

Appendix II
Polling District Polling Place Review 2019
Public Consultation Responses

<i>All comments received prior to 25 September 2019</i>					
No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	R Hogg Mayfield and Easthouses CC	The ward I live in Midlothian East (Mayfield & Easthouses) is built on a hill (Something the council officials have not took into consideration) now what is proposed that all are expected to attend the New Newbattle campus which is fine if you have transport. Most of the community don't have transport so officials are now asking voters (a lot of who are elderly) to walk to Newbattle High School to vote Why??!! There are plenty community buildings in Mayfield & Easthouses that can be used why did the council not consult with the community first?? Buildings that could have been used as polling stations are as follows 1. Easthouses Miners club; 2. Mayfield Church Hall (just newly renovated) 3. Mcsence community rooms 4. Mayfield Community Club 5. St Luke's Church - were these premises ever considered as polling stations, if not why not? We keep going on about making it easier to get people out to vote & Newbattle High School in my opinion will make it harder for people to vote as outside & longer to get to from the community they live in (the majority) I predict there will be a lower turnout due to the High School being chosen which is not good for democracy. I would like to ask the council why Newbattle rather than available premises inside the community which won't affect the schools has been chosen as a polling station. Ample car parking etc at all premises on list & meet disabled access criteria.	Ward 5	Negative	
2	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
3	A Murray	I think it's an excellent idea changing the venue for polling. Schools will no longer have to be closed.	All Wards	Positive	
4	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative	
5	Alan Mason	For the local council elections for Dalkeith you propose using St John's and Kings Park Church instead of Kings Park Primary. Why not do the same for Midlothian East? Moving the polling station to the college would, in my opinion, cut down the number of voters. Not everyone has access to a car, and there is no direct bus service to the college.	Ward 5	Negative	
6	Paul Gorman	I'm certainly in favour of using St. John's church instead of Kings park school as a polling place	Ward 5	Positive	
7	Donna Bogdanovic	I'm pleased to see Lasswade Primary school being potentially removed as a polling station. About time. I very much support the reduction in the use of schools for polling. It's very disruptive for pupils, staff and parents. I note there are still some schools being used and I really think MC should be more ambitious and commit to using no schools for stations, or if its essential there must be a system of access implemented that does not impact on the normal school	Ward 2	Positive	
8	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
9	Gordon Brown	I am happy with the proposal.	All wards	Positive	
10	Ian Smart	I support the proposed changes for Dalkeith. It makes no sense to disrupt schools with the impact that has on working p	Ward 3	Positive	
11	Jill Roberts	I feel it irresponsible to use schools as polling stations where other more suitable venues are so readily available. Losing education is shocking and the council should feel ashamed to allow this to happen.	All Wards	Neutral	
12	Jaci Steele	Just stop using Schools ! We have plenty community buildings	All Wards	Neutral	

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13	Karen Buchan	I feel very strongly that schools should not be used as polling stations. It not only disrupts our child's educations but causes stress and distress in finding suitable childcare as we can't all take time off work. After school and breakfast clubs are also cancelled. A few years ago, the library in Dalkeith was used and as far as I am aware, this worked well. Since then the school has been used for every election. Why? Surely there are many appropriate alternatives such as church buildings, libraries, sports centres to name a few. Forever hopeful for a sensible decision and outcome by	All Wards	Neutral	
14	Lucy Napier	I'm writing to voice my support of the proposal to move the polling station from kings park primary school to edinburgh college. As a working parent, additional school closure days results in additional disruption, lack of childcare options and if childcare can be found, additional unbudgeted expense. Whilst I fully understand the european election was not expected to go ahead in May 2019, the first I heard of the school closure was when I received my polling card. This is not adequate notice when all my holidays had already been allocated. There was no after school care available as Dalkeith After School club use Woodburn primary for holiday club and this isn't a polling station so the venue was not available. The after school club were not allowed to operate out of kings park as the polling was taking place. This level of disruption is not acceptable. Given the level of political uncertainty at the moment and the increased frequency of referendums and elections in recent years (which doesn't seem to be reducing	Ward 3	Positive	
15	Lindsay Sharp	Never understood why Kings Park is used, causing a days lost education and hassle for parents, when there is a council building adjacent, and a library with space close by	Ward 3	Neutral	
16	Lynne Lawrie	Think it's ridiculous that Midlothian still use schools. So many councils stopped this years ago. Halls can be used.	All Wards	Neutral	
17	Mhairi Smith	I've had a look at the proposed polling stations for the Dalkeith area & I agree with the new polling stations . In previous years , it is unfair some children miss a day of education whilst others are in school & it always poses	Ward 3	Positive	
18	Ronnie Millar	I think the proposals made are sensible and a move in the right direction. Reason - les disruption to pupils at the schools currently used, less disruption for working parents	All Wards	Positive	
19	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
20	Robert Wilson	I think that Kings Park should not be used and I agree with your new location on St. John's church. I did ask for this 3 years ago, but was told that the polling station at the school could not be changed. I does affect the learning of	Ward 3	Positive	
21	David Forsyth	I am very glad to see that consideration is being given to current election venues. The relevant one for myself is ward 3 – Dalkeith. I vote there and my children go to Kings Park School. The inconvenience caused by closing the school is significant, especially given the amount of elections there have been over recent times. Many hundreds of people are inconvenienced on the day, either through having to take a precious holiday or having to pay for childcare. Clearly the impact on the children's education should also be considered. Moving to the new proposed venue will have, I believe, no impact on people's ability to vote and will avoid the inconvenience caused. I can see no reason why this change should not be expedited. Indeed, the only issue I have is with the length of time it may take to be agreed, given the increasing chance of an upcoming election. I really do hope this proposal is passed	Ward 3	Positive	
22	Debbie Summers	ward and my children are pupils/future pupils of King's Park P.S. This consultation is very welcome and I am supportive of the efforts to move polling station from King's Park to alternative sites in Dalkeith, including Edinburgh College. The proposed sites are more accessible for all potential voters both in terms of accessing the building and parking. Moving away from King's Park means less disruption to education - this has been quite severe over the last two years especially - and avoids additional childcare costs being incurred and restricted childcare options (noting that the holiday/after-school club is not available on polling days).	Ward 3	Positive	
23	Gillian Harley	I think we need to keep Gardiner PPlace polling station due to people who stay over this side of the village, not to mention parking in sixth street. This already a problem, so please don't make it any worse	Ward 6	Negative	

