

**Interim Polling Districts & Polling  
Places Review  
(October 2021 – January 2022)**



**SCARBOROUGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINAL Recommendations (November 2021)**

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# Polling Districts & Polling Places Review

## Background

Within each local authority area, legislation requires councils to carry out reviews of the Polling Districts and Polling Places in that area. A council's area is divided into polling districts, with one or more polling districts making up a district ward, with a polling place being an area or building within a polling district in which a polling station is situated.

The Electoral Registration & Administration Act 2013 governs the timings of compulsory Polling District and Polling Place Reviews. The next compulsory review is due to commence in the 16 month period beginning on 1 October 2023, though a council can conduct an interim review at any time, but it will still have to conduct a full review during the compulsory timeframe.

The Council's last full review was held in 2018, which saw changes to polling districts brought about by the 2017/2018 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of the Borough's warding pattern. This created a need for many polling district changes, though in the main, polling stations remained unchanged.

An interim review was undertaken in Autumn/Winter of 2020 to address some required changes arising from elector feedback during the three polls held in 2019. Those changes were implemented successfully. This review is also an interim one, arising from stations becoming unavailable or deemed no longer suitable during the May 2021 polls (no polls were held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

This interim review (Autumn/Winter 2021) document has been distributed to local community groups, action groups, disability groups, charities, and political parties, relevant Ward Councillors, Parish Councils and County Councillors to allow consultation on the proposals. It has also been published on our website. Comments received will be considered, before final recommendations are made.

This review must be conducted now to ensure suitable polling stations in relevant areas for any elections held after January 2022.

The (Acting) Returning Officer is satisfied that the proposed polling places in initial recommendations allow for suitable polling stations, and will consider any representation before making any final recommendations.

## Issues During 2021

May 2021 polls were the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) Election for the North Yorkshire area. This poll was scheduled to be held in May 2020, but legislation brought in due to the COVID-19 pandemic postponed them until May 2021. All new polling places allocated as part of the interim review undertaken in 2019/20 were successful in that there were no complaints received from electors, however there were some issues during the 2021 polls such as venue unavailability or declining state of upkeep. Also, an undertaking was given in the last interim review to bring one area back to review as soon as possible. Areas within this interim review include:

### Glaisdale (GC) Polling District:

The currently designated polling place at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Glaisdale, has become unavailable with being up for sale at the time of the last polls. A very suitable alternative was identified at the time of the polls and this review seeks to adopt that as a permanent alternative.

### Sandsend (DJ) Polling District:

Existing polling place at The Pyman Institute, Sandsend is now in a poor state of repair, both inside and out. This was reported by polling staff in May 2021, and a subsequent visit to the venue confirms that is the case. This review seeks to explore potential alternative options.

### Town South - Whitby (FC) Polling District:

An undertaking was given during the 2020 interim review to bring this area back to review, as it was felt by some that Whitby Mission and Seafarer's Centre was not the most appropriate venue for those voting in the FC polling district. Reasons were based on distance from the residential area. At the time of the last interim review the previously designated polling place of St Hilda's RC School was facing potential closure, and a relocation was deemed necessary. Representations received suggested potential alternatives, such as Whitby Library, St Hilda's Business Centre, Whitby Harbour Office and The Coliseum. Many of those venues were assessed thoroughly during an interim review of stations for the Whitby Abbey No.1 (FA) polling district during 2016, and the Whitby Mission was also deemed the most suitable venue for those voters, as was also concluded in 2020 for the Whitby - Town South (FC) voters.

## Summary of Representations (with Acting Returning Officer Comments)

All representations received based on the initial proposals can be seen in the following table for ease of reference. After considering those representations, any changes made have also been updated within the relevant Ward tables throughout the document. To summarise:

