

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Report to Council of 6th November 2008**

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**Subject: Polling District & Polling Place Review 2008**

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**Prepared by: Rod Richardson, Principal Administration Officer**

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**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1. The public focus on electoral activity is understandably at a peak in the run up to any major election. Activity on electoral related matters is however continuous throughout the year.
- 1.2. The Council is responsible for keeping the polling districts and polling places within Clackmannanshire under review and, as part of the continuing election support activity, a review has been completed.
- 1.3. This report outlines the review process and invites Council to adopt recommendations for Clackmannanshire's polling districts and polling places.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. Council is recommended to approve the polling district and polling place scheme for each Ward as detailed in Appendix A attached.
- 2.2. The scheme of polling district and polling places will be formally reviewed again in the future, and certainly before the end of 2012. It is recommended that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive (following consultation with all Councillors in the affected Ward) to approve any changes to the scheme which become necessary before the next formal review.

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1. The Returning Officer (Chief Executive) is responsible for the administration of all elections which involve the citizens of Clackmannanshire. It is, however, the Council rather than the Returning Officer that is responsible for reviewing and approving a scheme detailing polling districts and polling places for the local government area.
- 3.2. Formal reviews are required to be completed at least once every four years.
- 3.3. The latest review commenced in early July 2008. It was open to any interested individual, group, or organisation to comment on the existing scheme and to make proposals or suggestions for improvements.

- 3.4. Press notices advising of the review were published and relevant information (including maps, background to the review, present situation of polling places) was made available electronically via Clacksweb and in hard copy to libraries and interested parties.
- 3.5. Detailed information packs were made available to all Councillors, elected representatives, Community Councils, community and minority interest groups as well as others with a potential interest. (All responses received are now published on Clacksweb for information).
- 3.6. The outcomes from this exercise require to be reflected in the next full electoral register. The annual publication date for the electoral register is the 1st December 2008 and the review programme, including the presentation of a report to Council, was designed to meet this deadline.

#### **4.0 Scheme detail**

- 4.1. Each of Clackmannanshire's five electoral wards requires to be divided into polling districts for election purposes. Each polling district must have a suitable polling place identified for use by voters in the area at each election. The polling districts and polling places proposed are identified in Appendix A (attached).
- 4.2. Over the last few years, determined efforts have been made to limit the reliance on school buildings for use as polling places. This in turn has achieved the aim of reducing the need for school closures and the disruption and inconvenience that causes. Only one school continues in use as a polling place - Banchory Primary School in Tullibody (Ward 1).
- 4.3. Premises deemed suitable for polling purposes are varied. For example, it is proposed to continue using the Loganlea Coffee Shop in Forestmill (Ward 5) and the Ochilview Lounge in Fishcross (Ward 3) at election times. These buildings are well located for our purposes and they have a history of serving the needs of voters admirably. With the co-operation of the owners/occupiers, the continued use of the Ochilview also negates the need to rely on Fishcross Primary School as a polling venue.
- 4.4. Any scheme of polling arrangements will always reflect a compromise which balances the ideal polling place against the availability of premises allocation, and the local geography. In general, the existing scheme continues to meet the expectations of the Returning Officer and of the local electorate. Four changes are however proposed:

1. Ward 2 (Clackmannanshire North - Dalmore Centre, Alva)

The Dalmore Centre is well located for use as a polling place. The accommodation and facilities are, however, limited. It is proposed that the polling place for the area changes to the Cochrane Hall. Expressions of support for this proposal have been received - no adverse comments have been received.

2. Ward 4 (Clackmannanshire South) - Glasshouse Loan Centre

The Glasshouse Loan Centre houses a number of tenants and it is not in the ownership of the Council. The ground floor accommodation previously used for polling purposes has reasonable access arrangements but its continued availability cannot be assured. Additionally, vehicle movement in that area of Glasshouse Loan has proved problematic with additional potential hazards presented to pedestrians.

Providing that it is possible to secure the agreement of the Managing Committee, it is proposed that the Weirs Social Club building in Church Street be used as the polling place for this polling district. This building has the advantage of level access, limited car parking, and is easily accessible on the route to and from the town centre.

3. Ward 4 (Clackmannanshire South) - Speirs Centre, Primrose Street, Alloa

In the longer term, upgrading of the Speirs Centre may create an ideal polling place. Its present layout and access arrangements are, however, not ideal for polling purposes and this polling place has been the subject of some complaint in the past.

The proposal recommended is to re-allocate voters from the Speirs Centre to the Weirs Social Club at the foot of Church Street. (The accommodation in this building is sufficient to cope with both polling districts).