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24	Robbie MacTaggart	Removal of Cornbank makes sense, change to Penicuik Centre should have minimal impact to turnout	Ward 1	Positive	
25	Louise Ogilvy	I'm quite happy with Rosewell Pavilion Recreation Ground in Rosewell as long as it's totally accessible. Maybe another venue, once it's built would be the new Hub 😊	Ward 4	Positive	
26	The Fletts	Use libraries or community centres. No need to close schools and impact hundreds of families.	All Wards	Neutral	
27	Lea Taylor	It's ridiculous closing schools for polling taking into account the number of churches, community centres, leisure centers & masonic lodges within midlothian that remain unused resulting it 1000's of children missing out on school and give parents childcare problems also.	All Wards	Neutral	
28	Kevin Clark	Having reviewed the changes and understand the reasoning, it seems silly to remove both Cornbank and Cuiken from polling station list and move this to The Penicuik Centre. Whilst this make sense in theory the number of people participating in elections would likely drop as people won't walk further to attend a polling place. In addition to both these polling places being on top of the high point of Penicuik whereas the Penicuik centre is low down. People won't walk up and down the hill meaning less voter turn out. Whilst I also believe it's good to keep schools open for this extra day. Does it really make any difference given the Scottish government have just given teachers an extra 2 inservice days per year whilst this time was taken from the kids education rather than teachers holidays. On the above point I emailed John Swinney earlier this year and the response I was given was basically that our kids are in school for more than the minimum required so it doesn't matter where the days came from. So surely a vote every now and again makes no odds.	Ward 1	Negative	
29	C C	Pretty sure the move from using schools as polling stations will be considered a no brainer by most if not all parents. Is a consultation even needed on this?!	Ward 1	Positive	
30	Jane Tweedale	I agreed that you should not close schools and use the alternates you have suggested	Ward 1	Positive	
31	Jane Tweedale	I agree with the new proposed polling stations and would welcome keeping local schools open during these times	Ward 1	Positive	
32	Lynsey Elder	I would welcome the proposed changes to the Penicuik polling stations, this would help to avoid school closures in the future	Ward 1	Positive	
33	Pamela Newby	I just wanted to express my views on the proposals to keep Bonnyrigg Primary School & Nursery open during elections. As a parent to two children (nursery and P2) I am strongly in favour of the children's education not being disrupted (and parents being required to pay for additional childcare) due to elections. I therefore welcome any effort being made to ensure any school or child education setting in Midlothian is kept open if possible	Ward 2	Positive	
34	Samantha Johnson	As a working parent within a senior post in NHS Lothian I would rather not have to take more time off work that costs me a days annual leave for a closed school. Could the council not approach local hotels with function rooms? Already in Midlothian there is the Craigie Beale in Penicuik, Original Rosslyn hotel in Roslin, the Dean Tavern in Newtongrange.	All Wards	Neutral	
35	Yvonne Hunter	In response to your webpage regarding trying to limit closing schools at this time I think it's perfectly acceptable and don't know why it hasn't been done ages ago. For those that aren't able to physically visit a polling station they can always vote by post. I have noted by post for years as I work crazy shifts early and late so it suits me better this way.	All Wards	Positive	
36	Emma Brown	I feel that the proposed changes to election places is an excellent idea causing less disruption to the education of our young people.	Ward 1	Positive	
37	Gayle Monteith	Just been looking at the proposed changes. Anything that avoids any further disruption to education can only be positive. Due to many public buildings being (understandably) closed over the years other accommodation was required for these situations. Why buildings that stand empty on these Thursdays haven't been used and instead closing schools, causing headaches for parents and educators is illogical. Not even sure why the council needs to	All Wards	Positive	
38	Kenneth Campbell	On my last birthday I was 75. WHEN I GO TO THE POLLING STATION I FIND THAT THEY ARE VERY,VERY, VERY QUIET. I THINK THAT THE WOMAN WISHED THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT THERE KNITTING WITH THEM,EVEN SOME OF THE MEN HAD THAT SAME IDEA. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THEY DO NOT CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF POLLING	All Wards	Neutral	