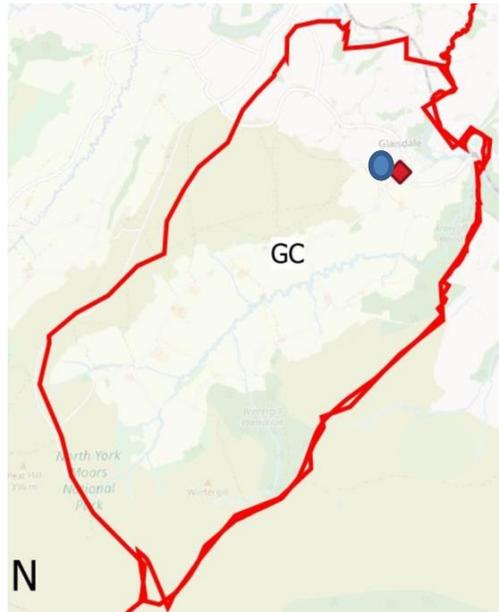
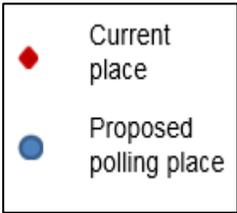
- No representations were received in relation to the recommendation within Esk Valley Ward, and remains unchanged.
- One change to the initial recommendations has been made (within Danby & Mulgrave Ward – DJ).
- The recommendation within Streonshalh Ward is supported, and remains unchanged.

## Representations Received to Initial Proposals (with Acting Returning Officer Comments)

No	Commentator	Comment	Assessment of comments	Returning Officer's final recommendation
<b>Polling District: Glaisdale – GC (Esk Valley Ward)</b>				
		<i>(no representations received)</i>		No change to initial recommendation
<b>Polling District: Sandsend – DJ (Danby &amp; Mulgrave Ward)</b>				
1	Lythe Parish Council	<p>The above was discussed at the Lythe Parish Council meeting on 2 November 2021 and the Council has the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed re-location of the polling station from the Pyman Institute to Lythe Village Hall was discussed at the Lythe Parish Council meeting on 2 November 2021. The meeting resolved that the proposed location of Lythe Village Hall was not suitable. Whilst it was agreed that there is a bus route between Sandsend and Lythe that, as the majority of voters are elderly and do not use the bus, nor have access to a car, they will be disenfranchised by the move to Lythe.</li> </ul>	<p>This feedback is appreciated, as there were 2 viable options considered for this area. The Parish Council has suggested the alternative option to be preferable for the area, being St Mary's Church. It is understood that not everyone uses public transport, and would take this opportunity to remind voters about absent voting options for the elderly, should that be more convenient, even with the support to use St Mary's church, which is now to be adopted within the</p>	<p>In light of the representation received, there is a change from the initial recommendation, which is supported.</p>

No	Commentator	Comment	Assessment of comments	Returning Officer's final recommendation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting felt that if there is a genuine need to move location from the Pymon Institute, that one of the rejected locations, St Mary's Church was much more suitable. It is a venue known to all Sandsend residents and is easy to walk to as there is a private road running to it.</li> </ul>	final recommendations. It is felt that the venue is slightly hidden, but it is understood that the local residents are all likely to know of its whereabouts, being an established community venue.	
<b>Polling District: Whitby Town -South – FC (Streonshalh Ward)</b>				
2	Whitby Town Council	At its meeting on 19 October, Whitby Town Council resolved its support for Whitby Library as the proposed polling place for the FC (Town South) polling district of Whitby (Minute 108/21 refers).	Comments are all in support, no further comments.	No change to initial recommendation
3	Cllr Plant (NYCC Whitby Streonshalh Division)	I am in support of the proposal.		

## Final Recommendations

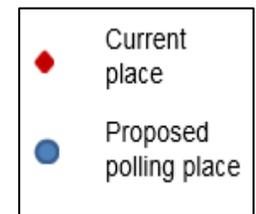
<b>Ward Name</b>		<b>Esk Valley</b>		
<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>		Scarborough & Whitby		
<b>Polling District</b>		GC		
<b>Polling District Name</b>		Glaisdale		
<b>Parish (if any)</b>		Glaisdale		
<b>Current Polling Place</b>		St Thomas' Church Hall, Glaisdale		
<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>		The Robinson Institute, Glaisdale		
<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>No of electors</b>	<b>No of Postal voters</b>	<b>Voting in person</b>	
Yes	501	83	418	
<p><b><u>Reason for change / comments:</u></b> Electors in this polling district have historically voted at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Glaisdale. In preparation for the May 2021 polls that venue was up for sale with no guaranteed future ability to use it. This gave reason to find a suitable alternative at short notice, and The Robinson Institute was identified as suitable. It is within the heart of the community still and is a purpose built community centre with all the facilities required for a polling place. It was immediately thought to be an improvement to the existing place. No complaints were received during the May 2021 polls whilst using it.</p>				
<p><b><u>Assessment of Alternatives:</u></b></p> <p><u>The Robinson Institute, High Street, Glaisdale:</u> The venue is a purpose built community venue, recently refurbished, very modern, and has integral kitchenette and toilets for staff to make use of during polling day. There is a main large room ideal for polling, with a side room for storage. There are</p>				

sufficient doors to achieve one way systems if required. There are approximately 5 dedicated car parking spaces directly outside the building. It is on the main road and easily identifiable.