4. Ward 4 (Clackmannanshire South) - Zones, Clackmannan Road, Alloa

The area in the building identified for polling purposes is a small workshop/store at the front of the building. Prior to each election it requires to be cleared, cleaned, heated and made suitable for the intended purpose. Although well located for polling use, the heating is poor and the facilities are generally not on a par with those commonly expected by voters.

It is recommended that this polling place be replaced by the Hawkhill Community Centre. This modern building has first class facilities, access and has the advantage of having a sizeable car park.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

- 5.1. Clackmannanshire Council is required to conduct a full polling district & polling place review at least once every four years. The previous scheme of arrangements has evolved over the last twelve years, and in most areas it is believed it still reflects the best interests of electors in terms of building location, accessibility and facilities. The polling districts themselves were

completely reviewed in 2007 and do not require further amendment at this time

- 5.2. Circumstances relating to particular buildings do change over time and that has to be reflected in the scheme. The review has confirmed that four of the polling places listed may no longer be the best option for polling purposes and alternatives have been identified and recommended.
- 5.3. The next major review of polling districts and places will be completed before the end of 2012. It is possible to amend the scheme at any time to take account of prevailing circumstances and it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to confirm (following consultation with local Members) any further changes which become necessary before the conclusion of the next planned review.

## 6.0 Declarations

- (1) The recommendations contained within this report support or implement Corporate Priorities, Council Policies and/or the Community Plan:

- **Sustainability Implications** - Encourage Community Participation
- **Financial and Staffing implications** - none
- **Corporate Priorities (Key Themes)** (Please tick )

Achieving Potential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximising Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/>
Securing Prosperity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhancing the Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining an Effective Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>

- **Council Policies** (Please detail)
- **Community Plan (Themes)** (Please tick )

Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment and Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (2) In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. (Please tick )

- (3) The full financial implications of the recommendations contained in this report are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. (Please tick )

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Head of Service

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Director

**Report to Council**

To accompany all Reports to Council

To: Head of Administration And Legal Services

Author: Rod Richardson	Date: 8 October 2008
Service: Chief Executive's Services	
Date of Meeting: 6 November 2008	
Title of Report: Polling District & Polling Place Review 2008	

Recommendation that the attached report be:

1. Given unrestricted circulation

(tick appropriate box)

2. Taken in private

By virtue of paragraph \_\_\_\_ of schedule 7A, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Appendices attached to this report (if none, state "none")

1. Appendix A
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

List of Background Papers (if none, state "none")

1. Consultation Documents & Responses
- 2.

Note: All documents specified must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of the meeting at which the report is considered.

Clackmannanshire Local Government Area

Polling Districts and Polling Places 2008

<b>Electoral Ward 1 - Clackmannanshire West</b>				
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Area/Polling Place</b>	<b>Suggestions/Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
OO105	Dumyat Centre, Main Street, Menstrie  All of Menstrie and surrounding area - 2261 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Centre is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Well supported polling place.
OO110	St. Serf's Church Hall, Menstrie Road, Tullibody  Tullibody area North of Stirling Road, West of Banchory Place - 1991 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Good community facility with adequate accommodation for polling purposes.
OO115	Banchory Primary School, Alloa Road, Tullibody  Tullibody area on the Alloa side of Banchory Place - 1308 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The School is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Well located for polling purposes, and no practical alternative locations for this area have been identified.
OO120	Tullibody Civic Centre, Abercrombie Place, Tullibody  Cambus area and Tullibody to Stirling Road - 2056 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Centre is centrally located with good access, parking, and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Good facilities - ideal for polling purposes.
<i>New polling district</i>	<i>Suggestion for a new polling district (split from OO120) covering Cambus only. Suggestion received is to for a polling place at the Bowling Club</i>	<i>Creation of a new polling district and designation of an additional polling place.</i>	<i>Not offered as a recommendation at this time - but will need to keep under review.</i>	<i>Building work has increased the number of homes in Cambus. The nearest service centre for daily needs remains Tullibody, and the Civic Centre is easily accessible. Recent pedestrian crossing on the main road</i>

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				<i>has increased accessibility for those on foot.</i>
OO125	St. Bernadette's Church Hall, Baingle Brae, Tullibody  Tullibody - The Baingle, part of Newmills and the Orchard - 958 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is centrally located. Access requires a temporary ramp but it has suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Continued use allows for the provision of a 'more local' polling venue for area residents.