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39	Sarah France	As a working parent I would be in favour of moving the polling stations away from the primary school. It's already hard enough covering in service days and holidays. Having the school closed on polling days adds to this and means on occasion having to pay for childcare. For 3 children this can be around £100.	All Wards	Positive	
40	Heather Henderson	Lasswade primary is often used for a polling place, shutting the school entirely for this use. The children therefore miss out on their learning and also presents challenges for parents who are working. Can i suggest that empty churches are used? Or similar. Are there other empty spaces available such as the Waverly Pavilion? Can we appeal to the churches for a free venue in light of the current financial constraints?	Ward 2	Neutral	
41	Fiona McNally	I do not think primary schools should be used as polling stations. There are very tight security measures in place to keep young children in the councils care safe and opening the school up to all members of the public to vote would really put the kids at risk. You have no idea who is coming into the playground or the building for that day. Also it is very disruptive for the children. I don't see why schools have to be used, there are many other community places that could be used. Library's, church halls, miners clubs. Also why do we need so many different venues to vote in one area? Why does bonnyrigg needs 4 different venues? If my child's primary school is to be used as a polling station I will not send her to school that day, I do not feel confident that she would be safe with hundreds of random strangers	All Wards	Negative	
42	Tony Swift	I think the new proposals are an excellent idea. It will save the usual hassle we have to go through to sort out child care.	All Wards	Positive	
43	Sarah Guiler	I strongly object to schools being used as polling places so welcome these changes. With the change to the Loanhead Centre for polling in Loanhead it is ideal, minimum disruption to schooling, good central location and people still have the option of a postal vote.	Ward 4	Positive	
44	Jason Gill	Polling should be carried out on the weekend as more people work over the week than the weekend.	All Wards	Neutral	
45	Fiona Harcourt-Gill	I think it is a truly excellent idea to reduce school closures. There were historically a lot less elections when schools were set up as polling stations but now with separate elections for Scotland, UK and EU (though presumably not for long) there is a lot of potential learning time lost. Great thinking.	All Wards	Positive	
46	Elaine Reid	I have concerns that there are still plans to use a bonnyrigg primary school as a polling station. Given that there is an additional holiday in September for the pupils reducing in class time to 189 days it seems quite ludicrous that the council would continue to use this site as a polling station. Given the above could voting days be used for the additional on service day? My question would be what provision will there be for the students who will lose yet another days education just because they attend Bonnyrigg primary school. Having re read info from the primary school I note that there are actually an additional 2 inset days - surely schools should be taken completely off the	Ward 2	Neutral	
47	Charlene Paris	I think the proposed new location of Newbattle community campus is a fabulous idea the children have a lot of holidays in a year. This causes massive disruption to families who work and struggle for childcare.	Ward 5	Positive	
48	Lynn Devlin	There are numerous church buildings, libraries etc that can be utilised for voting without using schools. Parents need to arrange time off work and child care for this inconvenience when using schools, there is simply no need. On the flip side, schools don't approve when kids are taken our school during term however they close the schools for this (contradiction in terms). My children attend Lawfield Primary and this needs to stop.	Ward 5	Neutral	
49	Ann Morrison	I fully support the move to hold polling stations outwith schools. I think the replacement venues you have identified are appropriate in terms of location, parking and disabled access. If only we could hold elections on a weekend - I think that would boost turnout more but I think that is a UK wide decision to make. Thank you for addressing this issue	All Wards	Positive	
50	Lynn Smyth	I feel the move to not use schools is very positive. As a Mum of children in Penicuik schools I feel other facilities Could definitely be used. Is there really a need to close schools for a day. Very supportive of this move.	Ward 1	Positive	
51	Emma	I completely agree that changing the polling stations in the future to reduce the amount of schools used is a great idea. My child currently attends a school which is used fir voting lawfield primary. And due to the number of votes recently has lost a few days at school also meaning I cannot attend work in these days so I then either have to take annual leave, swap days or be off as unpaid none of these solutions are great . Closing schools has a huge impact on the	Ward 5	Positive	

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52	Claire Bowie	My only issue with keeping the school open is the safety of children walking to and from school on polling day when there is likely to be an increase in traffic. I wonder if everyone will observe the parking restrictions at the start and end of school, especially if they're not used to driving in the area around the school. Are there no other options for using a	All Wards	Negative	
53	Marisa Farquhar	I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.	Ward 3/5	Positive	
54	Donna Partridge	I fully support the move to Rosewell Pavilion rather than always using St Matthew's Primary. We are only a small school, but are always the venue used and this means our children are always the ones in the village to miss out. Despite there being two schools, two church halls and of course the Pavilion.	Ward 4	Positive	
55	Anne-Marie Reilly	My point of view is that schools should not be used as polling places there must be plenty of alternative public places available church halls etc that could be used to avoid disrupting the children's education. For instance there are many halls in the Lasswade high school which could be used which is separate to the school building. If there is no other choice then yes an alternative entrance for people visiting the polls would be the best option rather than shutting the	All Wards	Positive	
56	Marion Farrow	I feel that St Matthew's Primary School benefits from being a polling station in Rosewell. It promotes the warmth and accessibility of the school when some people may automatically dismiss it when looking for a place to send their children. Polling day opens up the school to everyone.	Ward 4	Negative	
57	Lynne Lawrie	I totally agree that if schools have to be used they should remain open. For one day schools can handle not using their gym hall and a little disruption I know I've worked as a class teacher for 15 years. I don't know of any other buildings as I'm not a local but church halls, Pitcairn centre etc?	All Wards	Positive	
58	Tom Buchan	I question the proposal to move the location of the polling station from Kings Park Primary School to Edinburgh College. The proposed location is not ideally situated for those wishing to walk nor is it on a direct bus route. The only reasonable transport option is by car but there is no additional parking space available during daytime. Already the College carpark is overflowing and many cars park on Dalhousie Road causing obstructions. I am unsure of the reasons for the proposal to move from Kings Park but I do not consider Edinburgh College to be a viable option	Ward 5	Negative	
	36 Positive				
	9 Negative				
	13 Neutral				

