

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

London Borough of Lewisham

September to December 2021

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1 Introduction and purpose of the report

- 1.1. By order of section 18c of the Representation of the People Act, the Returning Officer for Lewisham Council is required to undertake a review of all polling districts and places every 5 years.
- 1.2. The last scheduled Review took place between August and December 2019.
- 1.3. Lewisham undertook a ward boundary review in 2019. New wards will come into effect in May 2022. As a result, Lewisham must review our polling districts and places in advance of May 2022 and approve a new polling scheme to be implemented at the local and mayoral elections scheduled for 5 May 2022.
- 1.4. This report provides details of the scope and objectives of the Review, key issues and timetable, along with the initial recommendations of the Returning Officer.
- 1.5. These recommendations will be open to consultation for 6 weeks to all residents, stakeholders and interested parties. In particular, we shall be seeking representations from local disability groups on the accessibility and suitability of polling places.
- 1.6. Definition of terms:
 - Polling Station: A room or building which is used for the issuing of ballot papers to voters
 - Polling Place: The building or area where polling stations are situated
 - Polling District: An area of residential properties containing electors who are allocated to a polling placeFor example, the polling district will be a large area comprising a series of roads and estates, the polling place is a local school, and the polling station is the main hall within the school.

2 Scope and Objectives of the Review

- 2.1. The Review will examine all Polling Districts and Polling Places but ward boundaries cannot be altered as part of this Review.
- 2.2. We aim to provide Polling Districts in all wards that conform to the following criteria:

- Meet Electoral Commission guidance regarding electorate size
- Are based on the current electorate
- The area must allow for a Polling Place to be situated in a location that is accessible for all electors in the Polling District

2.3. Polling Places will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Compliance with Electoral Commission guidance
- Accessibility will be a central consideration
- Availability and cost – we require Polling Places that can be used for every election at a cost that is reasonable to the taxpayer
- No more than 2,250 electors to be allocated to each Polling Station, noting that a Polling Place can accommodate multiple Polling Stations

2.4. By way of context, it is noteworthy that some Polling Places that would normally be used are no longer of suitable quality, and in some Polling Districts the Polling Places are no longer available.

2.5. Information will be provided for each ward detailing any issues requiring solutions and the proposed new polling arrangements.

3 The Timetable

6-Sep-21	Publish Notice of holding a review
6-Sep-21	Publish Returning Officer's proposals and start of consultation period
6-Sep-21	Seek representations from experts on disabled access
29-Oct-21	End of consultation period
10-Nov-21	Revise proposals based on results of consultation and representations
24-Nov-21	Formal meeting of Lewisham Council to approve the new proposals
01-Dec-21	Publish the electoral register with new proposals included

4 Background Information

4.1. Lewisham will have a new ward scheme in 2022. There is significant change to most wards, including the removal of 2 wards and creation of 3 new wards.

4.2. There have been many large scale developments in certain wards, dramatically increasing the electorate in certain polling districts.

4.3. Several polling places on the current polling scheme have been deemed of insufficient standard and need to be replaced.

4.4. Despite this, the majority of our polling arrangements have been working very well. Feedback from voters, candidates and election agents suggests that the arrangements for many voters can continue largely unchanged.

- 4.5. The last elections were held on 6 May 2021. The Covid pandemic presented significant challenges to the polling station voting process. Our planning required all polling places to be inspected and subject to a rigorous risk assessment. As a result, several polling places were identified for replacement, or for changing to/from double stations.
- 4.6. Feedback and the Returning Officer's own investigations have highlighted specific polling places that require amendments. These are highlighted in the analysis for each ward.
- 4.7. There are fewer public buildings available for use as polling places, and fewer private premises such as Churches that offer suitable accommodation that is accessible to disabled voters. This restricts the choice of polling places in some wards.
- 4.8. The Returning Officer and the Election Committee have determined that primary schools will continue to be used as polling places in polling districts where they offer the best facilities for electors. However, we will look to reduce the number of primary schools used as polling places, and identify suitable alternatives wherever possible. Secondary schools will not be used unless under exceptional circumstances.

5 Key Issues for the Proposals

- 5.1. According to Electoral Commission guidance, no polling station should have more than 2,500 electors allocated to it. This excludes postal voters and those not eligible to vote. Where a polling district has more than 2,500 electors allocated to it the electorate is split between 2 polling stations in the same venue. In Lewisham we believe the figure of 2,500 is slightly too high, and set a figure of 2,250 for the maximum number of electors allocated to a single polling station. Should the electorate be higher, we allocate a second polling station in the polling place. This is known as a double polling station.
- 5.2. No polling station should have fewer than 1,000 electors allocated to it – this will ensure value for money in terms of costs per voter. This minimum number of voters will only apply where it is practical.
- 5.3. All new polling places must be assessed for accessibility, proximity to voters in that polling district and facilities for staff such as toilets, kitchen and parking.
- 5.4. Physical barriers such as railway lines, parks, and main roads can prevent an easy division of electors to polling districts. The proposals must take these into account and regard the safety of electors travelling to and from their polling place.
- 5.5. Transport links in polling districts should be considered – they can improve accessibility for electors. Where changes are required the Review will note the provision of bus stops and parking spaces.
- 5.6. When allocating electors to polling places and stations the review will account for previous electoral turnout, reviews undertaken and lessons learnt after each election and the capacity of polling staff to deal with high turnouts.

- 5.7. The Returning Officer notes that the use of schools as polling places can cause significant disruption to pupils, teachers and parents. With plenty of notice schools can often use the occasion as a training day, and give parents/carers more than enough time to make alternative arrangements. Communication between schools and electoral staff gives schools the time to do this. However, we will continue to be proactive in identifying alternative venues to schools wherever possible but cannot rule out using them.

6 The Decision Making Process

- 6.1. The initial proposals in this report will be open to a 6 week consultation.
- 6.2. The proposals will also be subject to an internal decision making process involving lead officers for electoral services, facilities and the health and safety team. They will also be presented to all Councillors who will give expert feedback using their excellent local knowledge.
- 6.3. After the consultation period has ended, the Returning Officer will consider all representations received, including those from residents, Councillors, MPs, local political parties, and local people and stakeholders with expertise in disability and accessibility.
- 6.4. The Returning Officer will publish a report listing their final proposals. As part of the report, all representations will be published with the Returning Officer's response.
- 6.5. These final proposals will be presented for approval at a Full Council Meeting on 24 November 2021 prior to publication on 1 December 2021.

7 The Proposals

- 7.1. The following pages provide the proposed polling scheme for every ward.
- 7.2. Where necessary, proposed changes are accompanied by an explanation for the reasons for the change and the other potential options explored.
- 7.3. For some wards there will be limited changes from the current polling scheme – where the ward boundaries and electorates haven't changed significantly from current arrangements.

8. Electorate Data

- 8.1. This review covers the polling districts and places to be used for all types of elections and referendums within the London Borough of Lewisham.
- 8.2. We will use the current total electorate figures rather than the Local or Parliamentary. The figures will therefore include all electors for Lewisham, regardless of the franchise. Note that the Local election franchise will exclude overseas electors and the Parliamentary franchise will exclude EU resident electors. The total electorate will therefore be a slightly

higher figure than either franchise, but has been determined as a good base to work with for the review.

- 8.3. It is noted that the electorate is forecast to expand significantly in some areas by 2025. A subsequent statutory review of polling districts must take place before December 2024 which Lewisham plan to conduct as soon as the new parliamentary boundaries are published. This subsequent review will identify any wards where the electorate has or will increase, and will make fresh proposals to account for those increases. Importantly, this subsequent review will ensure all polling districts are coterminous with parliamentary boundaries. It is not possible to do that at this stage as the parliamentary boundary review is not expected to be finalised until the second half of 2022.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 9.1. Appendix A provides an equalities impact assessment (EIA).
- 9.2. The EIA examines the electoral process and provides information and actions for how we can make voting in polling places accessible for all residents who are eligible to vote.
- 9.3. The recommendations made in the EIA will be reflected in the Returning Officer's proposals for polling districts, places and stations.

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LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

BROCKLEY WARD

Electorate = 13,276

Summary

Densely populated and largely residential only ward. Comprises of many streets of terraced houses with several blocks of flats. A long high street splits the ward, but has multiple safe crossing points if required. The railway line to the south of the ward creates a long physical barrier. There is a dearth of suitable premises for polling places. The proportion of postal voters is well below average.

New Cross Baptist Church used to be the venue for a lot of Brockley residents but that is now on the other side of the ward boundary. Little Gems Nursery and St John with Holy Trinity Church have been polling venues for many years, but are no longer well suited to the purpose. Ashmead Primary School provides a large hall which allows for an excellent double polling station. Myatt Garden Primary School is well located but does not offer the greatest space or facilities for polling and should be avoided. Lewisham Arthouse is a venue we've not used before but is in a great location and offers a large room that is perfect for polling.

There is one key question the RO would like people to consider: Could we split DBR3 in half, sending half the voters to DBR2 and half to DBR4? That would remove the need to use Ashmead Primary School and make maximum use of the Arthouse and St John's Church.

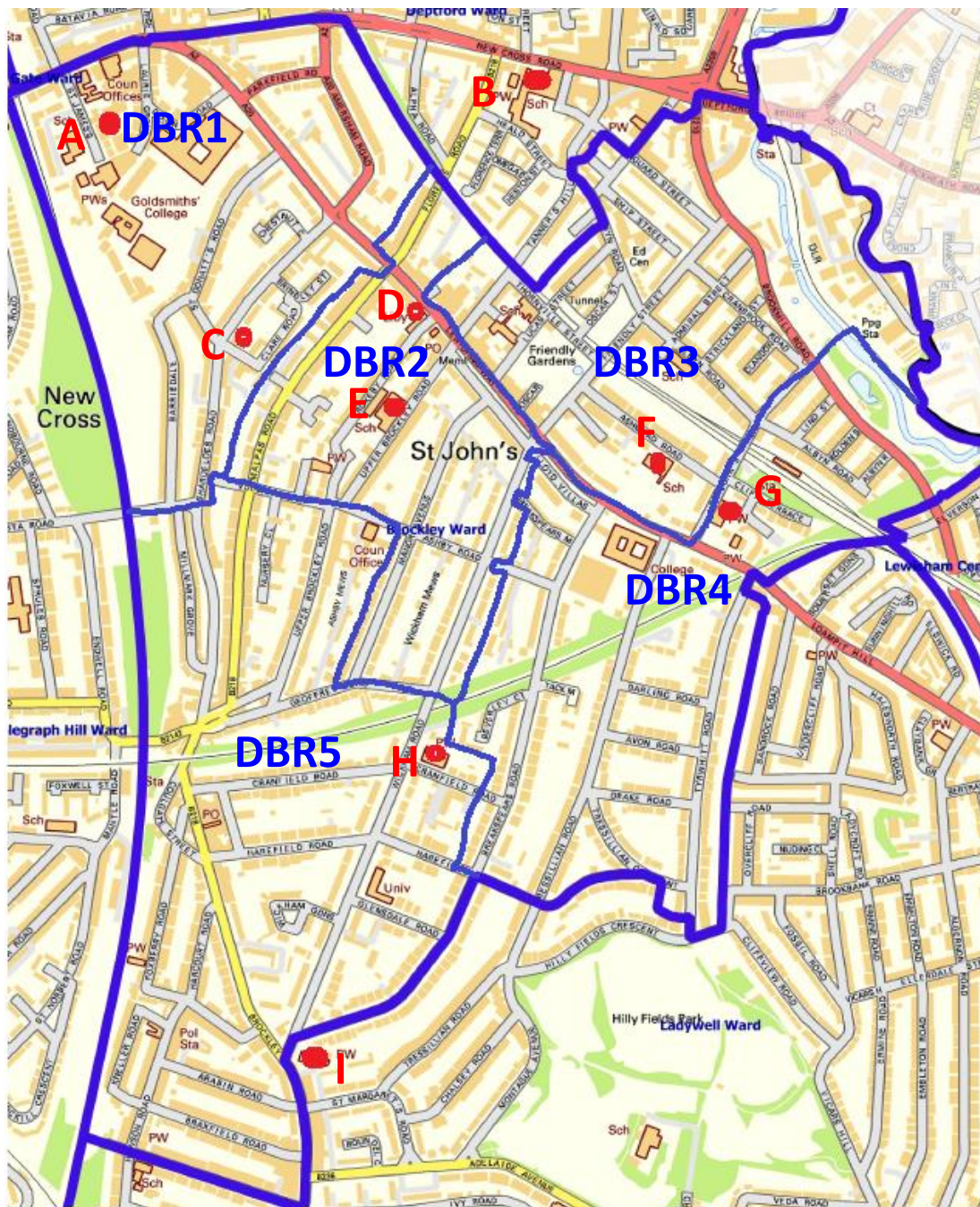
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
St James Family Learning Centre, New Cross and Deptford Families First, SE14 6AD	Good location for electors at northern tip of the ward. Not particularly large	Yes
St John with Holy Trinity Church, St John's Vale, SE8 4EA	Good venue, single station only	Yes
Myatt Garden Primary School, Upper Brockley Road, SE4 1DF	Good location but facilities are not great and we recommend not using again	No
St Peter's Church, Wickham Road, SE4 1LT	Good venue and great location	Yes
Little Gems Day Nursery, St Donnatt's Road, SE14 6PX	Small – ideally we would not use this again	No
Ashmead Primary School, Ashmead Road, SE8 4DX	Good venue and location. Suitable for a double station	Yes
St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Carter Hall, SE4 2SA	Good venue but outside the ward – on the boundary.	No
Lewisham Arthouse, 140 Lewisham Way, SE14 6PD	Site visit complete, great venue with plenty of space	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DBR1	2134	206	1928	St James Family Learning Centre	
DBR2	2270	249	2021	Lewisham Arthouse	
DBR3	3025	358	2667	Ashmead Primary School	Double station
DBR4	2383	243	2140	St John with Holy Trinity Church	
DBR5	3464	385	3079	St Peters Church	Double station

Map



- A.** St James Family Learning Centre
- B.** New Cross Road Baptist Church
- C.** Little Gems Nursery
- D.** Lewisham Arthouse
- E.** Myatt Garden Primary School
- F.** Ashmead Primary School
- G.** St Johns with Holy Trinity Church
- H.** St Peter's Church
- I.** St Andrews United Reform Church

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

CROFTON PARK WARD

Electorate = 11,620

Summary

Crofton Park ward has changed very little in the boundary review, with just a small part moving into Brockley ward. As such, limited changes are required. One issue that has arisen over the last few years has been the use of Stillness Junior School that does not provide best facilities and is no longer suitable for use as a polling station. Due to the lack of potential alternative venues in close proximity to the school, we propose reallocating those electors to the remaining districts and polling places. The majority of these electors can be allocated to St Hilda's Church which offers the best and largest space in the ward.

