.</p> <p>We are surrounded by community centres, church establishments, nurseries all of which could equally accommodate polling stations in the local area.</p>
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