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1	Robbie MacTaggart	Removal of Cornbank makes sense, change to Penicuik Centre should have minimal impact to turnout	Ward 1	Positive	
2	Kevin Clark	Having reviewed the changes and understand the reasoning, it seems silly to remove both Cornbank and Cuiken from polling station list and move this to The Penicuik Centre. Whilst this make sense in theory the number of people participating in elections would likely drop as people won't walk further to attend a polling place. In addition to both these polling places being on top of the high point of Penicuik whereas the Penicuik centre is low down. People won't walk up and down the hill meaning less voter turn out. Whilst I also believe it's good to keep schools open for this extra day. Does it really make any difference given the Scottish government have just given teachers an extra 2 inservice days per year whilst this time was taken from the kids education rather than teachers holidays. On the above point I emailed John Swinney earlier this year and the response I was given was basically that our kids are in school for more than the minimum required so it doesn't matter where the days came from. So surely a vote every now and again makes no odds.	Ward 1	Negative	
3	C C	Pretty sure the move from using schools as polling stations will be considered a no brainer by most if not all parents. Is a consultation even needed on this?!	Ward 1	Positive	
4	Jane Tweedale	I agreed that you should not close schools and use the alternates you have suggested	Ward 1	Positive	
5	Jane Tweedale	I agree with the new proposed polling stations and would welcome keeping local schools open during these times	Ward 1	Positive	
6	Lynsey Elder	I would welcome the proposed changes to the Penicuik polling stations, this would help to avoid school closures in the future.	Ward 1	Positive	
7	Emma Brown	I feel that the proposed changes to election places is an excellent idea causing less disruption to the education of our young people.	Ward 1	Positive	
8	Lynn Smyth	I feel the move to not use schools is very positive. As a Mum of children in Penicuik schools I feel other facilities Could definitely be used. Is there really a need to close schools for a day. Very supportive of this move.	Ward 1	Positive	

7 Positive

1 Negative

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral	Comments
1	Donna Bogdanovic	I'm pleased to see Lasswade Primary school being potentially removed as a polling station. About time. I very much support the reduction in the use of schools for polling. It's very disruptive for pupils, staff and parents. I note there are still some schools being used and I really think MC should be more ambitious and commit to using no schools for stations, or if its essential there must be a system of access implemented that does not impact on the normal school day.	Ward 2	Positive	
2	Pamela Newby	I just wanted to express my views on the proposals to keep Bonnyrigg Primary School & Nursery open during elections. As a parent to two children (nursery and P2) I am strongly in favour of the children's education not being disrupted (and parents being required to pay for additional childcare) due to elections. I therefore welcome any effort being made to ensure any school or child education setting in Midlothian is kept open if possible	Ward 2	Positive	
3	Heather Henderson	Lasswade primary is often used for a polling place, shutting the school entirely for this use. The children therefore miss out on their learning and also presents challenges for parents who are working. Can i suggest that empty churches are used? Or similar. Are there other empty spaces available such as the Waverly Pavilion? Can we appeal to the churches for a free venue in light of the current financial constraints?	Ward 2	Neutral	
4	Elaine Reid	I have concerns that there are still plans to use a bonnyrigg primary school as a polling station. Given that there is an additional holiday in September for the pupils reducing in class time to 189 days it seems quite ludicrous that the council would continue to use this site as a polling station. Given the above could voting days be used for the additional on service day? My question would be what provision will there be for the students who will lose yet another days education just because they attend Bonnyrigg primary school. Having re read info from the primary school I note that there are actually an additional 2 inset days - surely schools should be taken completely off the location list for voting???	Ward 2	Neutral	<i>It would appear that Ms Reid does not appreciate that Bonnyrigg PS will remain open on Polling Days</i>

2 Positive

2 Neutral

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral
1	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school is difficult	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
2	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative
3	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
4	Ian Smart	I support the proposed changes for Dalkeith. It makes no sense to disrupt schools with the impact that has on working parents	Ward 3	Positive
5	Lucy Napier	I'm writing to voice my support of the proposal to move the polling station from kings park primary school to edinburgh college. As a working parent, additional school closure days results in additional disruption, lack of childcare options and if childcare can be found, additional unbudgeted expense. Whilst I fully understand the european election was not expected to go ahead in May 2019, the first I heard of the school closure was when I received my polling card. This is not adequate notice when all my holidays had already been allocated. There was no after school care available as Dalkeith After School club use Woodburn primary for holiday club and this isn't a polling station so the venue was not available. The after school club were not allowed to operate out of kings park as the polling was taking place. This level of disruption is not acceptable. Given the level of political uncertainty at the moment and the increased frequency of referendums and elections in recent years (which doesn't seem to be reducing in the future) it is critical that children's education is not disputed and school closures need to be	Ward 3	Positive
6	Lindsay Sharp	Never understood why Kings Park is used, causing a days lost education and hassle for parents, when there is a council building adjacent, and a library with space close by	Ward 3	Neutral
7	Mhairi Smith	I've had a look at the proposed polling stations for the Dalkeith area & I agree with the new polling stations. In previous years, it is unfair some children miss a day of education whilst others are in school & it always poses childcare issues for some	Ward 3	Positive
8	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive
9	Robert Wilson	I think that Kings Park should not be used and I agree with your new location on St. John's church. I did ask for this 3 years ago, but was told that the polling station at the school could not be changed. I does affect the learning of children	Ward 3	Positive
10	David Forsyth	I am very glad to see that consideration is being given to current election venues. The relevant one for myself is ward 3 – Dalkeith. I vote there and my children go to Kings Park School. The inconvenience caused by closing the school is significant, especially given the amount of elections there have been over recent times. Many hundreds of people are inconvenienced on the day, either through having to take a precious holiday or having to pay for childcare. Clearly the impact on the children's education should also be considered. Moving to the new proposed venue will have, I believe, no impact on people's ability to vote and will avoid the inconvenience caused. I can see no reason why this change should not be expedited. Indeed, the only issue I have is with the length of time it may take to be agreed, given the increasing chance of an upcoming election. I really do hope this proposal is passed	Ward 3	Positive
11	Debbie Summers	I am very supportive of the proposal to minimise the use of schools as polling stations. I am a resident of the Dalkeith ward and my children are pupils/future pupils of King's Park P.S. This consultation is very welcome and I am supportive of the efforts to move polling station from King's Park to alternative sites in Dalkeith, including Edinburgh College. The proposed sites are more accessible for all potential voters both in terms of accessing the building and parking. Moving away from King's Park means less disruption to education - this has been quite severe over the last two years especially - and avoids additional childcare costs being incurred and restricted childcare options (noting that the holiday/after-school club is not available on polling days).	Ward 3	Positive