The Arncliffe Arms (pub & B&B), Arncliffe Terrace, Glaisdale: Access to this venue is difficult (with steps) to the front. At the rear there is a small car park, but a very rocky / gravel surface would make accessibility difficult. The only room available as hire away from the public was very small, and would be difficult for a wheelchair to access. No other space within the venue with sufficient privacy to maintain secrecy of the ballot. The pubs own toilet and kitchen facilities are available for staff to use. It is on the main road and easily identifiable.

No other venues were identified as suitable for inclusion of this assessment within the community.

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Danby &amp; Mulgrave</b>		
<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	Scarborough & Whitby		
<b>Polling District</b>	DJ		
<b>Polling District Name</b>	Sandsend		
<b>Parish (if any)</b>	Lythe		
<b>Current Polling Place</b>	Pyman Institute, Sandsend		
<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	St Mary's Church, Sandsend		
<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>No of electors</b>	<b>No of Postal voters</b>	<b>Voting in person</b>
Yes	105	21	84



**Reason for change / comments:** Electors in this polling station have historically voted at the Pyman Institute in Sandsend. Whilst very prominently located, the venue has become very dilapidated, with general upkeep poor. This was reported by polling staff in May 2021, and a subsequent visit to the venue confirms that is the case.

**Assessment of Alternatives:**

On the map shown, both Sandsend (DJ) and Lythe (DI) create one single parish area of Lythe Parish. They are only separated by having two different polling places. Two options have been considered for this area:

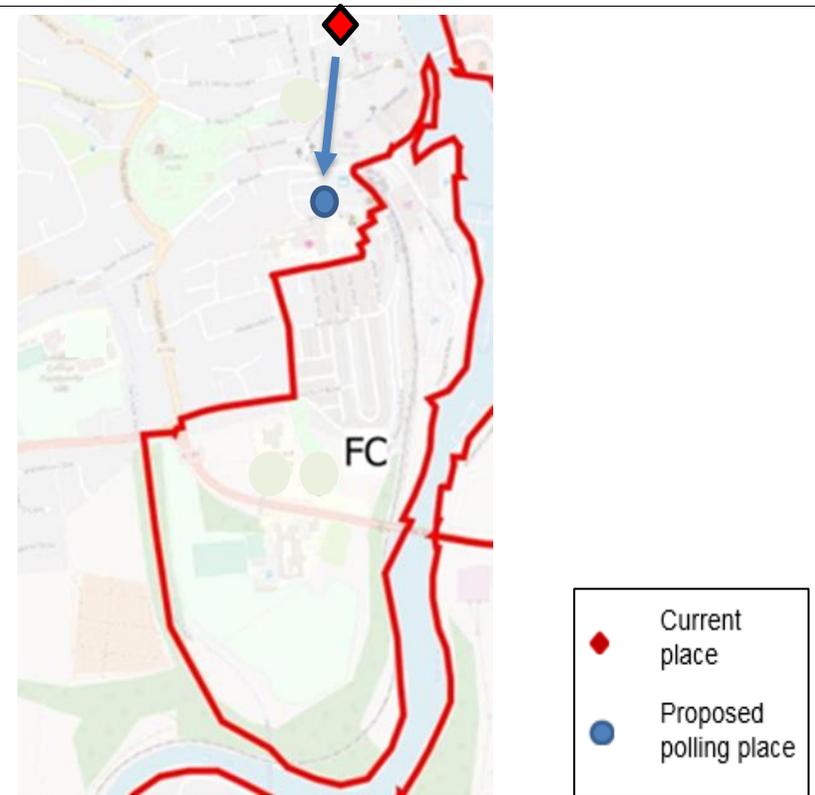
- (i) To merge Sandsend and Lythe polling districts into one, with all electors voting at the well known Lythe Village hall (already used in Lythe polling district). Those who live in Sandsend are already well used to travelling to Lythe for post office and other services, which are no longer available in Sandsend. There are regular buses up the short but steep hill from Sandsend to Lythe. It is a 3 minute drive from the current station to the proposed alternative.
- (ii) To maintain Sandsend as a separate polling district with its own polling place, using an alternative venue.