<b>Electoral Ward 2 - Clackmannanshire North</b>				
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Area/Polling Place</b>	<b>Suggestions/Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
<b>OO230</b>	<b>Dalmore Centre, Park Street, Alva</b>  <b>Area to North of Stirling Street, West Stirling Street, Stirling Road and to the West of Brook Street -</b> <b>2603 Voters</b>	<b>Suggestion that the polling district should remain unaltered, with polling place moving to the Cochrane Hall.</b>	<b>Relocate polling place to the Cochrane Hall</b>	<b>Superior accommodation, access and facilities. No significant impact on voters as the two halls are in the same vicinity.</b>
OO235	St. John Vianney's Church Hall, East Stirling Street, Alva  Area North of East Stirling, Main Street and to the East of Brook Street - 1284 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is centrally located. Reasonable access, and reasonable accommodation Retain this polling place	Satisfactory for voters - no alternatives in the immediate area.
OO240	Community Centre, Institution Place, Tillicoultry  Area North of River Devon, West of Moss Road & Hill Street (Excludes Marchglen) - 1921 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Centre is well used for a variety of purposes and is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Satisfactory for voters and staff
OO243	Devonvale Hall, Moss Road, Tillicoultry  Devonside, areas east of Moss Road, North Hill Street and Hillview Terrace, Kirk Hill and Harviestoun areas - 2274 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	Voting moved to the Hall after exhausting the only alternatives in the immediate area. Large hall with good access and suitable accommodation.	Satisfactory for voters and staff - no immediate alternative identified.

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			Retain this polling place	
OO245	Coalsnaughton Village Hall, Main Street, Coalsnaughton  Coalsnaughton area Eastwards to Lawmuir - 668 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	A modernised facility with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Used for a variety of purposes and is ideal for polling.

<b>Electoral Ward 3 - Clackmannanshire Central</b>				
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Area/Polling Place</b>	<b>Suggestions/Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
OO350	The Ochil View, Alloa Road, Fishcross  Fishcross, Devon Village, Howetown, Blackfaulds and Devon Valley Drive area, Sauchie - 764 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Lounge is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	The only alternative in the area is the school. The Lounge is the preferred location.
OO355	Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church Hall, Main Street, Sauchie  Sauchie - Craigbank, Greygoran, Auchinbaird and Lochbrae areas, Main Street, streets north of Schaw Court and Gartmorn Road, Deerpark area - 1863 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Parking is limited, but manageable. Retain this polling place	Good location and accommodation for voters and staff.
OO360	Sauchie Hall, Mar Place, Sauchie  Sauchie - Fairfield, Branshill, Braeside, Holton Crescent, Hallpark, Posthill, Keilarsbrae, south of Schaw Court and Gartmorn Road. Includes Nevis Crescent, Dovehill and Doo'cot Brae parts of Alloa	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall has been used for the last 3 elections without major problems. It has good access and ample space and parking. Retain this polling place	This polling place has proved effective mostly because of the access.
<i>New polling district</i>	<i>Suggestion for a new polling district (split from OO360) for use by residents in Nevis Crescent, Alloa. Suggestion received is to for a new polling place at Sunnyside Primary school.</i>	<i>Suggestion arises from the fact that the 2007 Boundary changes (creating the 5 Clackmannanshire Wards) placed Nevis Crescent in ward 3 along with residents of</i>	<i>Not offered as a recommendation for adoption.</i>	<i>The use of a school as a polling place would require it to be closed for normal purposes on election days and this is not desirable because of the inconvenience it causes. A polling place should be</i>

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		<i>Sauchie. The allocated polling place is Sauchie Hall</i>		<i>within the ward it serves - the school is outwith Ward Three. The number of voters involved is insufficient to warrant a separate polling station/place in an urban area (150 or so).</i>
OO363	Whins Resource Centre, The Whins, Alloa  The Whins and Gaberston areas, Hilton Road, Carsebridge area, Greenfield Street and Hillside Terrace - 796 Voters	Proposal is to retain this polling place - but see also below.	The Whins Centre was first use to serve local voters in 2007. There are logistical issues with continued use (internal protection of floor coverings and furniture, but it has its own access door and is well located for the purpose. Retain this polling place	The building is well located close to the area it is intended to serve - the next nearest location would be Sauchie Hall. The accommodation is ideal for polling purposes.
		<i>Suggestion to re-draw the polling district to allocate residents of Hutton Park to the Polling place at the Whins</i>	<i>No change necessary</i>	<i>This suggestion appears to arise from a misunderstanding - the Whins polling place already serves voters from the Hutton Park area.</i>