12	Marisa Farquhar
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I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.

Ward 3/5	Positive
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10 Positive
1 Negative
1 Neutral

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1	Louise Ogilvy	I'm quite happy with Rosewell Pavilion Recreation Ground in Rosewell as long as it's totally accessible. Maybe another venue, once it's built would be the new Hub 😊	Ward 4	Positive	
2	Sarah Guiler	I strongly object to schools being used as polling places so welcome these changes. With the change to the Loanhead Centre for polling in Loanhead it is ideal, minimum distribution to schooling, good central location and people still have the option of a postal vote.	Ward 4	Positive	
3	Donna Partridge	I fully support the move to Rosewell Pavilion rather than always using St Matthew's Primary. We are only a small school, but are always the venue used and this means our children are always the ones in the village to miss out. Despite there being two schools, two church halls and of course the Pavilion.	Ward 4	Positive	
4	Marion Farrow	I feel that St Matthew's Primary School benefits from being a polling station in Rosewell. It promotes the warmth and accessibility of the school when some people may automatically dismiss it when looking for a place to send their children. Polling day opens up the school to everyone.	Ward 4	Negative	

3 positive

1 negative

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	R Hogg Mayfield and Easthouses CC	<p>The ward I live in Midlothian East (Mayfield & Easthouses) is built on a hill (Something the council officials have not took into consideration) now what is proposed that all are expected to attend the New Newbattle campus which is fine if you have transport.</p> <p>Most of the community don't have transport so officials are now asking voters (a lot of who are elderly) to walk to Newbattle High School to vote Why??!!</p> <p>There are plenty community buildings in Mayfield & Easthouses that can be used why did the council not consult with the community first??</p> <p>Buildings that could have been used as polling stations are as follows</p> <p>1. Easthouses Miners club; 2. Mayfield Church Hall (just newly renovated) 3. Mcsence community rooms 4. Mayfield Community Club 5. St Luke's Church - were these premises ever considered as polling stations, if not why not?</p> <p>We keep going on about making it easier to get people out to vote & Newbattle High School in my opinion will make it harder for people to vote as outside & longer to get to from the community they live in (the majority) I predict there will be a lower turnout due to the High School being chosen which is not good for democracy.</p> <p>I would like to ask the council why Newbattle rather than available premises inside the community which won't affect the schools has been chosen as a polling station.</p> <p>Ample car parking etc at all premises on list & meet disabled access criteria.</p>	Ward 5	Negative	
2	A Henderson	I support the move from Kings Park to the Edinburgh college as it's much easier to access and park, access at the school is	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
3	Claire Smith-O'Donnell	Please do not change the polling station from Kings Park to Edinburgh College. Currently it is walkable for voters. They are more likely to vote if it's easy. Low turn out is an issue - changing to make it harder to get to will only make this problem worse. People will drive to Ed college. Which doesn't sit well with sustainable policies.	Wards 3 and 5	Negative	
4	Alan Mason	For the local council elections for Dalkeith you propose using St John's and Kings Park Church instead of Kings Park Primary. Why not do the same for Midlothian East? Moving the polling station to the college would, in my opinion, cut down the number of voters. Not everyone has access to a car, and there is no direct bus service to the college.	Ward 5	Negative	
5	Paul Gorman	I'm certainly in favour of using St. John's church instead of Kings park school as a polling place	Ward 5	Positive	
6	Debbie Scott	I think it is a brilliant idea to look at other buildings for polling stations. My daughter attends kings park primary school and as a working parent I find it very difficult to arrange childcare for these random dates that the council decides the school needs to be shut. By closing primary schools to facilitate the elections I feel Midlothian council is saying that the elections are more important than our children's education	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
7	Ruth Sutherland	It's a great idea to stop using Kings Park Primary as the polling place, much better that we use the church instead and let the children not miss a day at school	Ward 3 and 5	Positive	
8	Charlene Paris	I think the proposed new location of Newbattle community campus is a fabulous idea the children have a lot of holidays in a year. This causes massive disruption to families who work and struggle for childcare.	Ward 5	Positive	
9	Lynn Devlin	There are numerous church buildings, libraries etc that can be utilised for voting without using schools. Parents need to arrange time off work and child care for this inconvenience when using schools, there is simply no need. On the flip side, schools don't approve when kids are taken our school during term however they close the schools for this (contradiction in terms). My children attend Lawfield Primary and this needs to stop.	Ward 5	Neutral	