Venues assessed as potential alternatives **within** Sandsend polling district:

- a) **Wits End Café:** this venue is an option with having a large room to the rear, which could be hired. Staff could use the café toilet facilities and have access to heat food and drinks. Wheelchair accessibility is possible, but slightly awkward. There is a large car park to the right, but it is pay & display and gets very busy. The café can also get very busy being in a prominent location.
- b) **St Mary's Church:** This venue is located amongst many of the residential properties in Sandsend. It is well known in the area, and has been refurbished in the last couple of years, is very clean modern and is used by locals for various community groups. It has integral toilet and kitchenette facilities available for staff use throughout the day. Polling would be the sole use of the building during hire. It has its own car parking and is accessible with no stairs or kerbs. The location of the venue is however slightly hidden from the main road.
- c) **Mulgrave Sports Facility:** This venue sits within the Lythe polling district, not Sandsend, but could be a potential alternative. It is very modern, with integral toilet and kitchen facilities. There is sufficient space for polling within the venue, and car parking, but the main accessible car parking is up a steep hill to the entry, leaving those in wheelchairs struggling up a hill, or staff opening a gate to allow cars up the hill. The venue already used in Lythe village is deemed more suitable than this, but it could be an option should Lythe Village Hall ever become unavailable.
- d) **Other Café's and pubs in the area:** were looked at but none were easily accessible, had extremely limited or no parking, and were immediately deemed unsuitable alternatives in comparison to the above two.

**Preferred Option: To maintain a separate and dedicated polling station within Sandsend, not to merge the polling district with Lythe, and to use St Mary's Church (based on representations received) as the polling place.**

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Streonshalh</b>		
<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	Scarborough & Whitby		
<b>Polling District</b>	FC		
<b>Polling District Name</b>	Town-South		
<b>Parish (if any)</b>	Whitby		
<b>Current Polling Place</b>	Whitby Mission and Seafarer's Centre		
<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	Whitby Library		
<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>No of electors</b>	<b>No of Postal voters</b>	<b>Voting in person</b>
Yes	576	81	495



**Reason for change / comments:**

During the interim review completed in Winter 2020, representations received referred to a potential better option of Whitby Library for this district, but due to the Pandemic, that venue was not an option. An undertaking was given to bring this area back to review as soon as possible after the pandemic or as restrictions eased.

**Assessment of Alternatives:**

Whitby Library: Located a short walk from bus station on an incline. 1 car parking space for electoral staff. Disabled car parking directly opposite. No parking for electors. Well known prominent location. Disabled access lifts. Access to meeting room (which would be the polling station) via library. This meeting room was not available during 2020 as it was being used as a quarantine zone for books, which is no longer the case, and the room is available for hire. A lift is available for disabled users. Library access would remain open for polling after library services closed. Representations received in

previous reviews of this district all mentioned this venue as a preferred alternative, especially as it is located so close to the polling district boundary, but not within.

St Hilda's Business Centre: Availability of units is problematic as tenants move in and out. Unable to allocate as a designated polling place with no guaranteed availability at any one time. Communal area has limited privacy and no natural daylight. No bus service close to the venue, but large car park and good staff facilities.

The Coliseum: Plenty of space for polling with disabled access. Main Theatre is most suitable area. If the Main Theatre were unavailable then Flute room would need to be used, which is on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Parking available for staff, not electors. Located outside the ward of Streonshalh, and within the Ward of Whitby West Cliff.

Whitby Harbour Office: Since the last review of this venue in 2016, the layout and use of the building has changed. The Tourist Information Centre now occupies the majority of the bottom floor. Only one relatively small side room could be an option, but that would leave the venue without its usual staff restroom and would see many voters passing through the TIC entrance. It sits slightly further away from the residential area than The Library (above).

Last In First Out Pub: within the heart of the residential area, but hidden within the narrow streets of the estate. Difficult parking. Limited space and privacy for voting inside. Polling would limit the pubs usual trade. Deemed less suitable than others above which have been looked at.