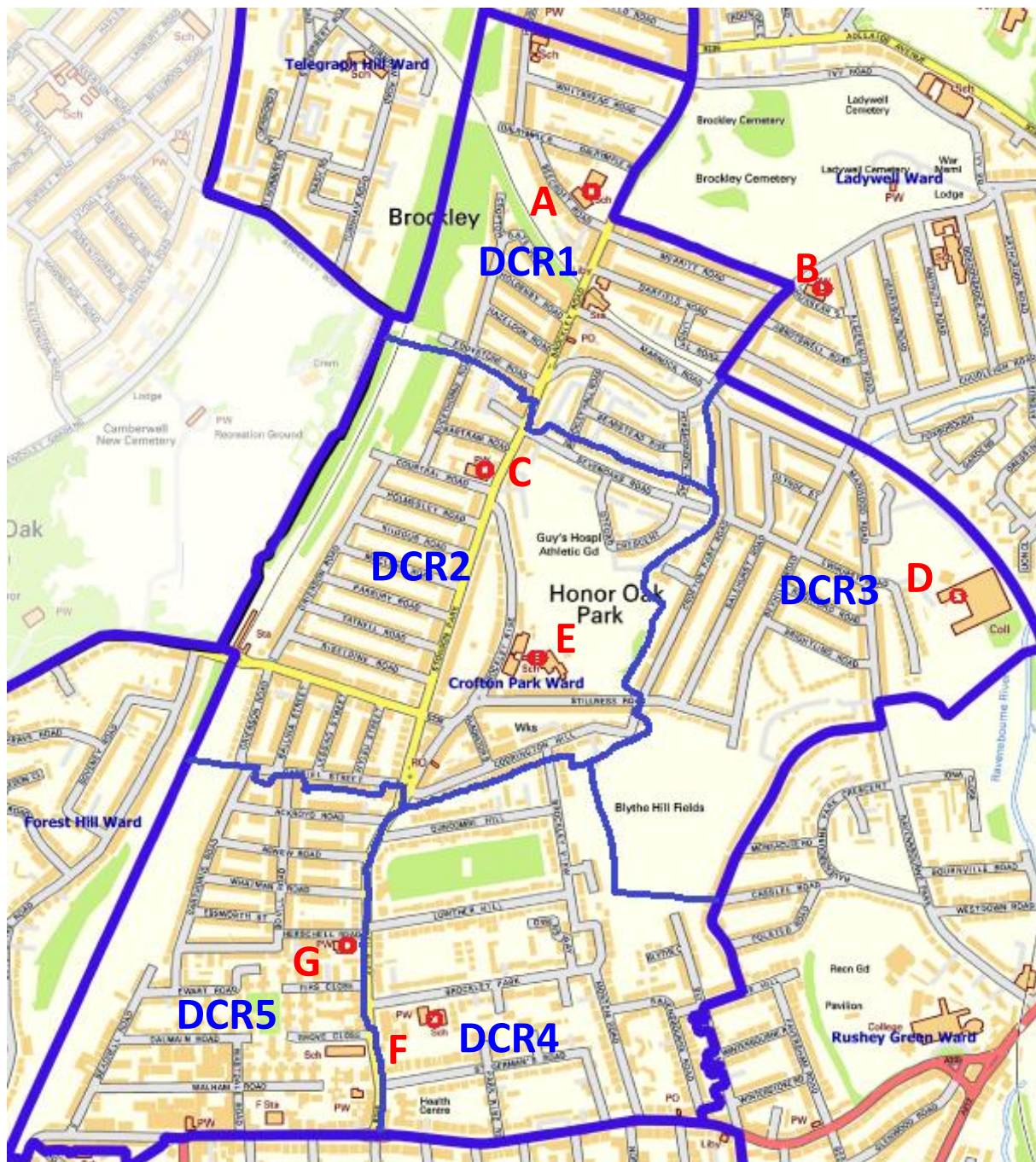
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Stillness Junior School, Brockley Rise, SE23 1NH	Not great facilities, avoid using again	No
Prendergast Ladywell Fields College, Manwood Road, SE4 1SA	Good location and facilities	Yes
Beecroft Garden Primary School, Beecroft Road, SE4 2BS	Good location and facilities	Yes
The Undercroft, St Hilda's Church, SE4, 2DH	Good location and facilities	Yes
St Saviour's Church Hall, 69 Brockley Rise, SE23 1JN	Good location and facilities	Yes
Adult Learning Lewisham, Brockley Rise Centre, SE23 1PR	Poor facilities but few alternatives in the area	Yes
Crofton Park Baptist Church, Huxbear Street, SE4 1EA	Wrong side of ward boundary	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DCR1	2151	248	1903	Beecroft Garden Primary School	
DCR2	3063	371	2692	The Undercroft at St Hilda's Church	Double station
DCR3	2099	249	1850	Prendergast Ladywell Fields College	
DCR4	2034	227	1807	Adult Learning Lewisham	
DCR5	22273	276	1997	St Saviour's Church Hall	

Map



- A.** Beecroft Garden Primary School
- B.** Crofton Park Baptist Church
- C.** The Undercroft at St Hildas
- D.** Prendergast Ladywell Fields College
- E.** Stillness Primary School
- F.** Adult Learning Lewisham
- G.** St Saviours Church Hall

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

DEPTFORD WARD

Electorate = 11,777

Summary

This is a new ward and within a few years it will massively grow in size with many new developments. As with most of the borough, there isn't a huge amount of potential venues for use as polling places. There are a couple of new venues we need to investigate further. The proposed polling scheme seeks to make best use of the larger venues, avoiding the use of schools entirely. However, the highly populated areas of dense housing, the railway lines and busy main roads present challenges and we would appreciate feedback from local residents and experts on the area. The Salvation Army Centre is a new venue with great facilities. However, it is difficult to place it into our polling scheme, with the library in a slightly better location and the layout of other roads/blocks in that part of the ward.

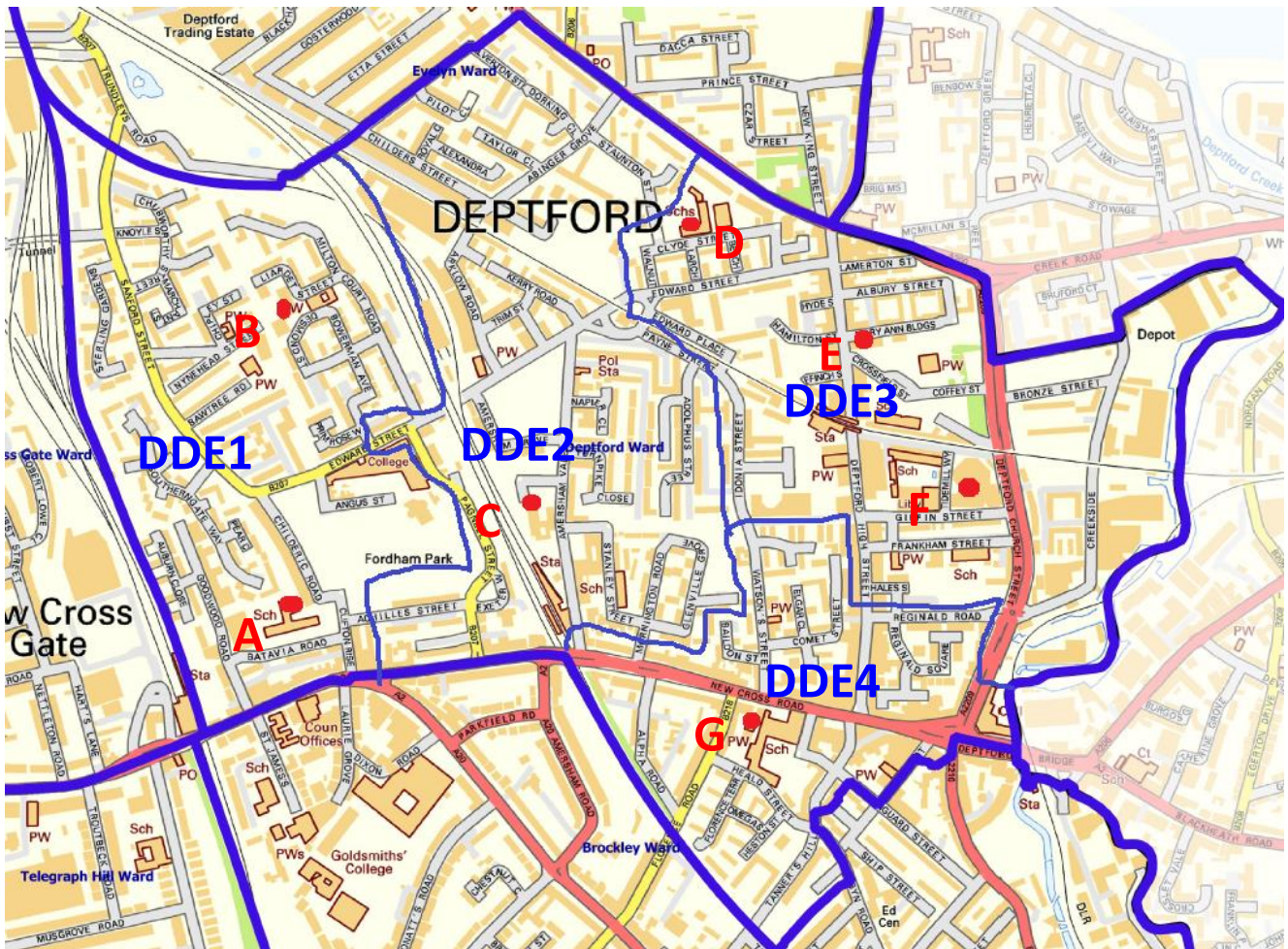
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Deptford Salvation Army Centre, Mary Ann Gardens, SE8 3DP	Great venue, good size and decent facilities	Yes
New Cross Road Baptist Church, 466a New Cross Road, SE14 6TJ	Good venue, good size	Yes
Grinling Gibbons School, Clyde Street, SE8 5LW	Good venue, good size	No
Woodpecker Community Centre, 100 Woodpecker Road, SE14 6EU	Good location and size	Yes
The Library at Deptford Lounge, 9 Griffin Street, SE8 4RJ	Flexible venue with lots of space	Yes
Mulberry Centre, 15 Amersham Vale, SE14 6LE	Centre of the ward, reasonable size	Yes
Childeric Primary School, Childeric Road, SE14 6DG	Good location	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DDE1	3129	323	2806	Woodpecker Community Centre	Double station
DDE2	3316	426	2889	Mulberry Centre	Double station
DDE3	3285	352	2933	The Library at Deptford Lounge	Double station
DDE4	2047	208	1839	New Cross Road Baptist Church	

Map



- A.** Childeric Primary School
- B.** Woodpecker Community Centre
- C.** Mulberry Centre
- D.** Grinling Gibbons School
- E.** Salvation Army Centre
- F.** The Library at Deptford Lounge
- G.** New Cross Road Baptist Church

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

EVELYN WARD

Electorate = 9,491

Summary

The current Evelyn ward is the largest in Lewisham, yet the new boundaries?? reduces the area and electorate significantly. There are new developments currently underway and more planned before 2025 which will see the electorate rise to around 12,000.

As with most other wards, there is not a huge amount of choice available for polling places. In Evelyn, the area of Convoys Wharf, which is to see huge developments, does not have any potential polling venues currently. **We would appreciate any residents or experts on the area who have information on potential venues in that part of the ward.**

Fortunately, the venues that are available are all of good quality and a good size, with good disabled access. Therefore we are able to propose a new polling scheme for this ward that makes maximum use of these good venues.

Riverside Youth Club and Evelyn Children's Centre are situated extremely close together. Both venues are excellent but they are also both multi-use venues. We propose a polling place that covers both these buildings, meaning we can use either one at an election, or even both for large elections where we expect a very big turnout.

In DEV1 we propose using Clyde Early Childhood Centre which means we would not need to use Sir Francis Drake Primary School.

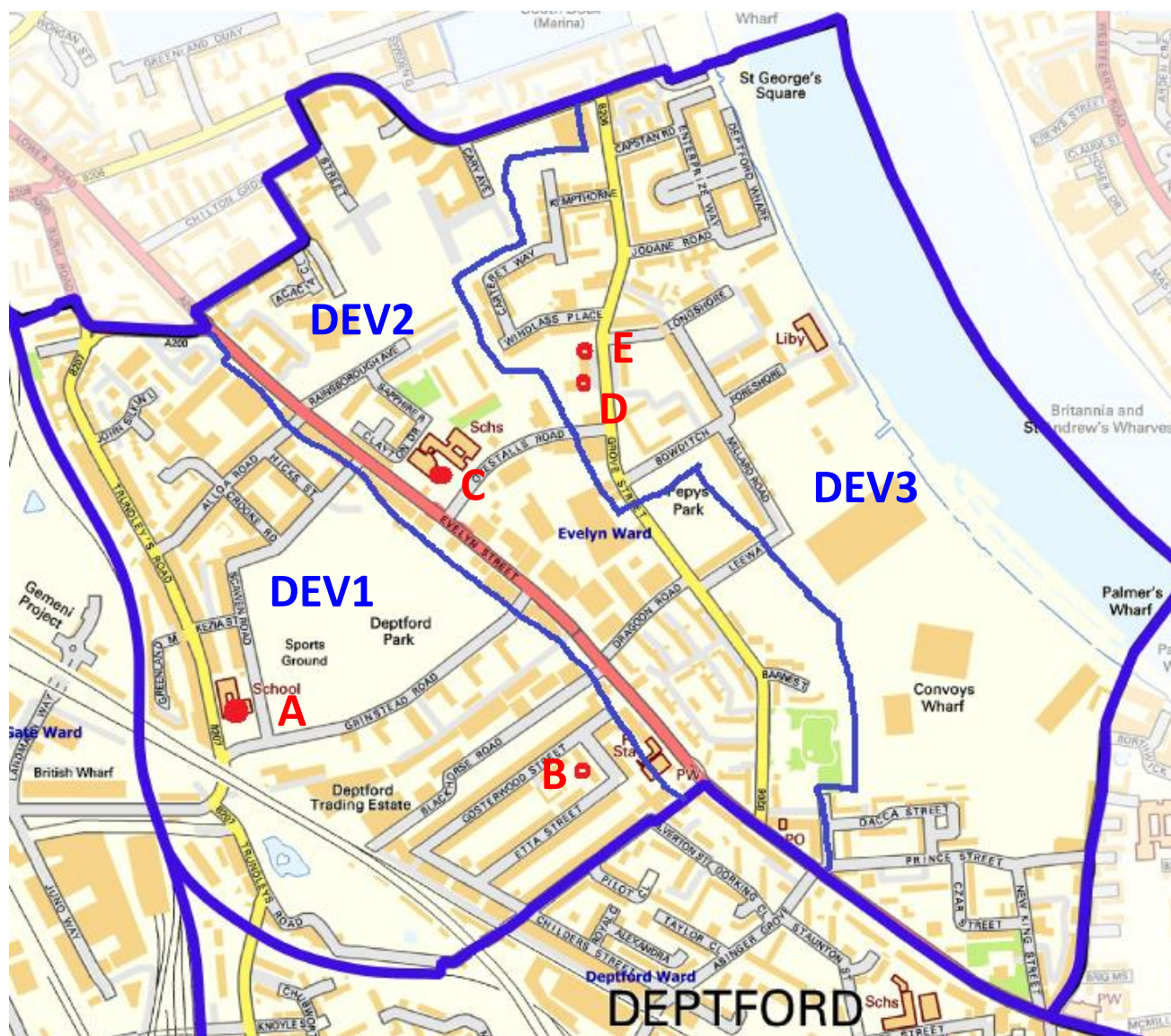
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Sir Francis Drake Primary School, Grinstead Road, SE8 5AE	Good venue, size and location	No
Clyde Early Childhood Centre, Etta Street, SE8 5NH	Good venue, size and location	Yes
Deptford Park Primary School, Evelyn Street, SE8 5RJ	Good venue, size and location	Yes
Riverside Youth Club, Grove Street, SE8 3QQ	Good venue, size and location	Yes
Evelyn Children's Centre, 231 Grove Street, SE8 3PZ	Good venue, size and location	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DEV1	2289	261	2028	Clyde Early Childhood Centre	Double station
DEV2	3414	391	3023	Deptford Park Primary School	Double station
DEV3	3788	481	3307	Riverside Youth Club and Evelyn Children's Centre	Double station

Map



- A.** Sir Francis Drake Primary School
- B.** Clyde Early Childhood Centre
- C.** Deptford Park Primary School
- D.** Riverside Youth Club
- E.** Evelyn Childrens Centre

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

LADYWELL WARD

Electorate = 11,391

Summary

This is a large and varied ward with many challenges for the polling scheme. The railway line and river create natural barriers, with several large green spaces which spread the electorate over a large area. And there is the usual challenge of a lack of potential venues for polling places, and most potential venues are on the outskirts of the ward, rather than in the centre.