10	Emma	I completely agree that changing the polling stations in the future to reduce the amount of schools used is a great idea. My child currently attends a school which is used for voting lawfield primary. And due to the number of votes recently has lost a few days at school also meaning I cannot attend work in these days so I then either have to take annual leave, swap days or be off as unpaid none of these solutions are great. Closing schools has a huge impact on the family as well as the children.
11	Marisa Farquhar	I am favour of the proposed changes to polling station in Dalkeith, either as a change in venue or change in entrance so that the school remains open as usual. As a parent of a child at King's Park Primary School, I would be in strong favour of not closing the school on polling days, so as not to disrupt education and for personal reasons relating to childcare.
12	Tom Buchan	I question the proposal to move the location of the polling station from Kings Park Primary School to Edinburgh College. The proposed location is not ideally situated for those wishing to walk nor is it on a direct bus route. The only reasonable transport option is by car but there is no additional parking space available during daytime. Already the College carpark is overflowing and many cars park on Dalhousie Road causing obstructions. I am unsure of the reasons for the proposal to move from Kings Park but I do not consider Edinburgh College to be a viable option

Ward 5	Positive	
Ward 3/5	Positive	
Ward 5	Negative	

7 Positive
4 Negative
1 Neutral

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	Gillian Harley	I think we need to keep Gardiner Place polling station due to people who stay over this side of the village, not to mention parking in sixth street. This already a problem, so please don't make it any worse	Ward 6	Negative	

1 negative

No	Name	Feedback/Comment	Ward Relating To	Positive, Negative, Neutral	
1	A Murray	I think it's an excellent idea changing the venue for polling. Schools will no longer have to be closed.	All Wards	Positive	
2	Gordon Brown	I am happy with the proposal.	All wards	Positive	
3	Jill Roberts	I feel it irresponsible to use schools as polling stations where other more suitable venues are so readily available. Losing education is shocking and the council should feel ashamed to allow this to happen.	All Wards	Neutral	
4	Jaci Steele	Just stop using Schools ! We have plenty community buildings	All Wards	Neutral	
5	Karen Buchan	I feel very strongly that schools should not be used as polling stations. It not only disrupts our child's educations but causes stress and distress in finding suitable childcare as we can't all take time off work. After school and breakfast clubs are also cancelled. A few years ago, the library in Dalkeith was used and as far as I am aware, this worked well. Since then the school has been used for every election. Why? Surely there are many appropriate alternatives such as church buildings, libraries, sports centres to name a few. Forever hopeful for a sensible decision and outcome by Midlothian Council.	All Wards	Neutral	
6	Lynne Lawrie	Think it's ridiculous that Midlothian still use schools. So many councils stopped this years ago. Halls can be used.	All Wards	Neutral	
7	Ronnie Millar	I think the proposals made are sensible and a move in the right direction. Reason - les disruption to pupils at the schools currently used, less disruption for working parents. ☒	All Wards	Positive	
8	The Fletts	Use libraries or community centres. No need to close schools and impact hundreds of families.	All Wards	Neutral	
9	Lea Taylor	It's ridiculous closing schools for polling taking into account the number of churches, community centres, leisure centers & masonic lodges within midlothian that remain unused resulting it 1000's of children missing out on school and give parents childcare problems also.	All Wards	Neutral	
10	Samantha Johnson	As a working parent within a senior post in NHS Lothian I would rather not have to take more time off work that costs me a days annual leave for a closed school. Could the council not approach local hotels with function rooms? Already in Midlothian there is the Craigie Beale in Penicuik, Original Rosslyn hotel in Roslin, the Dean Tavern in Newtongrange. Or even the local	All Wards	Neutral	
11	Yvonne Hunter	In response to your webpage regarding trying to limit closing schools at this time I think it's perfectly acceptable and don't know why it hasn't been done ages ago. For those that aren't able to physically visit a polling station they can always vote by post. I have noted by post for years as I work crazy shifts early and late so it suits me better this way. Hope this helps!	All Wards	Positive	
12	Gayle Monteith	Just been looking at the proposed changes. Anything that avoids any further disruption to education can only be positive. Due to many public buildings being (understandably) closed over the years other accommodation was required for these situations. Why buildings that stand empty on these Thursdays haven't been used and instead closing schools, causing headaches for parents and educators is illogical. Not even sure why the council needs to waste any time on this consultation.	All Wards	Positive	
13	Kenneth Campbell	On my last birthday I was 75. WHEN I GO TO THE POLLING STATION I FIND THAT THEY ARE VERY,VERY, VERY QUIET. I THINK THAT THE WOMAN WISHED THAT THEY HAD BROUGHT THERE KNITTING WITH THEM,EVEN SOME OF THE MEN HAD THAT SAME IDEA. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THEY DO NOT CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS.	All Wards	Neutral	
14	Sarah France	As a working parent I would be in favour of moving the polling stations away from the primary school. It's already hard enough covering in service days and holidays. Having the school closed on polling days adds to this and means on occasion having to pay for childcare. For 3 children this can be around £100.	All Wards	Positive	
15	Fiona McNally	I do not think primary schools should be used as polling stations. There are very tight security measures in place to keep young children in the councils care safe and opening the school up to all members of the public to vote would really put the kids at risk. You have no idea who is coming into the playground or the building for that day. Also it is very disruptive for the children. I don't see why schools have to be used, there are many other community places that could be used. Library's, church halls, miners clubs. Also why do we need so many different venues to vote in one area? Why does bonnyrigg needs 4 different venues? If my child's primary school is to be used as a polling station I will not send her to school that day, I do not feel confident that she would be safe with hundreds of random strangers walking in/out of the playground.	All Wards	Negative	
16	Tony Swift	I think the new proposals are an excellent idea. It will save the usual hassle we have to go through to sort out child care.	All Wards	Positive	
17	Jason Gill	Polling should be carried out on the weekend as more people work over the week than the weekend.	All Wards	Neutral	

