

Polling Place Review – Stakeholder survey responses

There were 56 responses. 48 (85.71%) were from members of the public, 1 (1.79%) was from a political party, 5 (8.93%) were from local councillors, 1 (1.79%) was from an advocacy or support group and 1 was marked as other (described themselves as a local resident, rate payer of voting age)

There were 0 responses from the community councils (although 1 Cllr response included CC consultation) or the MSP and MP.

Please provide any comments you have on our current polling stations and polling districts

- Keep them local
- Easy to get too
- Jasmin Drive is yards from Moray Sports Centre, which is used as a polling station, but we have to travel to Lhanbryde to vote as ward boundaries are at the Linkwood Burn. These boundaries should be revised as I consider Elgin to be my local area and have no contact with Lhanbryde apart from on polling day.
- Easy to get to local polling station although I'm registered for postal voting.
- Ideal @ Milnorduff Public Hall plenty parking & disabled facilities
- I am getting lots of complaints from constituents about using Lossiemouth Football Social Club in Macduff Street. It is quite a bit away from the former Polling Station at Lossiemouth Community Centre. People say coming from Coularbank Estate it is a long way and they have to cross the main road. Also people don't like the drinkers standing at the door smoking and drinking and trying to get through them to get in. The staff at the polling station also complained about always having to move all the furniture before starting.
- People living in Glenlatterach have to go all the way to Rothes to vote, yet we pass the polling station at Fogwatt Hall to get to Rothes! I know boundaries are drawn, but it always seemed a bit silly to pass a polling station to get to another one!
- The ones in Keith are easy to access
- ELGIN NORTH
The most obvious issue in terms of polling station is Pinefield (Bowling Club) as the turnout is always extremely low - 40% on a good election turnout. Regardless of the more deprived population being one of the likely reasons for the lower turnout, crossing the A96 to go vote seems to be putting people off. We would suggest the installation of a portacabin (e.g on the patch of grass on Waulkmill Grove, or the park on McBeath Avenue).
Obviously the new development in Findrassie needs to have the polling station moved to Lossiemouth or Bishopmill Hall, as opposed to Duffus.

ELGIN SOUTH:

The use of the Sports Centre is problematic as it is far away from some voters in the polling district. Voters have to drive. We would suggest the newly opened Link on Southfield drive.

SPEYSIDE:

Do we really need a polling station in Drummuir where it is hardly used, likewise Knockando. Knockando and Archiestown are pretty close and anyone travelling to Knockando polling station must do so by car as there is no village of Knockando as such.

- Alves/Roseisle - although rural this box is well-placed and there aren't any accessibility issues; perhaps the wrong side of the A96
- Burghead/Cummingston - seems to suit all and is both within walking distance and easily accessible for all in Burghead
- Duffus - voters from Findrassie currently use this box since Findrassie is in H&L but perhaps they should vote at Bishopmill?
- Hopeman - as with Burghead
- Lossiemouth (Town Hall) - no issues with accessibility or distance although some voters in the same street vote here or at the other Lossie box!
- Lossiemouth (Football club) - a few issues. 1) This is a licensed premises and many I have spoken to have voiced concern about the suitability of this, 2) this box moved from the old community centre/high school and is much much further away from the Coularbank Estate where a large percentage of the box's voters live and 3) this box is now very close to the Town Hall box and is less central for the majority of the box's voter
- Miltonduff - although rural this box is well-placed and there aren't any accessibility issues
- Parking can be a problem at busy times in Dufftown as people tend to stop on the street rather than pulling into the car park adjacent to the hall.
- In my local area of Forres, I have thus far been very happy with the number of polling stations that are within walking distance of the local population, which have good accessibility for people with disabilities or other vulnerabilities.
- Some polling places have 2 stations which will save in costs considering the lower number of voters there are now at polling station. Can more polling stations be combined with appropriate staff numbers ie Buckie East & West
- My polling station is ideal in that it is within walking distance of our home.
- It would be good not to have to use Greenwards, as it means the school is closed.
- make sense, good accessibility and availability

- In my limited experience, no complaints or issues. Polling station clearly marked, polling district known, good hours, kind workers.
- School should be used as a last resort it's always the case that children education is put 2nd to polling stations
- Try to avoid using schools
- Adequate
- Not a problem I have a postal vote
- We live near Drummuir and really value being able to vote there.
- Miltonduff village hall- with it being a nursery there is often disruption to the children's families
- I don't agree with polling stations being in a school. Children should not miss out on a days education for voting. Not to mention the parents have to find suitable childcare too!
- Polling stations should not be in licensed premises whether they are open or not.
- Don't think schools should be closed.
- Totally satisfactory
- I think you should stop using schools as this costs the parents a lot of money to either have to be off work or arrange child care. There are options like community halls which all have public access. More people should be encouraged to vote by post as it's an antiquated way of voting in person.
- I'm happy with town hall
- The closest polling station to the Glassgreen estates in new Elgin is New Elgin Hall which is a 5min walk but the allocated station is Greenwards Primary which is a 20/30min walk. I did not vote in the recent council elections due to Greenwards being out of my way.
- I feel that schools should not be used as polling stations-this is additional days of school for only some pupils and not all meaning some pupils are missing out on class time that their peers aren't.
- Room is too small and very cluttered with unused, stacked chairs and tables.
- The polling district change seems very strange I live in the highland council area but my polling station is run by moray council doesn't make sense
- My current polling place is good and convenient
- Schools should not be used anymore