Given these challenges, we are proposing 7 districts in this ward, which is more than any other ward. **There is an unequal split of electors into those districts and we would welcome the views of residents and experts on the area to assist with identifying new venues and the placement of the boundaries between districts. One thing to consider is combining DLA2 and DLA3, with all those voters attending the Francis Drake Bowls Club. That will reduce the number of districts whilst not increasing the journey time for most of those electors.**

We are particularly interested to hear from local experts about our proposal for DLA1 and whether there are any other potential polling place venues. The only venue currently identified is The Tab London church hall, which we have yet to be able to visit.

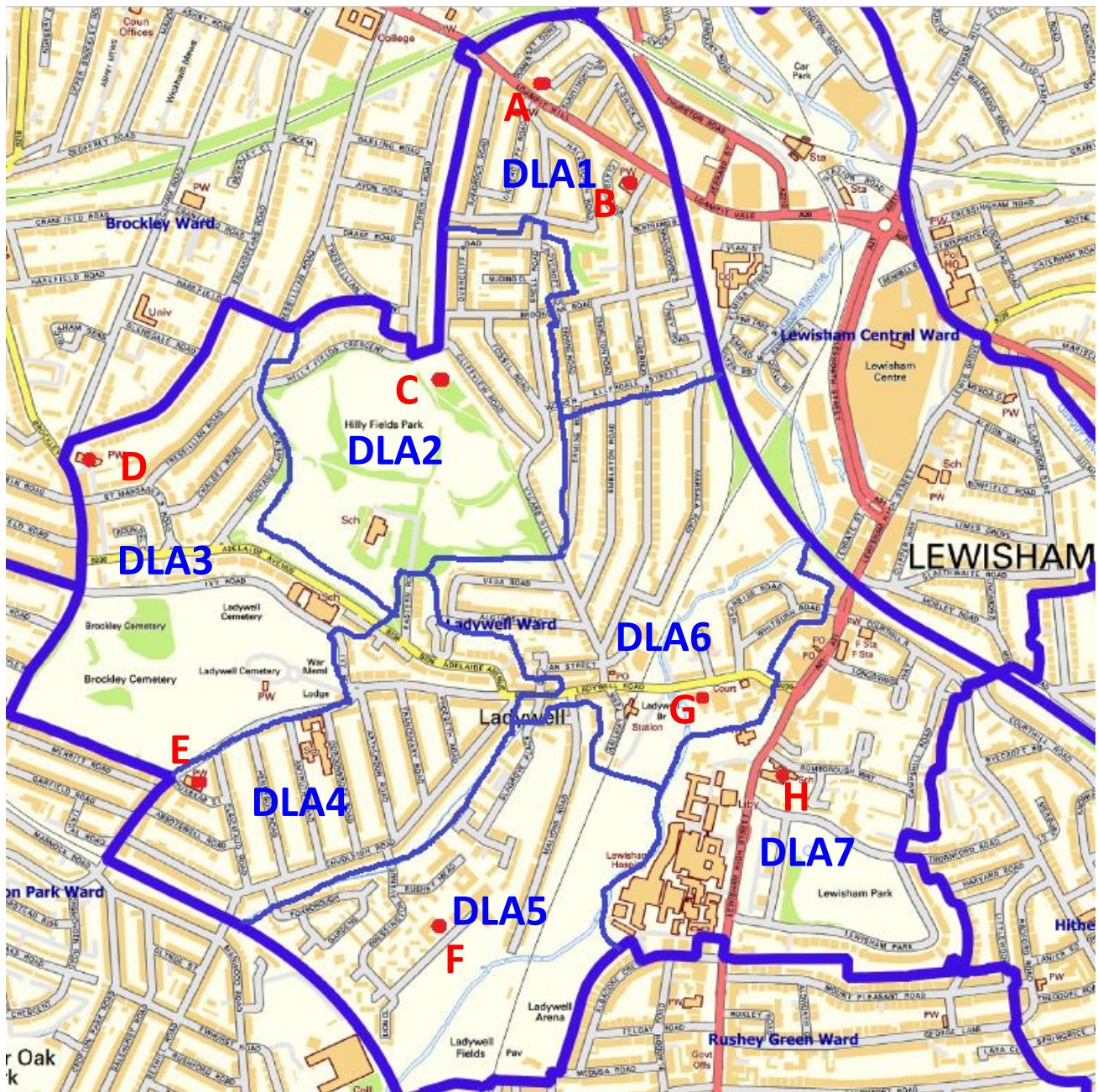
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
St John's Medical Centre, 56 Loampit Hill, SE13 7SX	Long time polling place but no longer available	No
The Tab London, 2B Algernon Road, SE13 7AT	Not yet conducted a site visit.	Maybe
Francis Drake Bowls Club, Hilly Fields Crescent, SE4 1QA	New clubhouse offers good facilities	Yes
St Andrew's United Reform Church, Brockley Road, SE4 2SA	Long time venue, good facilities and size	Yes
Crofton Park Baptist Church, Huxbear Street, SE4 1EA	Good facilities but not ideal location	Yes
John Evelyn Campus, Dressington Avenue, SE4 1JQ	Good facilities but not ideal location	Yes
St Mary's Centre, Ladywell Road, SE13 7UW	Great location	Yes
St Mary's C of E Primary, Romborough Way, SE13 6NX	Good venue	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DLA1	2334	256	2078	The Tab London	New venue, not yet verified
DLA2	1054	122	932	Francis Drake Bowls Club	
DLA3	1382	157	1225	St Andrew's United Reform Church	
DLA4	1917	235	1682	Crofton Park Baptist Church	
DLA5	1174	153	1021	John Evelyn Campus	
DLA6	2113	307	1806	St Mary's Centre	
DLA7	1417	151	1266	St Mary's C of E Primary	

Map



- A.** St John's Medical Centre
- B.** The Tab London
- C.** Francis Drake Bowls Club
- D.** St Andrews United Reform Church
- E.** Crofton Park Baptist Church
- F.** John Evelyn Campus
- G.** St Mary's Centre
- H.** St Mary's C of E Primary

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

LEWISHAM CENTRAL WARD

Electorate = 4,699

Summary

Lewisham Central has been one of the largest 3 member wards in the old polling scheme. However, under the new ward scheme this ward becomes a small 2 member ward. As such, the boundaries have changed dramatically. The area around Orchard Gardens in the south of the ward is compact and served well by the community centre to create a nice little district. The rest of the ward is quite dense, separated by a large main road, a shopping centre, the high street, and railway lines. The most logical split is down the railway line alongside Molesworth Street. Our proposal is to use College Park Baptist Chapel for all voters to the south of that boundary. In the north of the ward there is a choice between Glassmill Leisure Centre, and Prendergast Vale Primary School. In the past we have been unable to use the leisure centre, but we shall pursue that again. In our current proposals however, we have to go with the primary school – fortunately they have a room that can be isolated for polling which means the school does not have to close at election time.

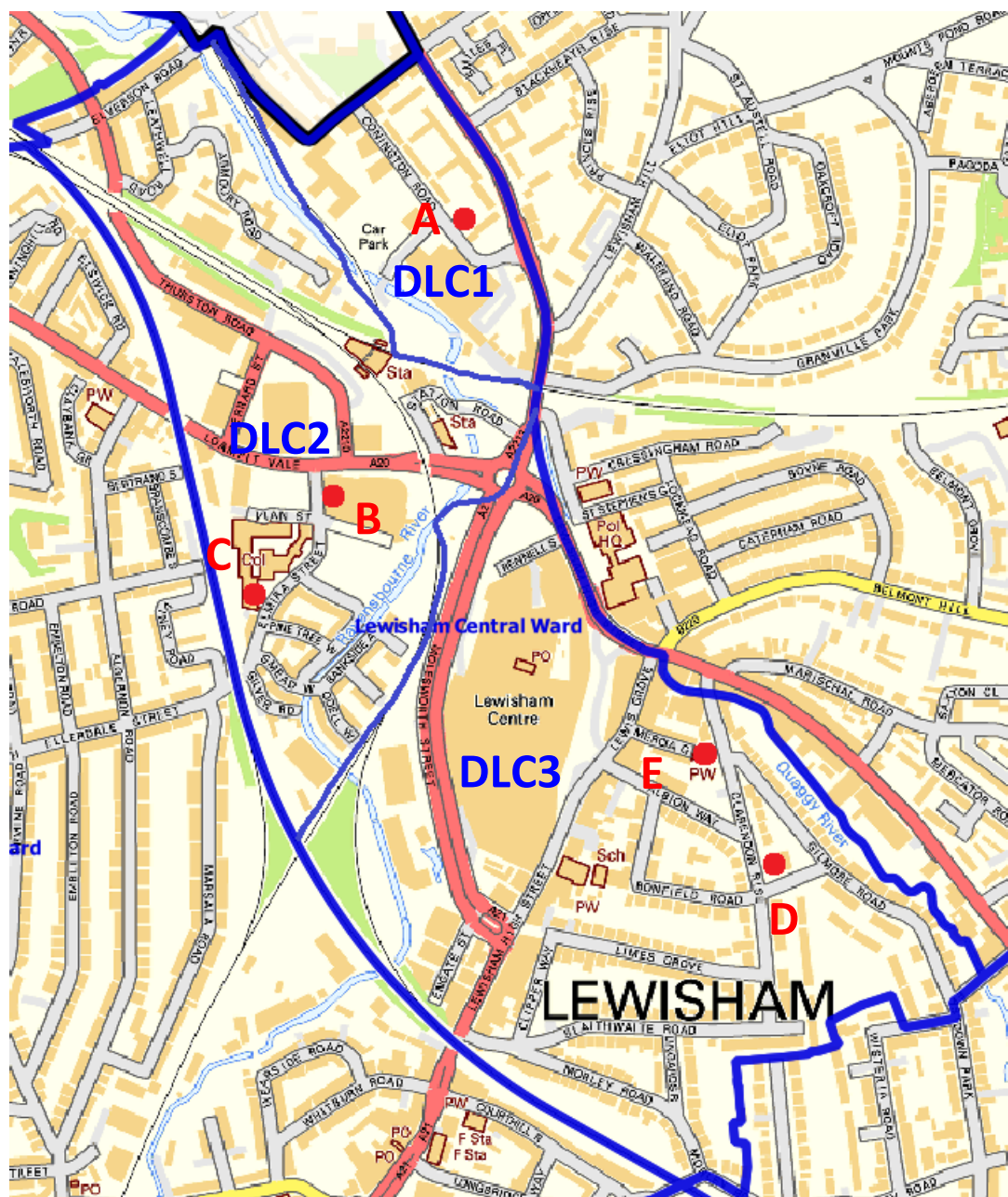
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
College Park Baptist Chapel, Clarendon Rise, SE13 5ES	Has been used for many years and is well located	
Prendergast Vale Primary School, Elmira Street, SE13 7BN	Has been used as a double and even triple station in the past, but the school do not wish to be used	
Orchard Gardens Community Centre, Columbine Way, SE13 6NX	Small but ideal for the area it serves	
Leemore Centre, Clarendon Rise, SE13 5ES	Not as good as the church down the road	
Glassmill Leisure Centre, 41 Loampit Vale, SE13 7FT	Not the ideal layout for a polling place and has not been used for elections before	

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DLC1	815	147	668	Orchard Gardens Community Centre	
DLC2	2985	422	2563	Prendergast Vale Primary School	Double station
DLC3	1719	201	1518	College Park Baptist Chapel	

Map



- A.** Orchard Gardens Community Centre
- B.** Glassmill Leisure Centre
- C.** Prendergast Vale Primary School
- D.** Leamore Centre
- E.** College Park Baptist Chapel

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

NEW CROSS GATE WARD

Electorate = 6,791

Summary

The proposals for the New Cross Gate ward are relatively straightforward. This is a new ward created from 1 polling district from the old Evelyn ward, plus 2 and a bit polling districts from the old New Cross ward. There is a dearth of potential venues for polling places in the area. The 3 polling places in our proposal have been used by the previous districts for many years, and performed well.

The layout of the railway tracks and roads in the ward demarcates the polling districts already – and we propose no changes, other than to add the slither of DNE4 (from the old New Cross ward) to the old DNE5, to create a new polling district called DNG3.

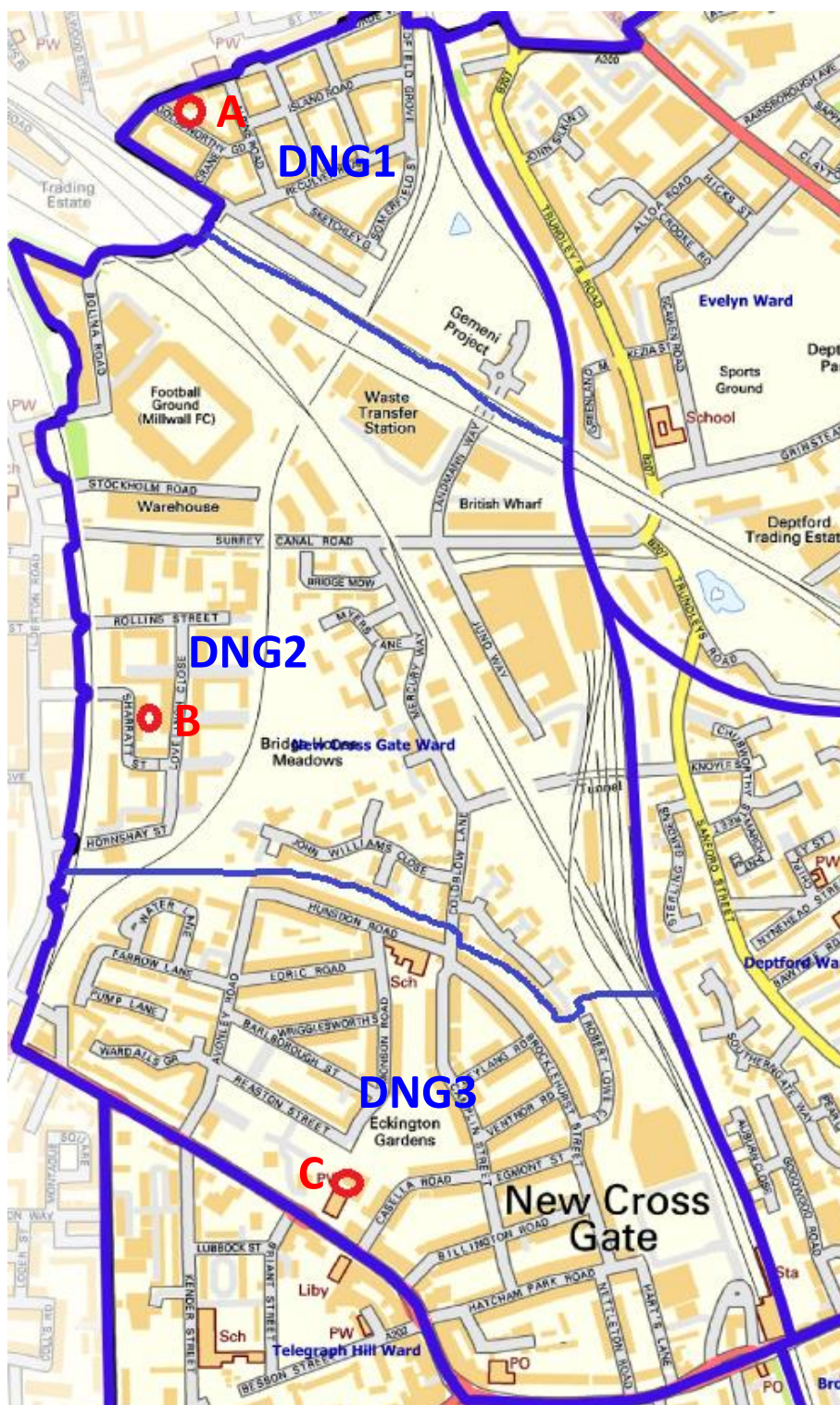
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Lewington Centre, 9 Eugenia Road, SE16 2RU	Far corner of the borough, but decent venue recently refurbished	Yes
Scotney Hall, 17 Sharratt Street, SE15 1NR	Well situated in the centre of the ward	Yes
All Saints Community Centre, Monson Road, SE14 5DJ	Large venue, used as a double station many times	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DNG1	1165	116	1049	Lewington Centre	
DNG2	1898	289	1609	Scotney Hall	
DNG3	3728	418	3310	All Saints Community Centre	Double station

Map



- A.** Lewington Centre
- B.** Scotney Hall
- C.** All Saints Community Hall

LEWISHAM DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCY

TELEGRAPH HILL WARD

Electorate = 11,576

Summary

Telegraph Hill ward is one of only 2 wards to experience zero changes in the local government boundary review. However, on investigation there are a couple of issues that we would like to resolve in this review. Firstly, the polling place at St. James's Family Learning Centre is not actually in the ward. Secondly, 4 schools are used in this ward which we would like to change.