18	Fiona Harcourt-Gill	I think it is a truly excellent idea to reduce school closures. There were historically a lot less elections when schools were set up as polling stations but now with separate elections for Scotland, UK and EU (though presumably not for long) there is a lot of potential learning time lost. Great thinking.	All Wards	Positive	
19	Ann Morrison	I fully support the move to hold polling stations outwith schools. I think the replacement venues you have identified are appropriate in terms of location, parking and disabled access. If only we could hold elections on a weekend - I think that would boost turnout more but I think that is a UK wide decision to make. Thank you for addressing this issue	All Wards	Positive	
20	Claire Bowie	My only issue with keeping the school open is the safety of children walking to and from school on polling day when there is likely to be an increase in traffic. I wonder if everyone will observe the parking restrictions at the start and end of school, especially if they're not used to driving in the area around the school. Are there no other options for using a hall not in a	All Wards	Negative	
21	Anne-Marie Reilly	My point of view is that schools should not be used as polling places there must be plenty of alternative public places available church halls etc that could be used to avoid disrupting the children's education. For instance there are many halls in the Lasswade high school which could be used which is separate to the school building. If there is no other choice then yes an alternative entrance for people visiting the polls would be the best option rather than shutting the school altogether.	All Wards	Positive	
22	Lynne Lawrie	I totally agree that if schools have to be used they should remain open. For one day schools can handle not using their gym hall and a little disruption I know I've worked as a class teacher for 15 years. I don't know of any other buildings as I'm not a local but church halls, Pitcairn centre etc?	All Wards	Positive	

11 Positive
2 Negative
9 Neutral

possibly garage primary

Like · Reply · Message · 6w

Dawn Hendry Yeah it's the primary schools that I'm talking about. It's just such a shame to close them.

Like · Reply · Message · 6w 1

Caroline Jayne May Wilson Newtongrange comes under Dalkeith probably

Like · Reply · Message · 6w

Rhona Simpson Annie Mo Gorebridge primary isn't used, we use the leisure centre (hopefully it stays open)

Like · Reply · Message · 6w 1

Midlothian Council Dawn Hendry The aim would be to keep all schools on the proposed list open but get voters to use a separate entrance.

Like · Reply · 5w

Dawn Hendry Midlothian Council well that would be good if they could do that

Like · Reply · Message · 5w

Write a reply...

Andrea Blackhurst Wilson About time too!! Far too much disruption to the kids education! I'm mayfield they could use the church hall, the community club and Easthouses miners club!!

Like · Reply · Message · 6w 1

Chat (1)

8,319 People reached 1,554 Engagements Boost Post

50 28 comments 9 shares Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Write a comment...

Lea Taylor Kids are off school enough with school holidays let alone shutting for polling when so many other options are available in Bonnyrigg

Dawn Hendry So that helps Dalkeith schools but what about the other areas??

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.

Emma Donald Dawn Hendry if you go onto the actual link it's breaks down all of the Midlothian areas, you can click onto the one you are in and read the proposed changes

Dawn Hendry Emma Donald I did go on the link and only seen it mentioned ones in Dalkeith

Chat (1)

7 4 comments 2 shares

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Write a comment...

Karen's Ironing Service - Bonnyrigg In this day and age I do not understand the need to shut schools - our education for our children is so important. Yet it's deemed to shut them for this. There are church halls that could be used. I think more thought into using appropriate venues is needed and not schools.

Like · Reply · Message · 5w 1

Midlothian Council Karen, our aim is to keep the schools we continue to use open on election day. Voters would use a separate entrance.

Like · Reply · 5w

Donald Grant Why not use some of the empty shop units that are all over the county!

Like · Reply · Message · 5w

Mike Sputnik Have you compared existing and proposed to see what the travel distance impact is for voters? Your gis team can help with this (eg <https://grass.osgeo.org/grass76/manuals/v.net.distance.html>) with an example here for shopping centres <https://scottishsnow.wordpress.com/.../spatial-networks.../>

Chat (2)

Windows taskbar with icons for Start, Search, File Explorer, Edge, Mail, Word, and other background applications. System tray shows volume, network, and battery icons, along with the time 13:24 and date 26/09/2019.

Browser tabs: eMagazine Control Panel, (29) Midlothian Council, Connect - Connect June 20'

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Facebook navigation bar: Midlothian Council, Mid, Home, Find Friends, Create

7 5 comments

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Write a comment...

Scott Dowding Well at least the October the 15th has stopped sp no rush 😊
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Lee Robertson So long as it does not cost the taxpayers any more money then whatever you do is fine
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Wendy Dow Better move fast 😊 ...
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Linz Gordon Wendy Dow I was going to say the same thing.
😊
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Write a reply...

Irene Brown Dont forget the underused police stations
Like · Reply · Message · 3w

Write a comment...

Chat (2)   

Windows taskbar showing icons for Start, Search, File Explorer, Edge, Mail, Word, and OneDrive. System tray shows volume, network, and time: 13:22, 26/09/2019.

Browser tabs: eMagazine Control Panel, (29) Midlothian Council, Connect - Connect June 20

Browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/MidlothianCouncil/?ref=bookmarks>

Facebook navigation bar: Midlothian Council, Mid, Home, Find Friends, Create, and notification bell with 28 notifications.

