

Summary and updated recommendations

Following the initial consultation period the Acting Returning Officer received the following representations relating to the initial proposals:

Sustead Metton and Bessingham Parish Council

Sustead, Bessingham and Metton Parish Council would very much like to see a polling station return to Sustead Village Hall. It has now been taken back by the Parish Council, who is carrying out extensive refurbishment. Could this be a possibility please?

Holkham Parish Council

Holkham Parish Council met last night and the question of a permanent move from the Victoria Hotel to the Ancient House was discussed.

Councillors were happy for this to take place and believe that the majority of parishioners will also be.

Lucy Shires, District Councillor for North Walsham West Ward

I would welcome a review of the polling station for North Walsham Town Centre East and West, to understand if it be better positioned more centrally to these wards.

The main issue I suggest this, is that for residents at the furthest points of these wards, the distance needed to travel adversely affects those with limited mobility. In addition, the route along Kings Arms St does not have pavements that are particularly safe due to their width. NCC recently carried out a study recommending the pavement width should be widened.

There is an alternative polling station used in each of these civil parish wards.

Catfield Parish Council

According to your documentation, Catfield's polling venue has not been changed.

Following the recent meeting, Catfield Parish Council were in agreement with your decision, that the venue should remain the same (i.e. the Village Hall)

Blakeney Parish Council

Thank you for this consultation. Blakeney Parish Council sees that you have recommended no change for Blakeney, and hence we have simply noted this, and we have no further comment.

Tunstead Parish Council

Representation has been received from the Vice Chair of Tunstead PC. The Council is working with the Horse and Groom Public House and the Parish council to find a solution for the parish given the dissatisfaction of the members of the Parish Council at the decision to change the Polling Arrangements for Tunstead Parish at the recent Parliamentary Election in July.

The response provided much comment which was included in a separate complaint raised by the deputy chair of the PC which is currently being dealt with and for that reason it is not appropriate to include here however the paragraph below summarises their position:

1: The members of Tunstead Parish Council discussed this issue at our meeting in September 2024 and we were unanimously against the closure of the polling station at The Horse and Groom, Tunstead and we want to see the polling station returned there immediately at the conclusion of this review.

Updated ARO recommendations

Proposals remain largely the same as were contained in the initial document however there have been updates to the following polling districts:

Sustead (ER8)

After the comments received from Sustead, Metton and Bessingham Parish Council, a visit was undertaken by Electoral Services to the village hall where renovations are entering their final stages. The venue will be suitable for holding elections again from the Norfolk County Council elections being held on Thursday 1st May 2025 and the ARO recommendations have been changed to show that this location should be re-adopted as the designated polling place for the polling district.