Barnes Wallis Community Centre compares well to both Kender Primary School and Edmund Waller Primary School. It is situated in a cul de Sac off of Queens Road, and could theoretically replace either polling place, but would represent a step down in terms of location for both districts, which would reduce accessibility. **We would welcome views on replacing either or both schools as a polling place with the Barnes Wallis Community Centre which has excellent facilities. One option would be to combine the polling districts of DTE1 and DTE2, and use the Barnes Wallis Centre as the polling place with a double polling station.**

Elsewhere, we propose using the Telegraph Hill Community Centre for the first time as a replacement for Hatcham Oak Childhood Centre. The location is slightly better and the premises is bigger, enabling a large double station in the centre of the ward.

Note the boundaries of the railway line that forces a small polling district to the south of the ward, and the steep hill that runs upwards from the north to the south.

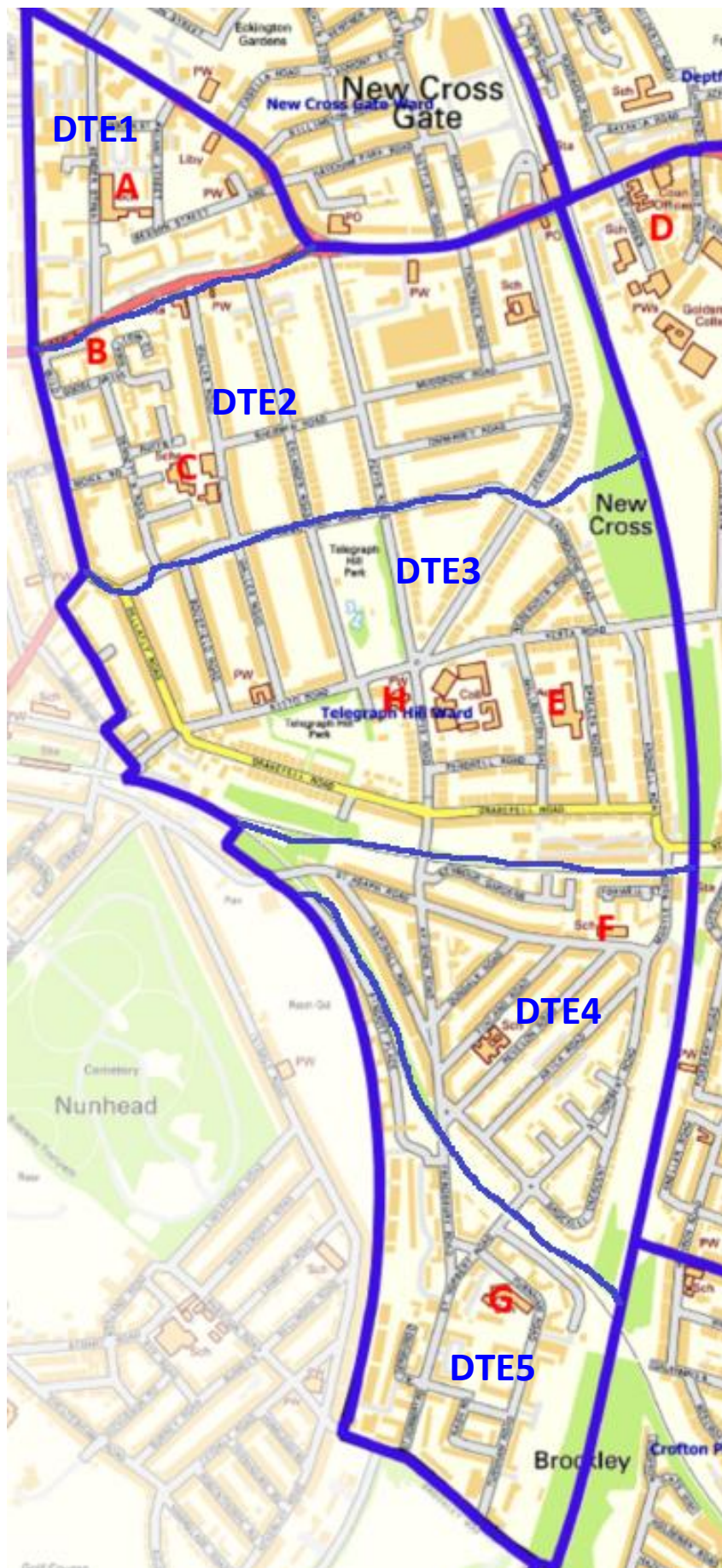
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Kender Primary School, Besson Street, SE14 5JA	Good size and only venue on north side of main road	Yes
Barnes Wallis Community Centre, Wild Goose Drive, SE14	Excellent venue. Nice size, not ideal location	Yes
Edmund Waller Primary School, Waller Road, SE14 5LY	Good size and location.	Yes
St James Family Learning Centre, St James Rd, SE14 6AD	Used before but not in the ward. Need to replace	No
Hatcham Oak Childhood Centre, 29 Walbutton Rd, SE4 2NX	Not a large venue. Need to replace	No
John Starmer Primary School, St Asaph Rd, SE4 2DY	Great venue. Big enough for a double. Nice location	Yes
Turnham Academy Primary School, Turnham Rd, SE4 2HH	Good size and only venue in south of the ward	Yes
Telegraph Hill Centre, Kitto Road, SE14 5TY	Excellent venue. Great location and good size	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DTE1	1440	158	1282	Kender Primary School	
DTE2	3094	340	2754	Edmund Waller Primary School	Double station
DTE3	3267	359	2908	Telegraph Hill Centre	Double station
DTE4	2112	232	1880	John Starmer Primary School	
DTE5	1663	183	1480	Turnham Academy Primary School	

Map



- A.** Kender Primary School
- B.** Barnes Wallis Community Centre
- C.** Edmund Waller Primary School
- D.** St James Family Learning Centre
- E.** Hatcham Oak Childhood Centre
- F.** John Starmer Primary School
- G.** Turnham Academy Primary School
- H.** Telegraph Hill Centre

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

BLACKHEATH WARD

Electorate = 11,558

Summary

The ward is divided by large open spaces in the north and a railway line along the centre. The south of the ward is more densely populated. There is only a small number of potential venues for polling places.

The changes made in the 2019 polling district review have worked well, particularly the use of Brandram Road Community Centre as a double polling station.

The changes to the ward boundaries coming into effect in May 2022 mean a slight increase to the electorate of Blackheath ward. Around 900 electors are brought in from the Mercator Estate area of Lewisham Central. The projected electorate figures show that they can be comfortably accommodated at the nearby Brandram Road Community. As noted above, this is already a double station, but the new electorate would be within the appropriate range for a double station.

Blackheath Quaker Meeting House is a potential new venue that could be used to create a new polling district taking on one third of voters from our proposed EBL3. We would like to hear from residents and local groups on that idea.

Granville Park Centre has recently been used as a shared station as a result of St Stephen and St Mark's Church Hall being unavailable. This worked well and we propose this is made a permanent solution.

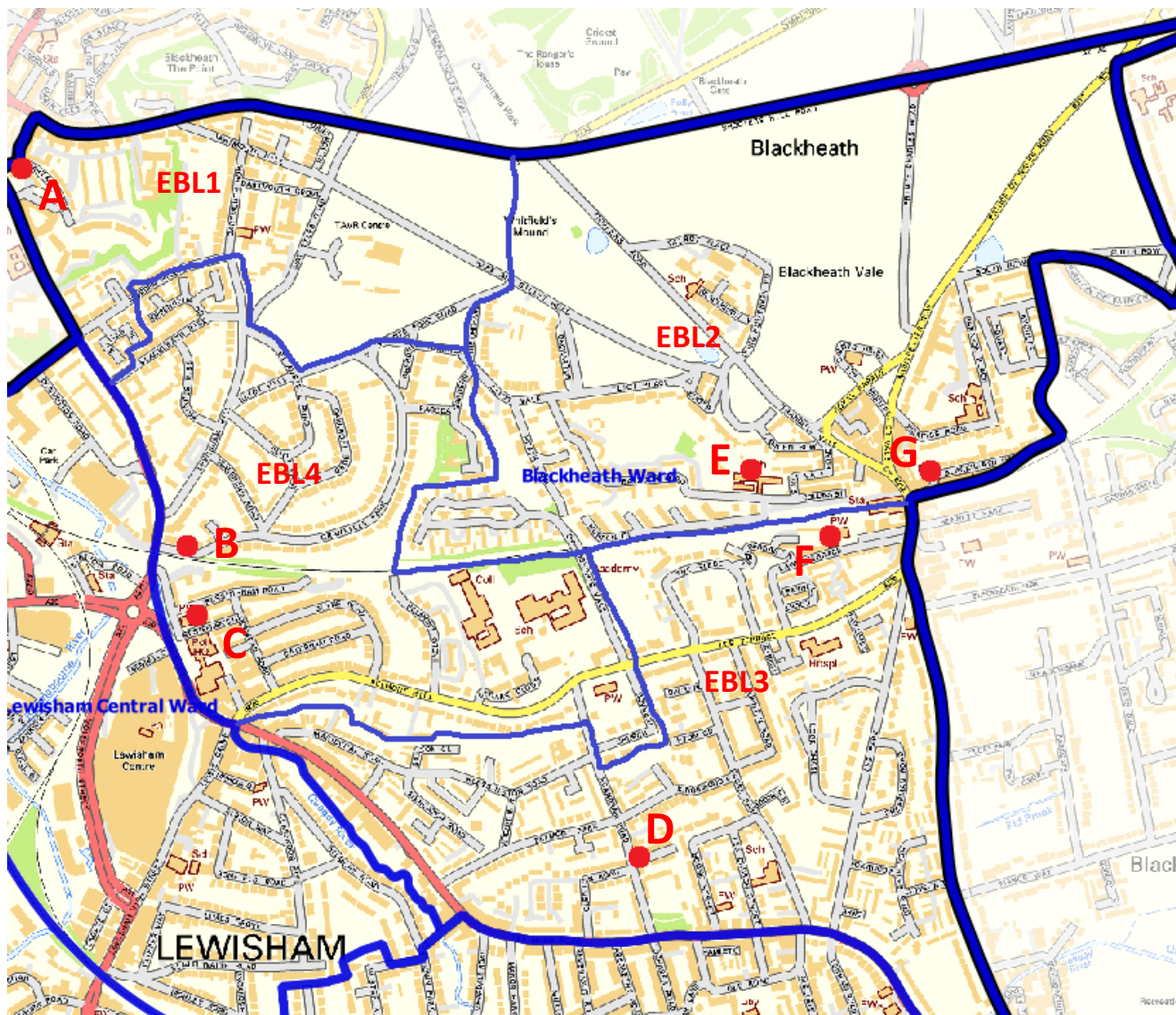
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Parkside SE10	Good location and facilities. Not big enough for a double station	Yes
John Ball Nursery School	Good venue and we've not found any alternatives to accommodate voters in EBL2 area despite our best endeavours.	Yes
Brandram Road Community Centre	Good location and facilities. Works well as a double station	Yes
Granville Park Centre	Good location and facilities. Slightly tight as a double but manageable	Yes
St Stephen & St Mark's Church Hall	Very close to Granville Park Centre but has availability issues	No
Blackheath Quaker Meeting House	Good location but needs further investigation and a risk assessment	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
EBL1	1869	276	1593	Parkside SE10	
EBL2	2120	313	1807	John Ball Nursery School	
EBL3	4396	648	3748	Brandram Road Community Centre	Double station
EBL4	3173	468	2705	Granville Park Centre	Double station

Map



- A.** Parkside SE10
- B.** Granville Park Centre
- C.** St Stephen and St Mark's Church
- D.** Brandram Road Nursery School
- E.** John Ball Nursery School
- F.** Quakers Meeting House
- G.** Heath House Prep School

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

CATFORD SOUTH WARD

Electorate = 11,163

Summary

This ward has seen significant change, with parts of the old ward being moved into the new Hither Green ward, with some of Whitefoot Ward coming in to replace those electors. The north of the ward has a good number of potential polling venues, but the south of the ward does not. The road layout leads us to the proposals below. **One question we have for local residents and experts of the area is around our proposed polling district ECA1. Currently it is a large district with a double polling station at the Healthy Lifestyle Centre, which is a good venue and accessible for everyone in the district. However, there is an option to split ECA1 down the middle and send half the electors to Brownhill Road Baptist Church. That could improve accessibility for some electors, but not all, and we are keen to hear more views.**