Top fan

Rab Ramage Don't think we will need any , who is going to bother voting for a bunch of lying no users.
Like · Reply · Message · 2w

Sonya Kaila Ladywood Leisure centre, St Mungo's Church Hall, South Kirk church hall, Penicuik Bowling club, Bonnyrigg church halls to think of a few. Some of the Miner's clubs throughout Midlothian?
Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Midlothian Council Many thanks Sonya. Dalkeith Miners is on the list of polling places we intend to use. We will take a screen grab and pass on your other suggestions too.

Like · Reply · 1w

Hazel Thomson The Beacon, Gorebridge?? Dawn Barclay ...

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Tom Sneddon Aye France and send all these waste of space politicians

Like · Reply · Message · 2w

Susan Ryan Well I over due

Like · Reply · Message · 2w

Eleanor Neil Excellent idea 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 2w

Vicki Brown Good idea!

Chat (2)



Windows taskbar showing icons for Internet Explorer, File Explorer, VLC, Outlook, Word, and another Internet Explorer instance. System tray on the right shows network, volume, and power icons, along with the time 13:20 and date 26/09/2019.

Browser tabs: eMagazine Control Panel, (29) Midlothian Council, Connect - Connect June 20'. Address bar shows the URL: https://www.facebook.com/MidlothianCouncil/?ref=bookmarks.

Facebook navigation bar with icons for back, forward, refresh, home, search, and utility icons like star, list, link, and share.

Facebook page header for Midlothian Council, including the profile picture, name, and navigation links: Mid, Home, Find Friends, Create, and notification icons.

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Write a reply...

Susie Turnbull Maxwell Woohoo so glad to hear this!! I think that you could easily increase the volume at other polling stations 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Leah Bell Yes this is a good idea... Cuiken primary is always used ! Why not alternate primary schools so it's not always the same one? Or keep them open but not sure how safe that will be ?

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Midlothian Council Many thanks Leah. We will pass your

comments on.

Like · Reply · 1w



Stuart Black They can open one school. That would be enough. People aint going to vote no more after recent events.

Like · Reply · Message · 1w



Eleanor Neil Stuart on the other hand, recent events might make people more determined to vote. ...

Like · Reply · Message · 1w



Stuart Black Mmmm...

Like · Reply · Message · 1w



Eleanor Neil Stuart Black 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Chat (2)



Windows taskbar with icons for Start, Search, Task View, Edge, File Explorer, Photos, Mail, Word, and another Edge instance. System tray shows volume, network, and battery icons, along with the time 13:19 and date 26/09/2019.

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Browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/MidlothianCouncil/?ref=bookmarks>

Facebook navigation bar: Midlothian Council, Mid, Home, Find Friends, Create, and notification icons.



Peter Jack No problem. In that case there is an opportunity here to utilise relationships with local businesses in the area to see if they have any buildings or space. I also think it is a good idea to leave schools open where possible, completely understand that this cannot be the case for them all.

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



Write a reply...



Top fan

Callum Rowley For starters instead of closing kings park for polling days why aren't they held in other council buildings such as the dalkeith arts centre?

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



Jan Krwawicz Callum Rowley there also seems to be pointless community hubs popping up everywhere

Like · Reply · Message · 2w

Midlothian Council Thanks Callum, We've passed your comments on to the election team.

Like · Reply · 2w

Andrew Black Jan Krwawicz pointless? ThTs a bit negative???

Like · Reply · Message · 1w

Write a reply...



Susie Turnbull Maxwell Woohoo so glad to hear this!! I think that you could easily increase the volume at other polling stations 😊

Chat (3)



5,511 People reached 605 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

9 reactions 26 comments 1 share

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Most relevant ▾

Write a comment...

Christine Craig Yes please!! Lots of churches and other halls in Penicuik that may be willing.

Like · Reply · Message · 1w · Edited

Peter Jack Surprised its taken so long for the council to think of this however surely you already know what accessible buildings you have/could use 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 2w

4

Midlothian Council Morning Peter, Many thanks. We've passed on your comments to the team. Really, we were just thinking of any buildings not owned by the council we could use. The plan is to keep the number of schools to a minimum. Those we do use, we plan to keep open but to have a separate entrance for voters.

Like · Reply · 2w

Peter Jack No problem. In that case there is an opportunity

Chat (3) [Icons]

Midlothian Council
Published by Hootsuite [?] · 17 September at 14:50 · [Location icon]

Many thanks to the scores of people who have already given us their views on buildings we intend to use as polling places in future elections in #Midlothian. Have you told us what you think yet? Find out how to at www.midlothian.gov.uk/polling-places-review



2,001
People reached

22
Engagements

Boost Post

Chat (4)

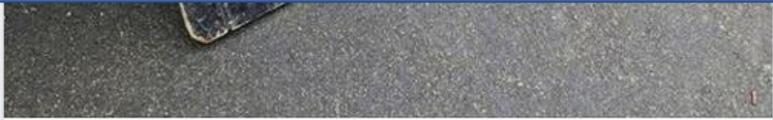


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2,535
People reached

125
Engagements

Boost Post

2 comments



Like



Comment



Share



Most relevant



Write a comment...



Scott Dowding St John's & King's Park Church
31 Eskbank Road
Dalkeith
EH22 2AT
(New) ?
Isn't that "EH22 1HJ"

Like · Reply · Message · 1d



Midlothian Council Apologies if we have inadvertently got the postcode wrong.

Like · Reply · 20h



Midlothian Council

Published by Mid Gov [9] · 24 September at 14:26 ·

Chat (4)