- I live in Glenrinnies, I'm sure others in Glenrinnies would agree that the Glenrinnies Hall would be more convenient than having to travel to Dufftown.
- Shouldn't be held in schools disrupting children's learning with schools having to close for the day.
- I vote in a local school which obviously has to close to pupils and staff to allow voting to take place. In view of the increase in house building thoughts need to be given to alternative arrangements.
- Bishopmill works well for us
- We live in Findrassie Elgin. You put our polling station as Duffus. As someone with no transportation we are limited with how many buses go there. We have a community hall just half a mile from our house. Why can't we use it
- Seem fine
- I'd like to see use of Rothiemay Primary School avoided please.
- Comment has been made to me from people in the Kingsmills area that Seafield School would be easier to vote from rather than Williamson Hall. If there was merit in this then perhaps the River would be the boundary for voting purposes with those on the Lesmurdie side going to Seafield School.
- Lossiemouth community centre was used as a polling place until the new school was being built, the football club was then chosen. I have several concerns about this as a venue. Firstly it is off any main bus route, it is in a pub which may put people off voting and it is not a place which everyone is familiar with in the town. I also feels that the big scheme behind the high school/ community centre is also an area of deprivation and of low voting turnout historically. In moving it so far from the previous polling station, if further disenfranchises the community who we need to turn out. as parking is so bad at the new school/ community centre it is unlikely that it can be moved back there but that would be the ideal.
- My local polling station at Fife Keith scout hall is very convenient. It's central for locals and has disabled access
- Since moving the polling station to Lossiemouth FC Social Club on Macduff Street from Lossiemouth Community Centre have had lots of people complaining it's a lot further to walk from the Coulardbank housing Estate and have to cross the main road and go to the very bottom of Macduff Street.

What suggestions do you have for alternative polling places

- Use village halls
- Explore the use of Scout/Guide halls for polling stations? Or other Youth Group locations.

- The alternative I would recommend would be the Scout Hall on the playing on the right side of the main road not far from the previous polling station at the community centre
- British legion halls? Most towns have one.
- As indicated above the Link on Southfield Drive, and use of portacabins. We suggest merging polling districts in Knockando and Archiestown
- Could a polling station be opened in the Thomshill Hall
- Scout Hall (playing fields) Lossiemouth
- It's a pity that schools are no longer used for polling stations since, almost without exception, these are familiar buildings, fairly central for the majority of voters and already form a central part of community life (which elections should also do!). Not all communities have a hall that would have these qualities, however, and, of course getting a day off from school was always a buzz!
- I have used churches, community centres, libraries and sports clubs to vote in my local areas over the years. Keep community centres and libraries open!
- If you combined Bishopmill East & West & New Elgin East & West this would mean 2 schools are not used. Could the M Connect bus collect people that struggle with transport?
- Libraries, Shops with a quiet space, Companies that may have free space and easy access, Police station, Fire station, Sports grounds, Train stations
- Elgin Golf Club, New Elgin Community Hub
- Cooperation with large businesses, community halls, churches etc
- Change Pilmuir Primary School to the Erskine Centre now that its fully open.
- Could you use the TA hall in new Elgin instead of Greenwards?
- Erskine centre in Forres it was used in the past when a hotel.
- Is Pluscarden hall wheelchair accessible for an alternative or any library?
- New Elgin hall? Old vaccination centre?
- Schools are public buildings, accessible in communities and should be utilised for lots of things including pilling stations.
- New Elgin Hall, Scout hall, Sports centre, Unit at retail park (such as the old vaccination centre)
- Use new Elgin hall, Miltonduff hall, Forres tollbooth or community centre , Bishopmill hall, Elgin library- gallery room, Buckie town house or open up Buckie access point for the day as it's still a council building or fisherman's hall, long more hall, moray sports

centre, Lossie community centre or town hall. most of these would cost nothing as already council owned.

- Better for schools not to be used as working parents need to take unnecessary days off over what they need to.
- Moray Sport Centre-this venue has a huge hall that could be the polling station for new Elgin as a whole. It is on a public transport route and buses stop at the door so there would no access issues.
- The closest polling station to the Glassgreen estates in new Elgin is New Elgin Hall which is a 5min walk but the allocated station is Greenwards Primary which is a 20/30min walk. I did not vote in the recent council elections due to Greenwards being out of my way.
- Burghead Community Hall
- Scout hut / out of darkness studio near greenwards.
- Glenrannes Hall
- Bishopmill hall is half a mile from Findrassie
- Could Rothiemay Public Hall be used in place of Rothiemay Primary School?
- The Scout Hall on the playing fields not far from the old polling station would be a much better venue and folk wouldn't need to cross the main road.
- Supermarkets? Bus station, train stations