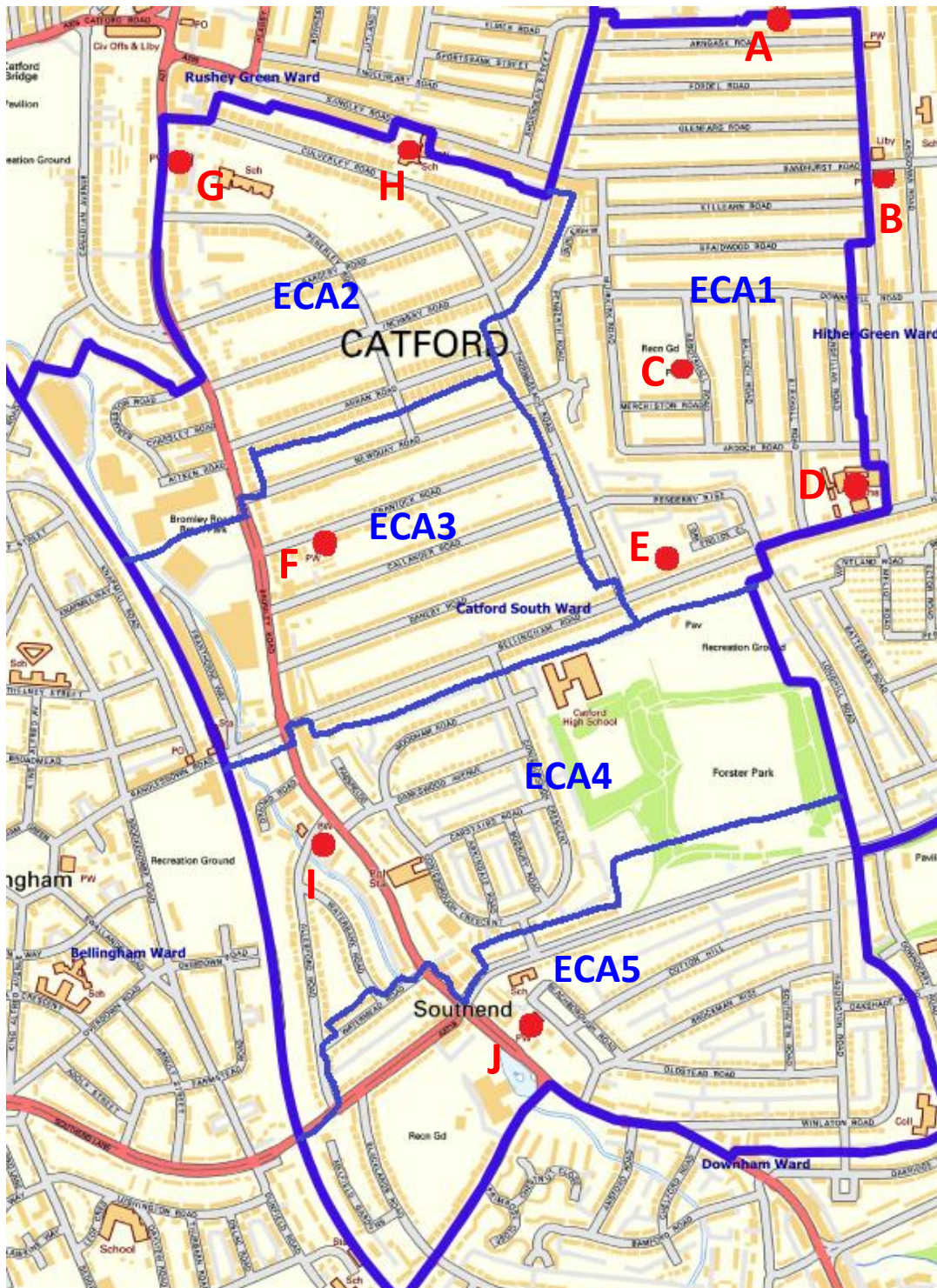
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Brownhill Road Baptist Church, 292 Brownhill Road, SE6 1AU	On very edge of the ward	No
St Andrew the Apostle Church, Sandhurst Road, SE6 1RG	No longer in ward	No
Healthy Lifestyle Centre, Abbotshall Road, SE6 1SQ	Great venue	Yes
Torridon Junior School, Hazelbank Road, SE6 1TG	On edge of ward	No
Bellingham Bowls Club, Bellingham Road, SE6 1EQ	New venue with great potential	No
Catford and Bromley Synagogue, Beckenham Hill Road, SE6 2NU	Decent size but not greatest facilities	Yes
St Laurence Centre, 37 Bromley Road, SE6 7TS	Good venue and nice size, but not best location	Yes
Holy Cross RC School, Culverley Road, SE6 2LD	On edge of the ward	No
Haskins Community Hall, Watermead Estate, Allerford Rd, SE6 2TB	Very small but ideal location for the estate	Yes
St John the Baptist Church, 353 Bromley Road, SE6 2RP	Great size	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
ECA1	4093	602	3491	Healthy Lifestyle Centre	Double station
ECA2	2105	261	1842	St Laurence Centre	
ECA3	1559	196	1365	Catford and Bromley Synagogue	
ECA4	2055	277	1778	Haskins Community Hall	
ECA5	2339	329	2010	St John the Baptist Church	

Map



- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Brownhill Road Baptist Church | F. Catford and Bromley Synagogue |
| B. St Andrew the Apostle Church | G. St Laurence Centre |
| C. Healthy Lifestyle Centre | H. Holy Cross RC School |
| D. Torridon Junior School | I. Haskins Community Hall |
| E. Bellingham Bowls Club | J. St John the Baptist Church |

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

DOWNHAM WARD

Electorate = 12,210

Summary

The new Downham ward takes on many voters from the old Whitefoot ward, and gives away many voters to the new Hither Green ward. As usual, we are not spoilt for choice of polling venues, but there are several of good quality and in good locations. We have investigated Good Shepherd Church, which is next door to the school of the same name, but cannot recommend this venue due to the lack of disabled access.

In order to reduce our use of schools we propose 2 large polling districts that make maximum use of 2 good venues whilst still being a relatively short walk of around 10 minutes for those living farthest away. We believe this is a great solution but we would like to hear views of residents and experts on the area.

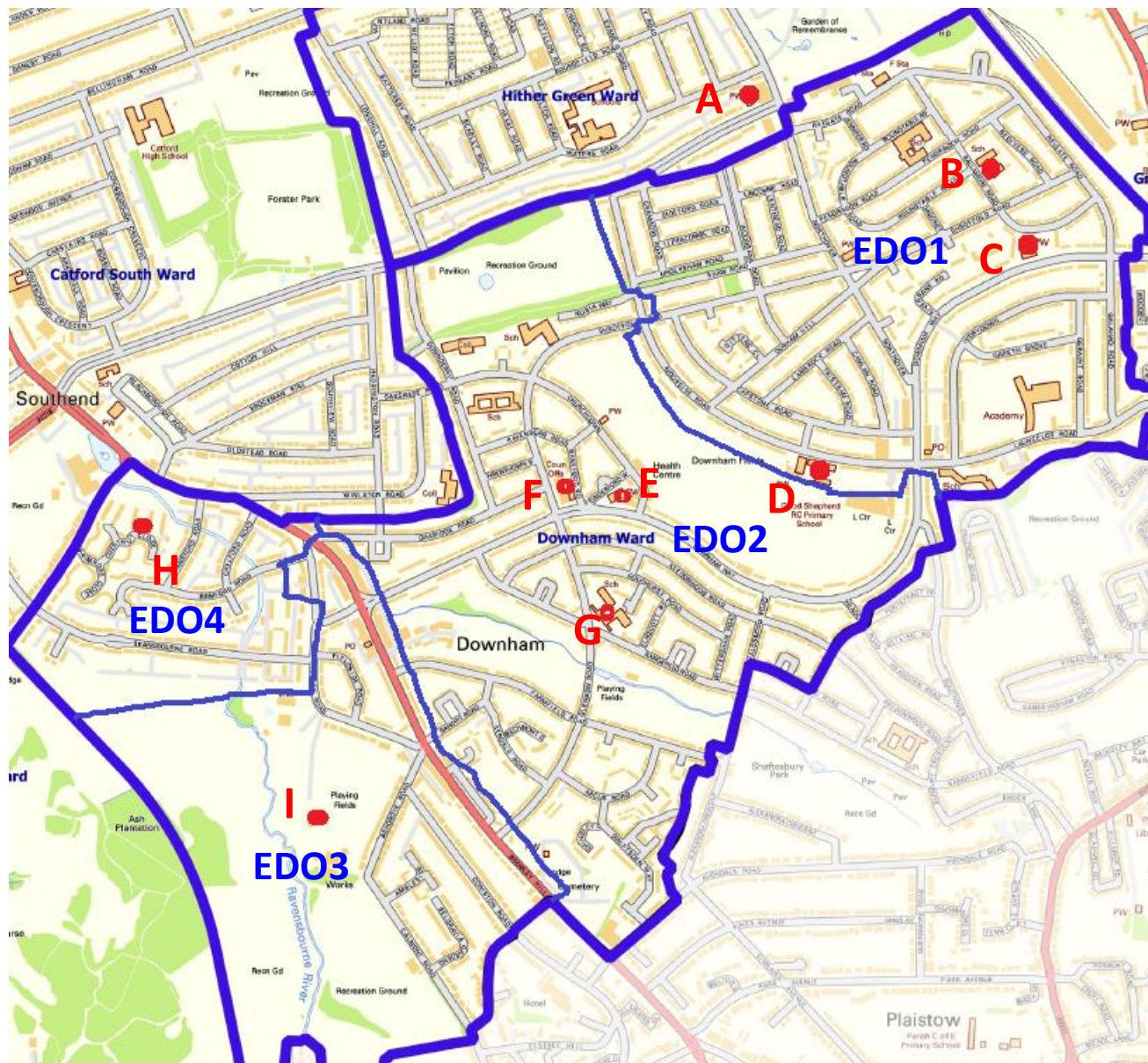
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Hope Church Downham, 480 Whitefoot Lane, BR1 5SF	Not in the ward, but close	No
Knights Temple Grove Primary School, Ballamore Road, BR1 5LW	Good venue but not ideal location	No
Good Shepherd Primary School, Moorside Road, BR1 5EP	Good location in centre of ward	No
St Barnabas Church Hall, 1 Churchdown, BR1 5PS	Very close to Downham Community Centre	No
Downham Community Centre, Wesley Halls, BR1 5PE	Great venue. Good size and facilities	Yes
Rangefield Primary School, Rockets Building, Glenbow Road, BR1 4RP	Nursery building only. A little cramped	No
Catford Wanderers Sports Club, Beckenham Hill Road, SE6 2NU	On edge of ward and a little small	Yes
Ten Em Been Sports Development, 120A Old Bromley Road, BR1 4JY	Long drive but only venue in the west of the ward	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
EDO1	5409	701	4708	Kings Church	Triple station
EDO2	4376	543	3833	Downham Community Centre	Double station
EDO3	1155	194	961	Ten Em Been Sports Development	
EDO4	1270	211	1059	Catford Wanderers Sports Club	

Map



- A.** Hope church Downham
- B.** Knights Temple Grove Primary School
- C.** Kings Church
- D.** Good Shepherd Primary School
- E.** St Barnabas Church Hall
- F.** Downham Community Centre
- G.** Rangefield Primary School
- H.** Catford Wanderers Sports Club
- I.** Ten Em Bee Sports Development

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

GROVE PARK WARD

Electorate = 10,809

Summary

There's been very little change to this ward with only a small slither of Downham being bought in along the bottom of Baring Road. There are a couple of potential new venues for polling places, one of which, the Grove Park Youth Club, is in a good location to replace an existing polling place. None of the venues identified are operable as a double polling station, except for Baring Primary School, which limits our options for larger districts and for replacing the schools. **We'd like to hear views particularly on changing the polling place for EGR1 from Marvels Lane Primary School to WG Grace Community Centre.**

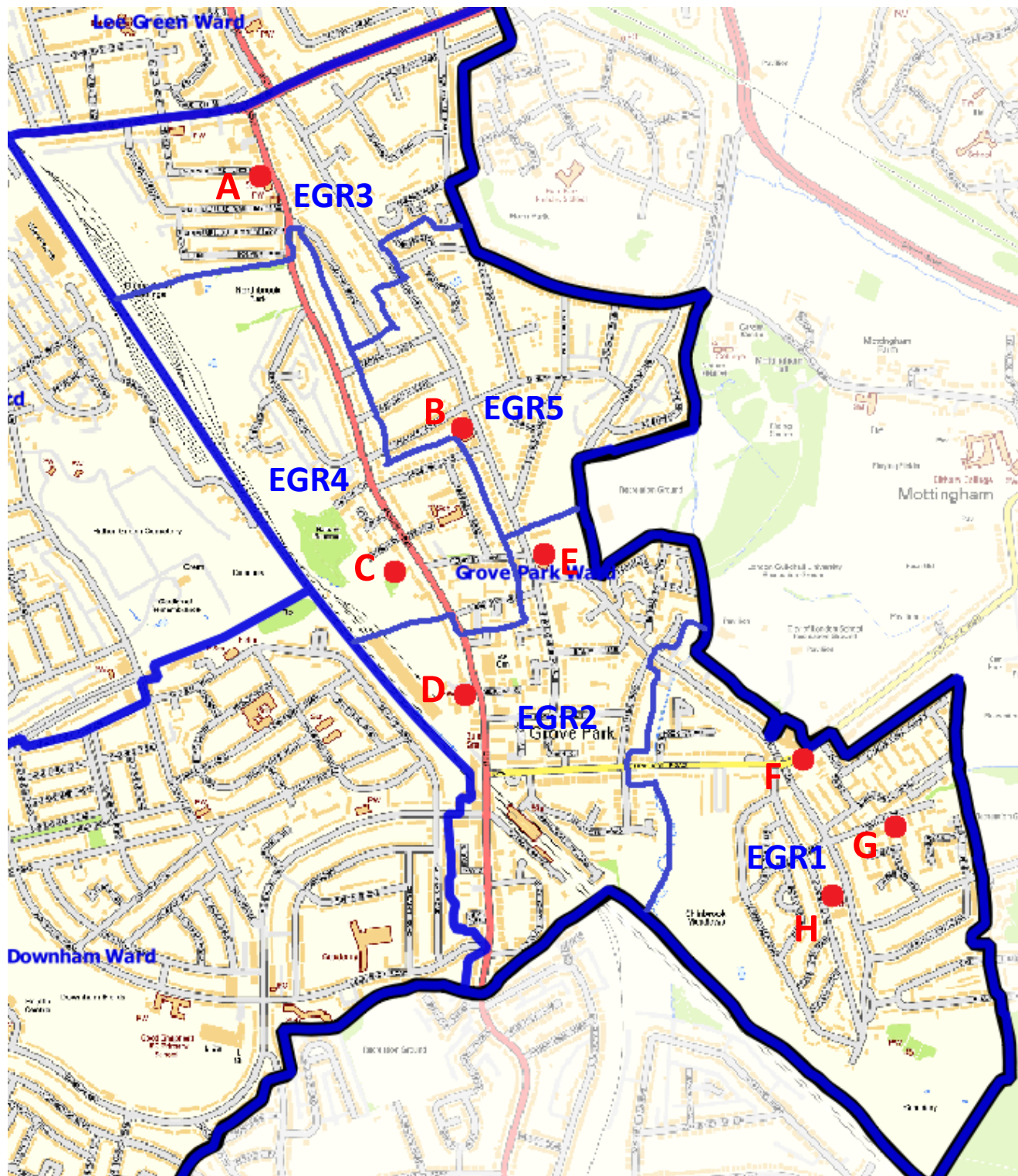
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Baring Primary School, Linchmere Road, SE12 ONB	Great venue with a large hall	Yes
Burnt Ash Methodist Church, Burnt Ash Hill, SE12 0QD	Good venue, location and facilities	Yes
Ringway Centre. 268 Baring Road, SE12 0DS	Decent venue	Yes
St Augustines Church Hall, 336 Baring Road, SE12 0DU	Good venue, location and facilities	Yes
Grove Park Library, Somertrees Avenue, SE12 0BX	New venue, awaiting report from site visit	No
Grove Park Youth Club, Marvels Lane, SE12 9PR	Good venue and location but poor disabled access	No
WG Grace Community Centre, 1 Lions Close, SE9 4HG	Good venue, location and facilities	Yes
Marvels Lane Primary School, Riddons Road, SE12 9RA	Good venue, location and facilities	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
EGR1	3209	481	2728	WG Grace Community Centre	Double station
EGR2	2188	353	1835	St Augustines Church Hall	
EGR3	2417	336	2081	Baring Primary School	
EGR4	1281	164	1117	Ringway Centre	
EGR5	1714	258	1456	Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall	

Map



A. Baring Primary School

B. Burnt Ash Methodist Church

C. Ringway Centre

D. St Augustines Church Hall

E. Grove Park Library

F. Grove Park Youth Club

G. WG Grace Community Centre

H. Marvels Lane Primary School

LEWISHAM EAST and DEPTFORD CONSTITUENCIES

HITHER GREEN WARD

Electorate = 13,543

Summary

This ward is split between 2 parliamentary constituencies and the polling district codes are named accordingly. Bromley Road acts as the divider between the two; the top half of the ward comprises of polling districts that were previously in Lewisham Central ward, with the bottom half comprised of parts of Whitefoot and Catford South wards. Given the location of the potential venues, and layout of the streets, we are proposing a couple of larger polling districts which makes more sense than many smaller ones. It is a short walk for most electors to their allocated venue and as we have said previously, double polling stations are helpful to enable effective administration of elections.