<b>Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South</b>				
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Area/Polling Place</b>	<b>Suggestions/Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
OO465	Alloa Old Peoples Welfare Club Hall, Erskine Street, Alloa  Areas North of Tallboy Road and South of Dovehill - Sunnyside, Forebraes, Ashley Terrace and surrounding streets, Inglewood and Cornhill areas - 2038 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is a resource which can be made available, and it is in the right area. Retain this polling place	Remains suitable for polling purposes
OO470	Alloa North Church Hall, Legate, Aloe  Areas bounded by Tullibody Road and Stirling Road - Mar Place, all of Claremont, Fairburn, Brae head - 2724 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall has good access and there is limited on-street parking immediately adjacent. Retain this polling place	Good internal accommodation in the main hall, adequate heating and facilities.
OO475	<b>Glasshouse Loan Centre, Glasshouse Loan, Alloa</b>  <b>West Alloa bounded by Legate, the Forth, and Stirling Road - 1548 Voters</b>	<b>Existing location barely adequate. Access is not good, there is no parking during working hours, and ensuring availability is a growing concern</b>	<b>Proposed move to the Weir's Social Club in Church Street. (dependent on reaching an agreement with Management Committee) The polling district remains unaltered.</b>	<b>Better access, enhanced facilities for both voters and staff, and greater reliability in relation to availability.</b>
OO477	<b>Speirs Centre, Primrose Street, Alloa</b>  <b>Area East of Legate to Ring Road. Includes most of the town centre - 543 Voters</b>	<b>The Centre's access is not the best, and there is potential for conflict with other users of the centre on polling days (no separate access available, and it has not been appropriate to close the building entirely)</b>	<b>Proposed move to the Weir's Social Club in Church Street. Combine voting with polling district OO475 (see above). Polling district remains unaltered. ( Change of location is dependant on reaching an agreement with Management Committee)</b>	<b>Better access. Central location so easily reached by voters.</b>
OO480	Bowmar Community Centre, Scott Crescent, Alloa	No alternative suggestions received	A well know and used community facility - excellent	Satisfactory for voters and staff

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	Bowhouse, Bowmar and surrounding area. Bounded by Hawkhill in the North - 1921 Voters		location with good access and parking. Retain this polling place	
<b>00485</b>	<b>Zones, Clackmannan Road, Alloa</b>  <b>Argyll Street, McKinlay Crescent area to Hillcrest Drive. Includes Hawkhill, Clackmannan Road and Hillcrest Drive -</b> <b>459 Voters</b>	<b>Suggested move to the Hawkhill Community Centre on Hillcrest Drive off Clackmannan Road</b>	<b>Zones area has heating, lighting and parking problems. Considerable preparatory work has been required to make the accommodation fit for purpose prior to previous usage. Centre is presently closed and is not likely to be made available for future elections</b>	<b>Identification of an alternative polling place is a pressing requirement. The Hawkhill Centre offers parking, good level pedestrian access, and good facilities. It is the only possible alternative in the area.</b>

<b>Electoral Ward 5 - Clackmannanshire East</b>				
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Area/Polling Place</b>	<b>Suggestions/Comments</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
00590	Coronations Hall, Muckhart  Muckhart and surrounding area to the Castlertoun Burn in the East - 403 Voters	Supportive comments received in terms of location and continued use of a community facility.	The Hall is centrally located in Muckhart and has good access and suitable accommodation. Retain this polling place	Hall is ideal for polling purposes (and there are no immediate alternatives).
00593	Dollar Civic Centre, Park Place, Dollar  All of Dollar and surrounding area - includes Solsgirth, Sheardale, Dollarbeg -	Supportive comments received in terms of location and continued use of a community facility.	The Centre is a well used community facility and it's continued use for polling is supported. Good access and parking. Retain this polling place	Adjacent to the primary school, the centre is ideal for polling.
00595	Loganlea Coffee Shop, Inverdevon House, Forestmill  Forestmill and landward area towards Clackmannan	No alternative suggestions received	The Coffee Shop is really the only facility in the area. It is large enough for the	Continued use of this polling place has been well received. In the event of it

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	including Linn Mill -		purpose, and has the advantage of car parking Retain this polling place	not being available the likely alternative would be all the way back to Clackmannan.
OO597	Town Hall, Main Street, Clackmannan All of Clackmannan and surrounding area to the North of Alloa Road. Includes Riccarton 2806 Voters	No alternative suggestions received	The Hall is centrally in Clackmannan and is a well used community facility with nearby parking. Retain this polling place	The Hall is large enough to accommodate the number of polling stations required and is well located for the purpose.