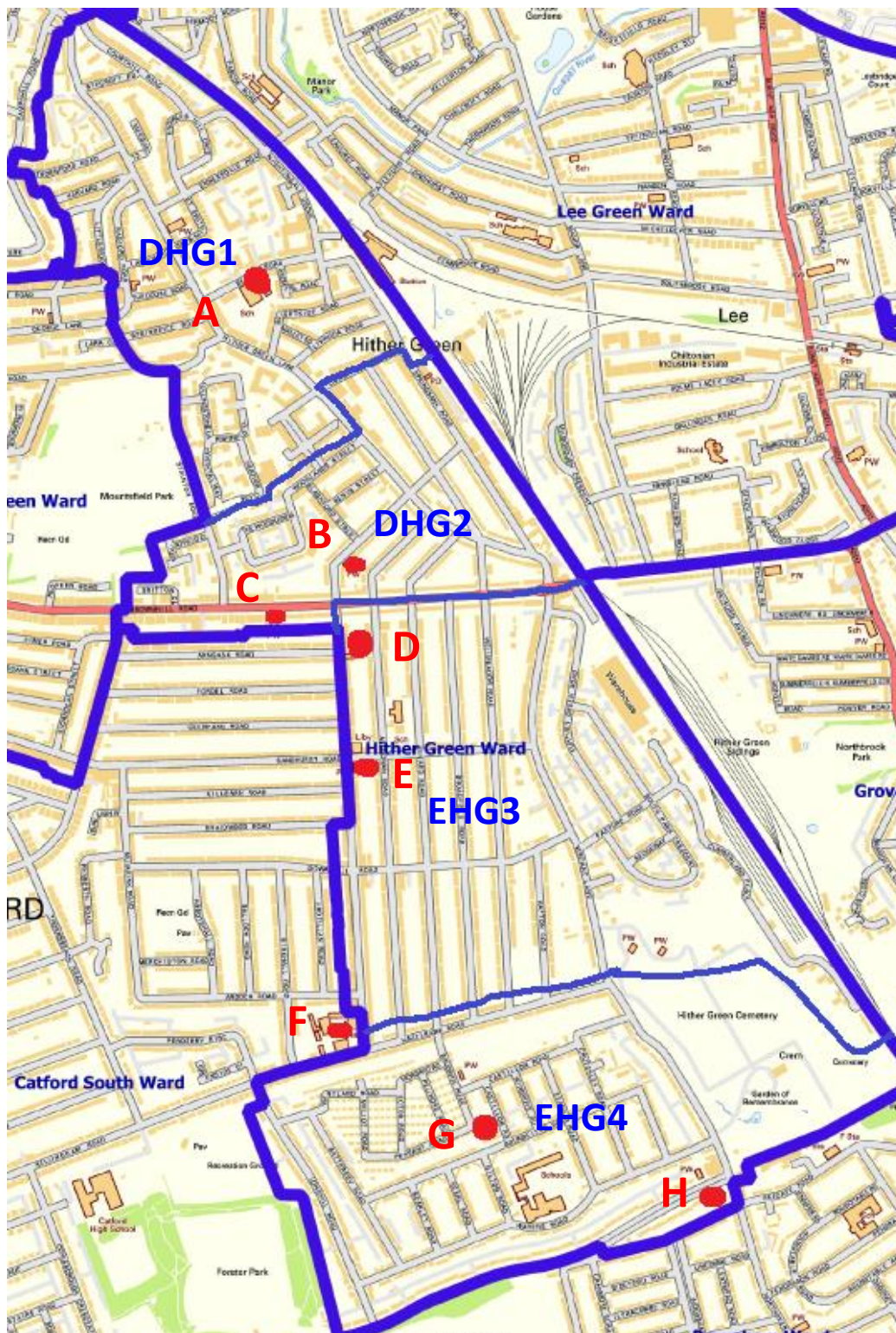
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Brindishe Green Primary School, Beacon Road, SE13 6EH	Large school hall available	Yes
St Christopher Christian Fellowship Church, 31A Torridon Road, SE6 1AQ	Good venue but not big enough for a double	Yes
Brownhill Road Baptist Church Hall, 292 Brownhill Road, SE6 1AU	Poor location on edge of the ward	No
Hither Green Methodist Church, Torridon Road, SE6 1RQ	Poor location on edge of the ward	No
St Andrew the Apostle Church, Sandhurst Road, SE6 1XD	Very good venue. Large size and good facilities	Yes
Torridon Junior School, Hazelbank Road, SE6 1TG	Just on the wrong side of the ward boundary	No
Goldsmith's Community Centre, Castillon Road, SE6 1QD	Very good venue. Large size and good facilities	Yes
Hope Church Downham, 480 Whitefoot Lane, BR1 5SF	Poor location on edge of the ward	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
DHG1	3850	484	3366	Brindishe Green Primary School	Double station
DHG2	2022	255	1767	St Christopher Christian Fellowship Church	
EHG3	4629	603	4026	St Andrew the Apostle Church	Double station
EHG4	3042	379	2663	Goldsmith's Community Centre	Double station

Map



A. Brindishe Green Primary School

B. St Christopher Christian Fellowship Church

C. Brownhill Road Baptist Church Hall

D. Hither Green Methodist Church

E. St Andrew the Apostle Church

F. Torridon Junior School

G. Goldsmith's Community Centre

H. Hope Church Downham

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

LEE GREEN WARD

Electorate = 9,804

Summary

This ward is virtually unchanged by the ward boundary review with just a handful of properties in Morley Road being moved into Lewisham Central. There is a lack of alternative potential venues for the ward. Properties in this ward are spread out, with a pattern of roads, railways and a river that forces certain polling district boundaries. This gives relatively little room for amendments. Our proposals seek to remove one school from the list of polling places by making more use of the larger venues. Two of our proposed districts have electorates just over our quota which can be resolved by a postal vote encouragement exercise or by allocating double stations.

Elsewhere, we would like to replace St Winifred's Primary school – primarily because the disabled access is extremely poor but also because we are trying to use less schools. The Lady of Lourdes Church has very good accessibility and despite being across the road for many of these electors it is still a good and convenient location with a suitable crossing close by.

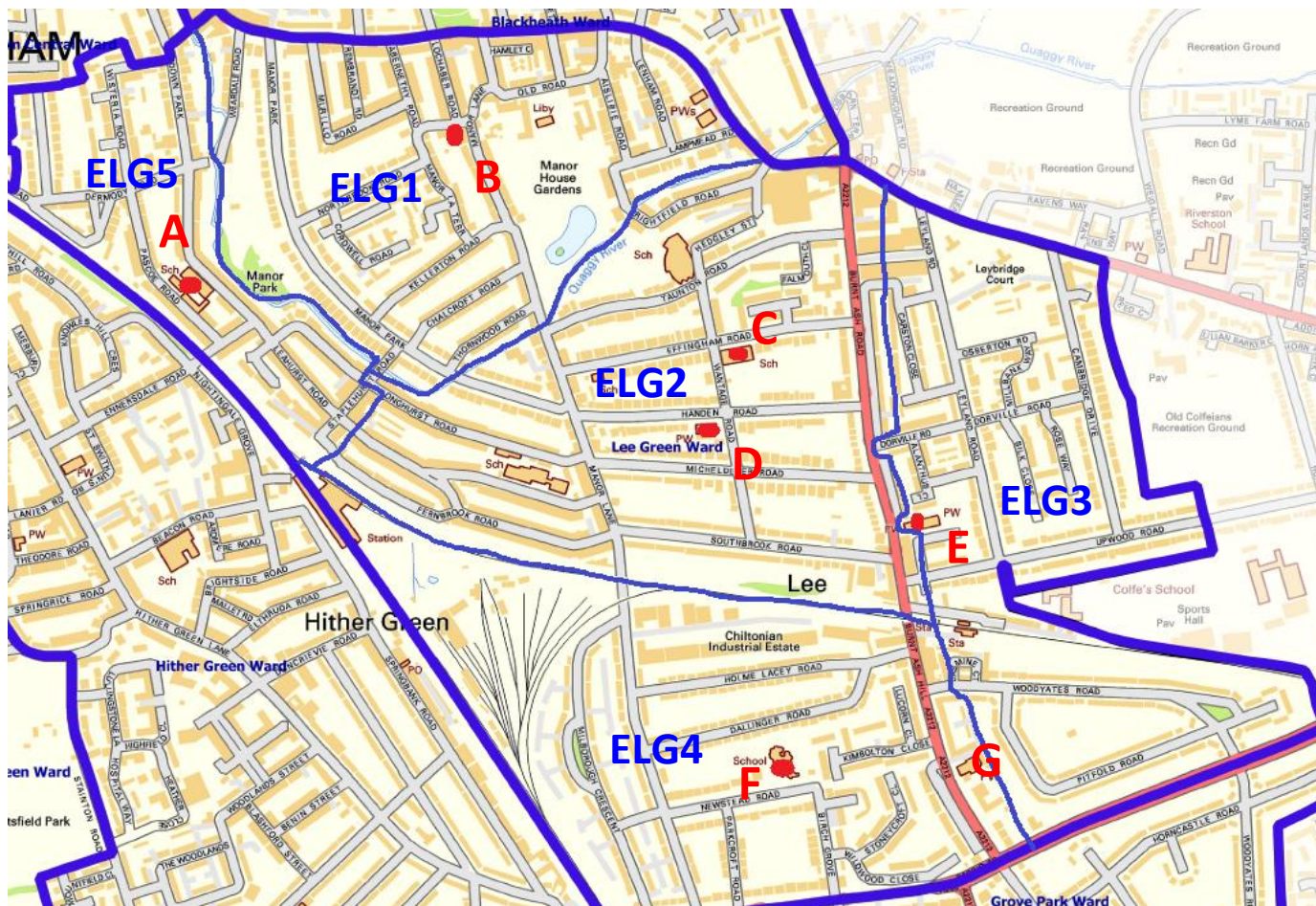
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Trinity Primary School, Leahurst Road, SE13 5HZ	Small venue in isolated part of ward	No
Lochaber Hall, Manor Lane Terrace, SE13 5QL	Decent venue and facilities	Yes
Brindishe Lee School, Wantage Road, SE12 8NA	Good location	No
The Church of the Good Shepherd, Handen Road, SE12 8NR	Central location	Yes
Lee Green United Reform Church, 111-113 Burnt Ash Road, SE12 8RA	Good location	Yes
St Winifred's Catholic Primary School, Newstead Road, SE12 0SJ	Poor disabled access	No
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 45 Burnt Ash Hill, SE12 0AE	New venue with great facilities and access	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
ELG1	2614	318	2296	Lochaber Hall	
ELG2	2690	399	2291	The Church of the Good Shepherd	
ELG3	2075	317	1758	Lee Green United Reform Church	
ELG4	1847	241	1606	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	
ELG5	1379	187	1192	Trinity Primary School	

Map



- A.** Trinity Primary School
- B.** Lochaber Hall
- C.** Brinshe Lee School
- D.** The Church of the Good Shepherd
- E.** Lee Green United Reform Church
- F.** St Winifred's Catholic Primary School
- G.** Our Lady of Lourdes Church

LEWISHAM EAST CONSTITUENCY

RUSHEY GREEN WARD

Electorate = 11,893

Summary

This ward sits in the very centre of the borough, with the council offices at Laurence House right in the centre of the ward. As with many other wards, there is a real lack of potential polling venues but in this ward that absence is more keenly felt, as there is a complete lack of choice of venue for over half the ward. Laurence House and the Lewisham Irish Community Centre are both large venues, capable of hosting several polling stations and are in great locations to maximise accessibility for voters. By maximising our use of those venues we can avoid using schools in this ward entirely. It does mean having a couple of large polling districts but given the lack of suitable venues there is little alternative.

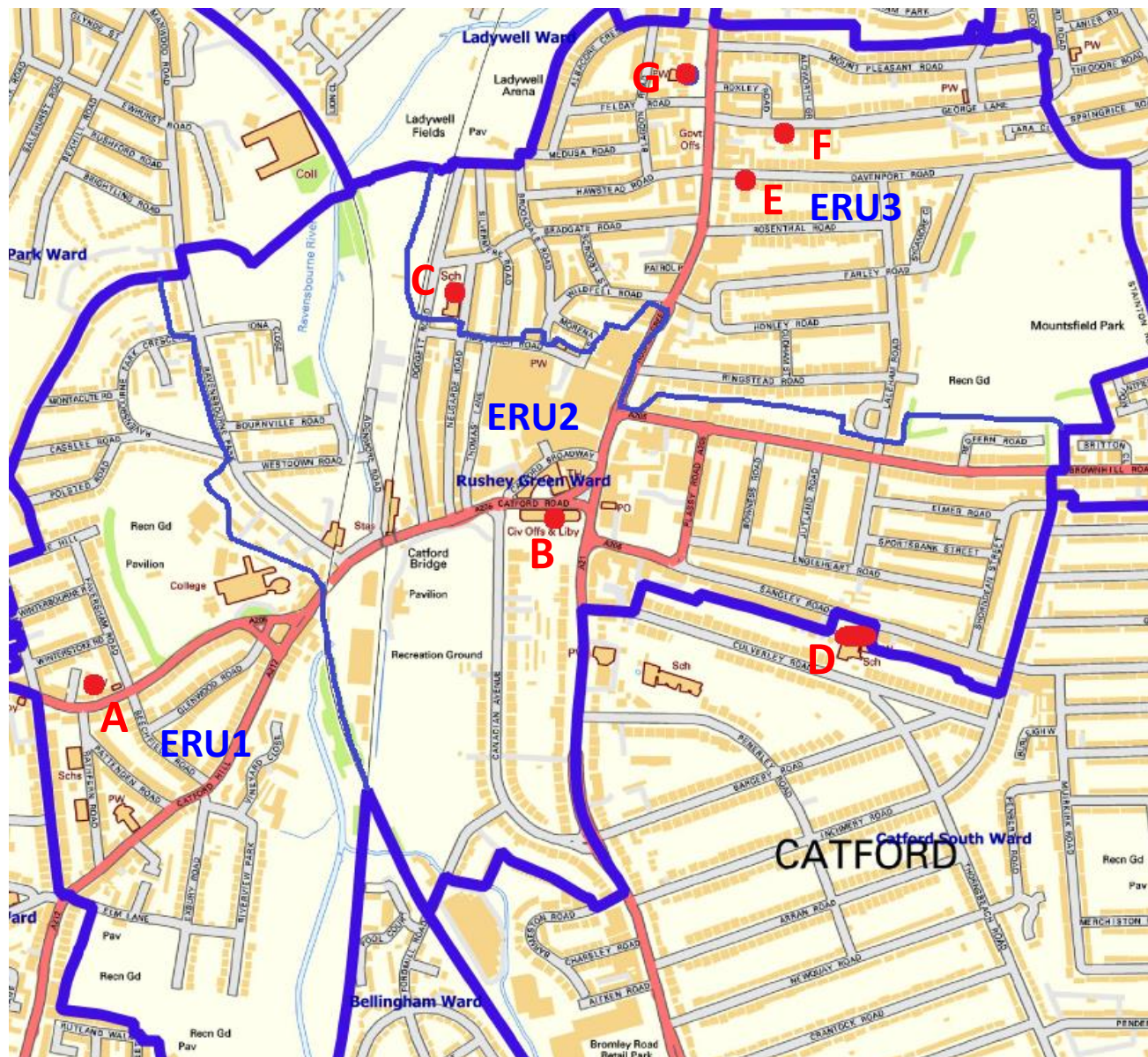
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Trinity Church Hall, Faversham Road, SE6 4XE	Good venue with decent facilities and location	Yes
Laurence House, Catford Road, SE6 4RU	Central location and very large space	Yes
Holbeach School, Nelgarde Road, SE6 4TP	Good venue and great location	No
Holy Cross RC School, Culverley Road, SE6 2LD	No longer in ward	No
Calabash Centre, 24/26 George Lane, SE13 6HH	Great venue and location	Yes
Lewisham Irish Community Centre, 2 Davenport Road, SE6 2AZ	New venue. Large with great facilities	Yes
Saville Centre, 436-438 Lewisham High St, SE13 6LJ	Small venue towards edge of ward	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
ERU1	2491	343	2148	Trinity Church Hall	
ERU2	4853	668	4185	Laurence House	Double station
ERU3	4549	568	3981	Lewisham Irish Community Centre	Double station

Map



- A.** Trinity Church Hall
- B.** Catford Library/Laurence House
- C.** Holbeach School
- D.** Holy Cross RC School
- E.** Lewisham Irish Community Centre
- F.** Calabash Centre
- G.** Saville Centre

LEWISHAM WEST & PENGE CONSTITUENCY

BELLINGHAM WARD

Electorate = 7,512

Summary

Bellingham ward is changing to a 2 member ward with a much reduced electorate. The ward itself is quite spread out, with a large low rise estate and terraced streets, and several open spaces. Although our proposed polling district WBE1 is large, the proposed polling place of Christ Church is in the centre of the district and easily accessible for the voters. Furthermore, it means we can avoid using Athelney School which suffers from a lack of facilities for polling staff. **We can also propose to make better use of the excellent Sedgehill Community Centre by allocating more electors to that district and would like to hear more from local experts and residents on where best to place a boundary between WBE1 and WBE2.**

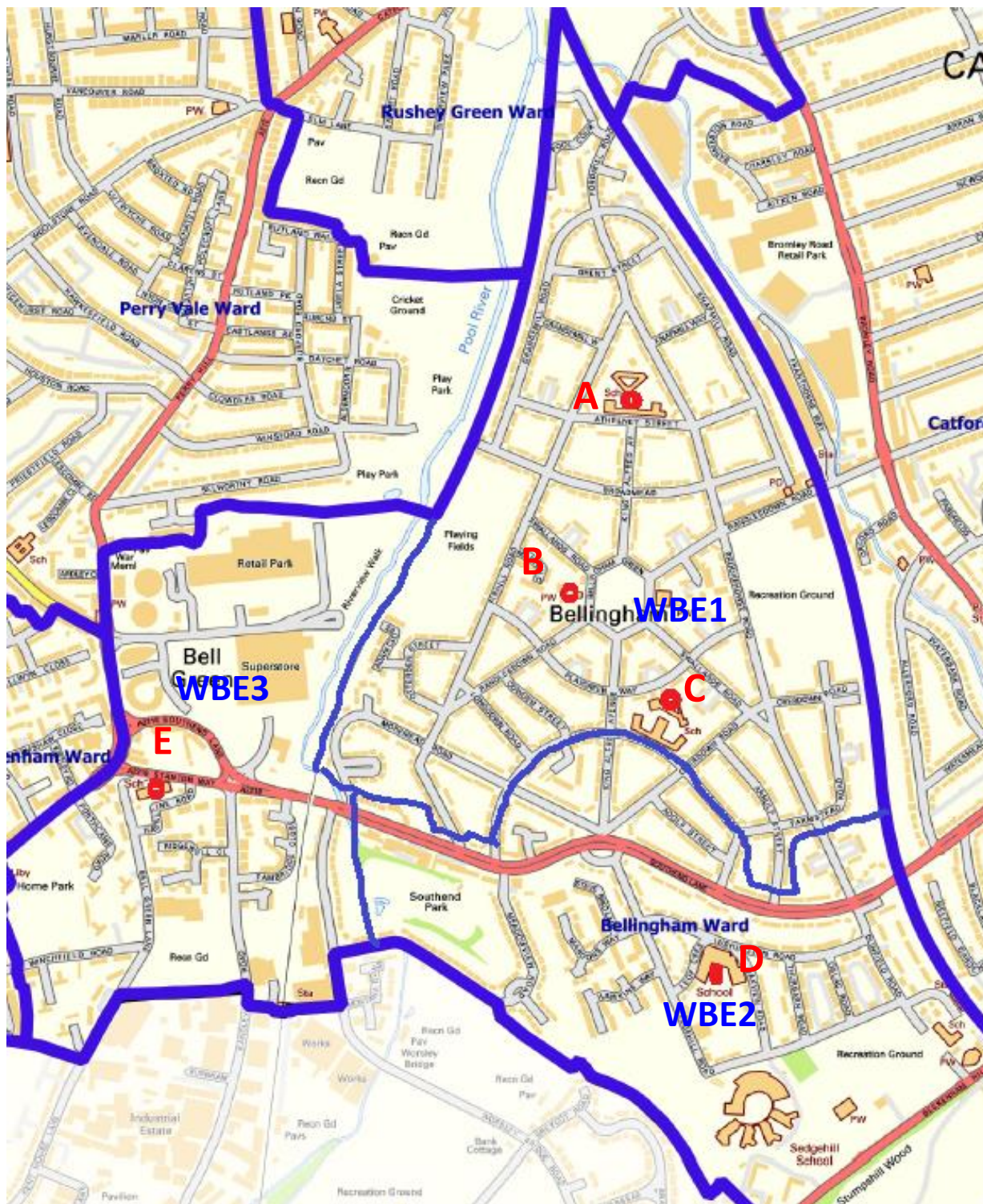
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Athelney Primary School, Athelney Street, SE6 3LD	Good location but poor facilities and small size	No
Christ Church, United Reform Church, Bellingham Green, SE6 3HQ	Good venue and large space	Yes
Elfrida Nursery School, Playgreen Way, SE6 3EN	Good venue and large space	No
Sedgehill Community Centre, 69-85 Sedgehill Road, SE6 3QN	Good venue and large space	Yes
Haseltine Primary School, Haseltine Road, SE26 5AD	Good location and facilities	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
WBE1	3814	411	3403	Christ Church, United Reform Church	Double station
WBE2	2339	301	2038	Sedgehill Community Centre	
WBE3	1359	174	1185	Haseltine Primary School	

Map



- A.** Athelney Primary School
- B.** Christ Church, United Reform Church
- C.** Elfrida Nursery School
- D.** Sedgemoor Community Centre
- E.** Haseltine Primary School

LEWISHAM WEST & PENGE CONSTITUENCY

FOREST HILL WARD

Electorate = 11,323

Summary

This ward is completely unchanged in the new ward scheme. The main issue we have in this ward is around the area of Eliot Bank where we have used a portacabin as the polling place for many years. This is an unsatisfactory arrangement due to the resource and risk required. By shifting the boundaries of the districts in that area we can re-allocate those electors previously allocated to the portacabin to Eliot Bank Primary School and the Forest Hill library. Note the geography of this area features steep hills.

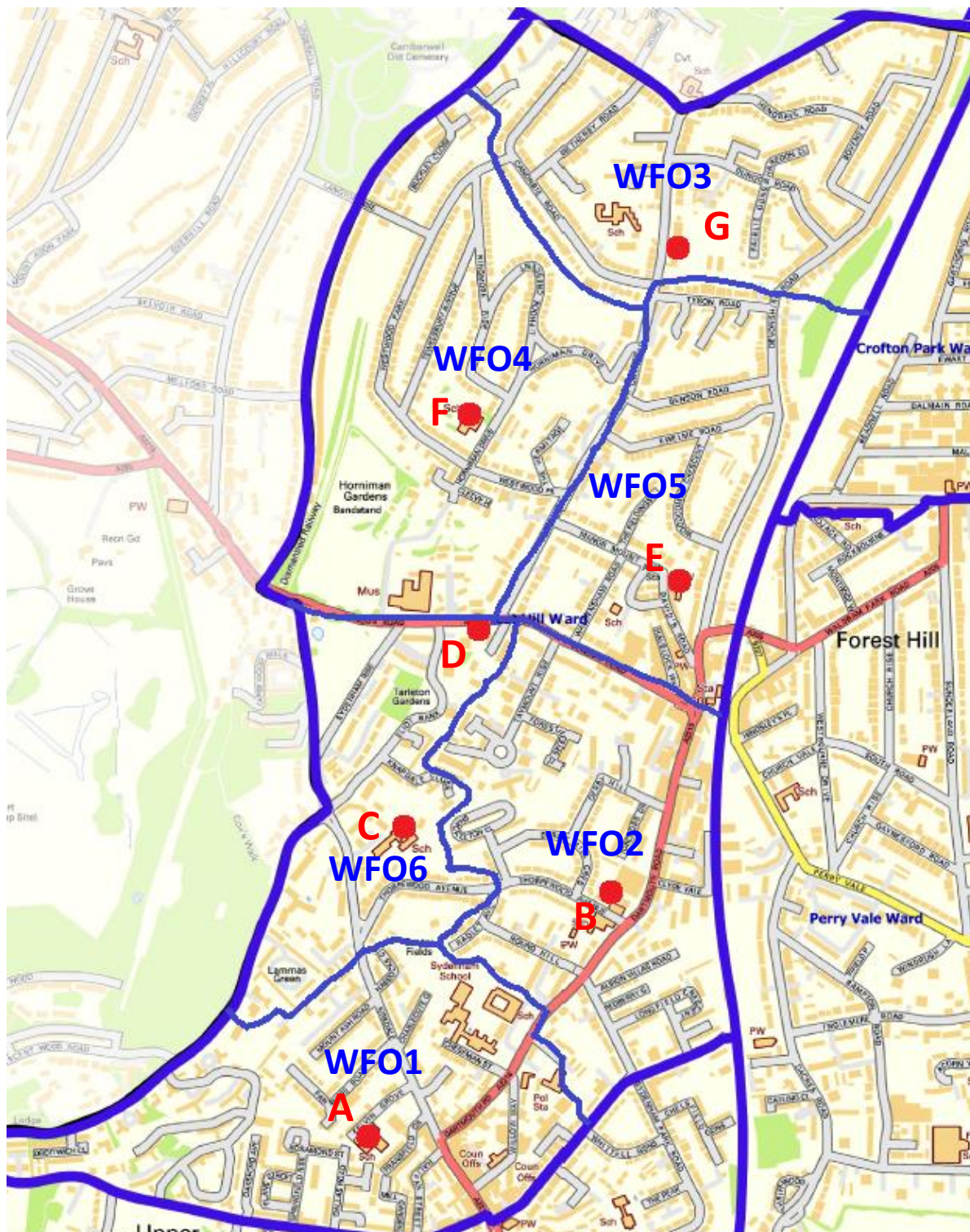
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Kelvin Grove Primary School, Kelvin Grove, SE26 6BB	Decent venue and location	Yes
Forest Hill Library, Thorpewood Avenue, SE23 3HZ	Good venue and location	Yes
Eliot Bank Primary School, Thorpewood Avenue, SE26 4BU	Very small space but good for a small electorate	Yes
Portacabin outside 141-181 Eliot Bank, SE23 3XB	Need to replace	No
The Church Worldwide, 49 Devonshire Road, SE23 3EN	Good venue and location	Yes
Horniman Primary School, Horniman Drive, SE23 3BP	Excellent venue, facilities and accessibility	Yes
Christian Fellowship Centre, 39 Honor Oak Road, SE23 3SH	Excellent venue, facilities and accessibility	Yes

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
WFO1	2380	313	2067	Kelvin Grove Primary School	
WFO2	2458	362	2096	Forest Hill Library	
WFO3	2092	306	1786	Christian Fellowship Centre	
WFO4	1568	254	1314	Horniman Primary School	
WFO5	1910	232	1678	The Church Worldwide	
WFO6	915	135	780	Eliot Bank Primary School	

Map



- A.** Kelvin Grove Primary School
- B.** Forest Hill Library
- C.** Eliot Bank Primary School
- D.** Location of Portacabin on Eliot Bank

- E.** The Church Worldwide
- F.** Horniman Primary School
- G.** Christian Fellowship Centre

LEWISHAM WEST & PENGE CONSTITUENCY

PERRY VALE WARD

Electorate = 13,253

Summary

The sports centre at Forest Hill School has been used for the last 4 years but we are very keen to replace it – the arrangements are difficult for the school and the facilities are not quite up to standard with noise from the sports hall causing a disruption to voters. A new polling scheme does mean a slightly longer walk for some voters but it will improve the standard of venue they attend. The German Protestant Church is in an excellent location and could solve the problem but we have not yet been able to conduct a site visit to discuss the potential use as a polling place.

Bell Green has been added from the old Bellingham ward, an area which used to be served by a polling place at Blackheath Hockey and Catford Cricket Club pavilion. This venue needs to be replaced as it is not DDA compliant and the club have not agreed to the installation of a permanent ramp. Again, this will mean a longer walk for some electors as the nearest alternative venue is slightly further away.

In our proposed WPE3, the polling place will encompass both Perrymount Primary School and Forest Hill Methodist Church. This is because the church is undergoing refurbishment and the rooms we would use for polling may not be available by May 2022, which would mean unfortunately using the school one more time. In addition, the Friends Meeting House further up the road is an excellent alternative.

Our proposed WPE3 and WPE4 both have larger electorates than the ideal, and we would conduct a postal vote encouragement exercise and/or place double stations in those districts.

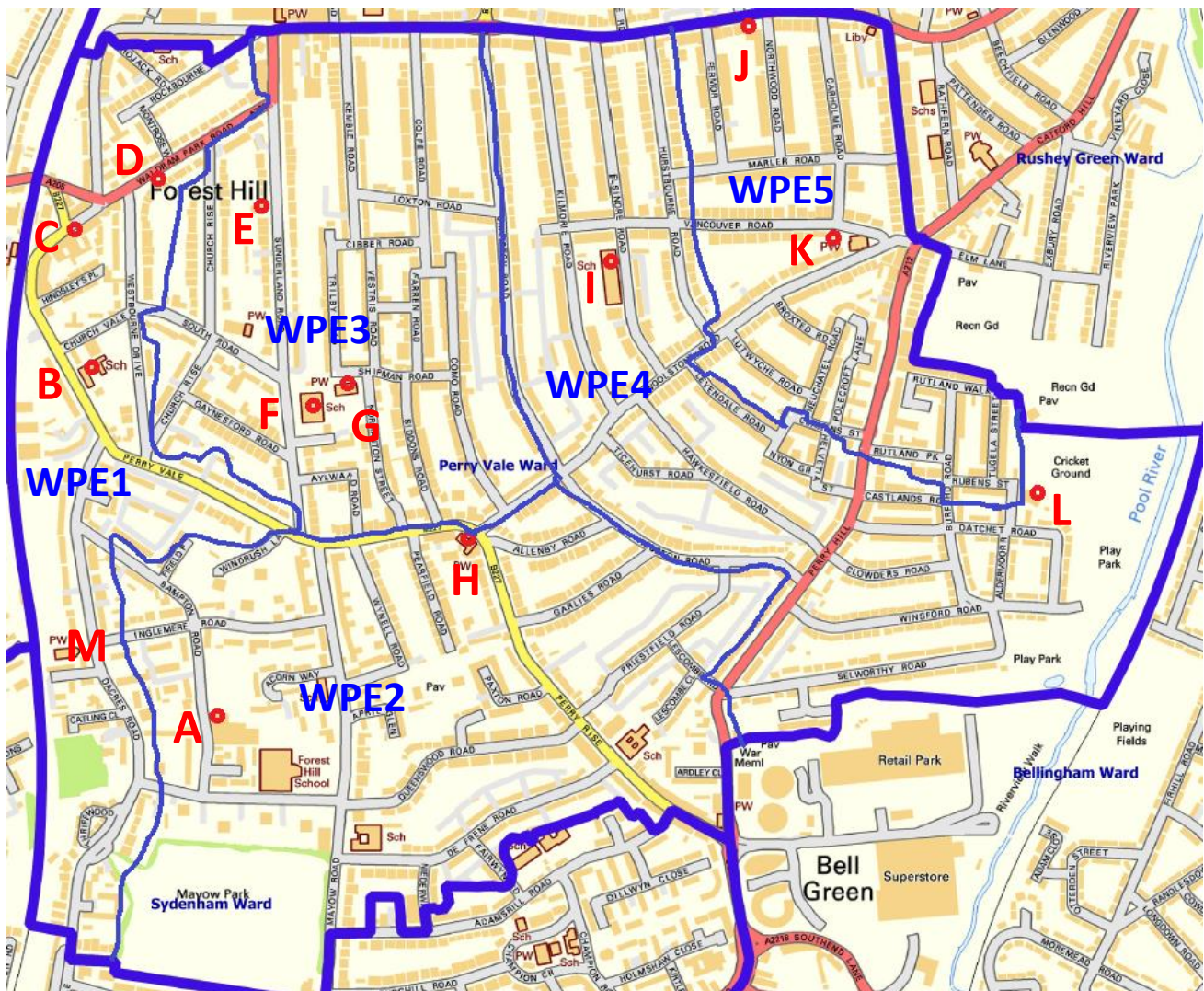
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Forest Hill School, Fusion Centre, Bampton Road, SE23 2XN	Poor venue but great location	No
St George's CoE Primary School, Church Vale, SE23 2JW	Good venue and location	Yes
JK Banquets, 15A Perry Vale, SE23 2NE	Large venue but poor location	No
Friends Meeting House, 34 Sunderland Road, SE23 2QA	Very good venue with potential	Yes
Cassel Centre, 4 Waldram Park Road, SE23 2PN	New venue, yet to conduct a site visit	No
Perrymount Primary School, Sunderland Road, SE23 2PX	Great location but we want to phase it out	Yes
Forest Hill Methodist Church, Normanton Street, SE23 2DS	New venue, yet to conduct a site visit	Yes
Perry Rise Baptist Church, Perry Rise, SE23 2QL	Good venue and location	Yes
Stanstead Lodge Senior Club, 260 Stanstead Road, SE23 1DD	New venue, yet to conduct a site visit	No
St George's Church, Vancouver Road, SE23 2AG	Good venue and location	Yes
Blackheath Hockey and Catford Cricket Club Pavilion	Useful location but no disabled access	No
Kilmore Primary School, Kilmore Road, SE23 2SP	Great location and good venue	Yes
German Protestant Church, 50 Dacres Road, SE23 2NR	New venue, great location, yet to conduct a site visit	Unknown

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
WPE1	2188	262	1926	St George's CoE Primary School	
WPE2	2755	349	2406	Perry Rise Baptist Church	
WPE3	2831	339	2492	Forest Hill Baptist Church and Perrymount Primary School	
WPE4	3323	409	2914	Kilmorie Primary School	Double station
WPE5	2156	231	1925	St George's Church	

Map



- A.** Forest Hill School, Fusion Centre
- B.** St George's CoE Primary School
- C.** JK Banquets
- D.** Friends Meeting House
- E.** Cassel Centre
- F.** Perrymount Primary School

- G.** Forest Hill Methodist Church
- H.** Perry Rise Baptist Church
- I.** Kilmorie Primary School
- J.** Stanstead Lodge Senior Club
- K.** St George's Church
- L.** Blackheath Hockey and Catford Cricket Club Pavilion
- M.** German Protestant Church

LEWISHAM WEST & PENGE CONSTITUENCY

SYDENHAM WARD

Electorate = 12,023

Summary

There is little change in this ward except for the addition of some properties in the Bell Green area from the old Bellingham Ward. We've had 2 issues in Sydenham at previous elections; namely (1) a portacabin on High Level Drive, and (2) the lack of a large venue in the centre.

The Hillcrest Community Clubroom solves the problem on High Level Drive, and despite the complicated guardian arrangements we think it is an excellent polling place for that community. In the centre of the ward we have looked at many venues and had little luck. For the most part the potential venues are not suitable due to size or accessibility, and on occasion they simply do not wish to be used as a polling place. We have tried having a double station at the Sydenham Centre but the 2021 elections proved that was not a good solution. We have however identified that St Bartholomew's Church has plenty of space to operate as a double station and could easily accommodate half the electors who were previously allocated to the Sydenham Centre.

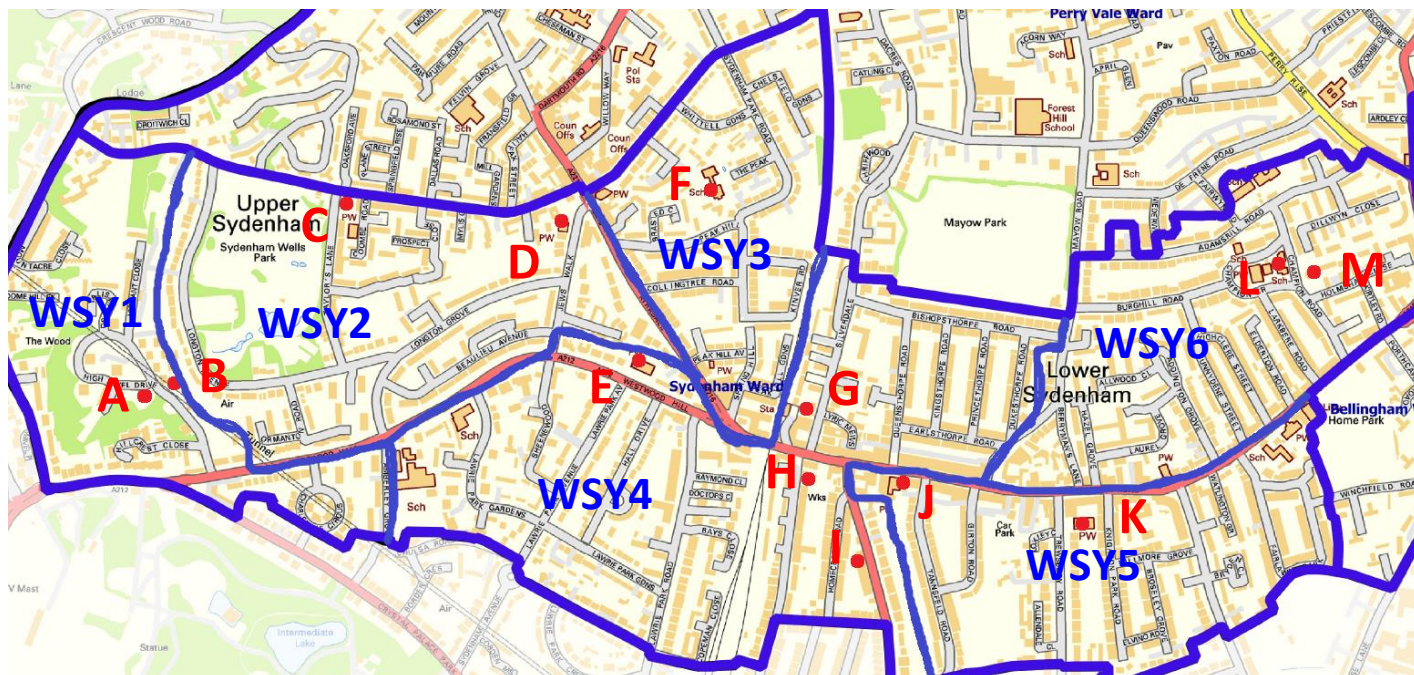
Potential Venues

Name and address	Details	Recommended
Hillcrest Community Clubroom, 80 High Level Drive, SE26 6XT	Great location though occupied by Guardians	Yes
Portacabin on High Level Drive, SE26 6XT	Need to replace	No
TNG Youth and Community Centre, 111 Wells Park Road, SE26 6AD	New venue	No
The Grove Centre, 2 Jews Walk, SE26 6PL	Good venue used for many years	Yes
St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, SE26 6QR	Good venue used for many years	Yes
St Bartholomew's CoE School, Peak Hill, SE26 4LJ	Good venue used for many years	Yes
Silverdale Hall, 1-5 Silverdale, SE26 4SD	Old venue, not in decent condition for use	No
Venner Road Hall, Venner Road, SE26 5EQ	New venue	No
Sydenham New Testament Church of God, 141 Newlands Park, SE26 5PP	New venue	No
The Sydenham Centre, 44a Sydenham Road, SE26 5QF	Too small for a double station	Yes
All Saints Church, Trewsbury Road, SE26 5DP	Not interested in offering space	No
St Michael's CoE School, Champion Crescent, SE26 4HH	Good venue used for many years	Yes
Champion Hall, 1 Holmshaw Close, SE26 4TH	New venue	No

Proposed Polling Scheme

District	Electors	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters	Venue	Notes
WSY1	1343	177	1166	Hillcrest Community Clubroom	
WSY2	1712	239	1473	The Grove Centre	
WSY3	1521	183	1338	St Bartholomew's CoE School	
WSY4	3418	441	2977	St Bartholomew's Church	Double station
WSY5	1747	253	1494	The Sydenham Centre	
WSY6	2282	288	1994	St Michael's CoE School	

Map



- A.** Hillcrest Community Clubroom
- B.** Portacabin on High Level Drive
- C.** TNG Youth and Community Centre
- D.** The Grove Centre
- E.** St Bartholomew's Church
- F.** St Bartholomew's CoE School

- G.** Silverdale Hall
- H.** Venner Road Hall
- I.** Sydenham New Testament Church of God
- J.** The Sydenham Centre
- K.** All Saints Church
- L.** St Michael's CoE School
- M.** Champion Hall Community Association

How to make a Representation

All representations received must be published. Where necessary we will redact personal information such as names and addresses.

To submit a representation, write or email the Returning Officer at:

Electoral Services

Ground Floor

Laurence House

Catford

SE6 9SE

Electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk

Appendix A

Equalities Impact Assessment – Polling District and Places Review 2021

A. Background

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

In order to comply with the general duty local authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community. Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

B. Summary

This equality impact assessment will review the practise of voting at polling stations and assess the impact on residents, and specifically those with protected characteristics. The report will identify each protected characteristic and list the issues that can impact that group, along with recommendations and mitigations we can take in order to meet the requirements in section A.

All polling places are subject to a site assessment where electoral officers visit the premises and conduct a thorough assessment of the facilities, access and location. Note that no polling place will be recommended that doesn't pass the site assessment. The assessment includes access, size of venue, width of entrance and internal doors, space for tellers, lighting, ventilation, kitchen and restroom facilities, etc. In particular, the officer must conduct checks for the accessibility of the site in order to determine suitability as a polling place with regards to disabled voters. This includes:

- Access for the mobility disabled – e.g. wheelchair users, mobility scooters, etc
- Transport – bus stops, parking (regular and disabled)
- Light
- Access for visually impaired

C. Protected Characteristic – Race and Ethnicity

This group includes all residents/voters of a non-white race or a non-British ethnicity, including Gypsies, Travellers, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

Negative Impacts

- This group will contain people with English as a second language. This can lead to several negative impacts including; difficulty in identifying the polling station venue address, difficulty in speaking with polling staff, polling staff not understanding the voter, and accessibility of signs and notices

- Impact of systemic racism. Some people in this group may have experienced systemic racism and have a feeling or belief that their participation in elections is not welcome

Recommendations and Mitigations

- Maps on poll cards as well as written addresses
- Translated information in polling places
- Pictorial notices to identify polling stations, in addition to the large polling station signs
- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

D. Protected Characteristic – Disability

As defined by the Equality Act 2010, a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This is a large group which includes:

- Mobility impaired
- Visually impaired
- Hearing impaired
- People with learning disabilities including reading and writing
- People with mental health conditions

Negative Impacts

- Where possible the polling place should be situation in a convenient location for most residents in the polling district to be able to walk to in around 10 minutes
- Ability to access polling venues due to lack of wheelchair/mobility entrance, parking, light and space
- Insufficient light inside polling venue
- Signage and official notices – at wrong height or too small
- Inability to hear instructions of polling staff
- Difficulty in understanding the polling process
- Inability to read ballot papers or make a mark on ballot papers
- Some people may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest before or after voting
- The route to the station could be long, or involve a steep hill

Recommendations and Mitigations

- All polling venues assessed for accessibility
- All polling places to be DDA compliant
- A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting
- Temporary ramps and lighting installed in polling venues where necessary
- Site visits prior to elections outside of summer to assess potential risks or issues due to weather or lack of daylight
- Hearing loops enabled where available
- Extra training on assisting voters with a disability and statistics recorded by presiding officers

- Polling staff to follow standard procedures for handling of voters in polling places. Procedure to account for various disabilities – eg. Use of plain English, speaking clearly, listening carefully, being approachable, providing materials such as tactile voting device for the visually impaired, or the pictorial voting guide for learning disabled
- Additional training for presiding officers on the official procedures and forms required for them to assist voters with disabilities or for companions to assist voters with disabilities
- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

E. Protected Characteristic – Sex / Gender

Men or women may face discrimination because of their gender.

Negative Impacts

- No specific negative impacts identified

Recommendations and Mitigations

- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

F. Protected Characteristic – Gender reassignment

This group may experience discrimination and be anxious about how they are treated by officials.

Negative Impacts

- Being mis-gendered by the polling staff – e.g. referred to by the wrong gender
- Experiencing transphobia or other discrimination by polling staff – and the fear of that happening

Recommendations and Mitigations

- Procedure notes and training for polling staff is gender neutral
- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics

- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

G. Protected Characteristic – Religion and belief

This includes people of every faith and can overlap with ethnicity in terms of cultural clothing and behaviours.

Negative Impacts

- Some people may not wish to enter a church, mosque or synagogue in order to vote
- Potential for some religious groups to experience discrimination, or the fear of discrimination, from polling staff

Recommendations and Mitigations

- When using a religious building, cover any overt iconography and where possible use a space in the building that is not usually used for worship. For example, at the Catford Synagogue, we use the youth group room
- Cultural awareness of polling staff and general polite behaviour towards residents
- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

H. Protected Characteristic – Sexual orientation

This includes all people within the LGBTQ+ category.

Negative Impacts

- Discrimination or the fear of discrimination by polling staff or other voters

Recommendations and Mitigations

- Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

I. Protected Characteristic – Age

People in the older age group may be more likely to have mobility issues or indeed various disabilities. Young people may be voting for the first time and be nervous.

Negative Impacts

- See D, disability
- Younger people may be nervous about voting for the first time and not be aware of what to do
- Older people may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest
- The route to the station could be long, or involve a steep hill

Recommendations and Mitigations

- Where possible the polling place should be situated in a convenient location for most residents in the polling district to be able to walk to in around 10 minutes
- Items and signage to be clearly displayed, especially the guidance to voters, so that all voters are aware of what they need to do
- Calm and welcoming atmosphere created by the polling staff so that new voters are confident and able to ask questions, with additional information leaflets or guidance on display
- A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting
- Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve
- Large scale voters survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Lewisham to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics
- Commitment within Lewisham to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues
- Equalities training for polling staff

J. Promotion of Participation and Absent Voting

The Returning Officer has a legal duty to promote participation in elections and referendums. Electoral Services have an engagement plan which sets out how we will promote participation amongst all residents, including the groups identified above.

An important part of improving accessibility of voting is our promotion of postal and proxy voting. All electors are able to apply to vote by either of these methods. Where voting in a polling station presents a challenge or difficulty for an individual, the service will assist them in making an application for postal or proxy voting. This is in addition to the mitigation measures above, and not a replacement. In all cases, for all residents, we shall seek to provide a polling place that enables everyone easy access to vote.