

Wokingham Borough Council

Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review
(Acting) Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals
August 2026

Barkham and Arborfield Ward

Introduction

Wokingham Borough Council is conducting an interim review of polling districts and polling places. Borough wards must be sub-divided into smaller geographical areas called polling districts. Each polling district has a polling place where the polling station for the district is located and where electors living in the district will vote.

This report considers each polling district, polling place and polling station under the current arrangements and the (Acting) Returning Officer ((A)RO) has, where applicable, considered known issues during the preparation of this document. It should also be noted that this review is only concerned with the internal polling district boundaries. The ward boundaries have been ratified by Parliament and cannot be changed.

The (A)RO is proposing to keep the existing polling arrangements where they remain suitable and to make changes only where circumstances require. The intention is not to make changes unless they are needed and justified.

Background

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Wokingham Borough Council is required to complete a full statutory review of all polling districts and polling places. Reviews are required to be held within the period of 16 months that starts on 1st October of every fifth year after 1st October 2013. The last compulsory review was undertaken in 2023, and the recommendations were agreed by Council at its meeting on 18 January 2024.

Between compulsory reviews, all polling places and polling stations used should be kept under consideration, and an evaluation of their suitability carried out after each election. If any changes are identified as being desirable, the same steps should be followed as for conducting the compulsory review. The local authority can carry out an interim review and change some of their polling districts and polling places before the end of the 5-year cycle, but the same processes should be undertaken for the affected areas as for the compulsory review.

UK Parliamentary Constituency	Ward	Polling District	Current Polling Place	(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposed Polling Place	Reasons for change
Wokingham	Barkham & Arborfield Ward	AAW (part)*	Arborfield Village Hall	Arborfield Green Community Centre	Concerns have been raised about the distance that electors living in the Arborfield Green development must travel to attend Arborfield Village Hall. The (A)RO proposes that a new polling district is created for electors living in the Arborfield Green area of polling district AAW, so that they can vote at the closer venue Arborfield Green Community Centre in future elections. This new polling district would be AAW2.
Wokingham	Barkham & Arborfield Ward	ABW (part)*	Arborfield Village Hall	Arborfield Green Community Centre	Concerns have been raised about the distance that electors living in the Arborfield Green development must travel to attend their polling place at Arborfield Village Hall. The (A)RO proposes that the polling station for electors living in the Arborfield Green area of polling district ABW be moved to the closer venue Arborfield Green Community Centre.
Wokingham	Barkham & Arborfield Ward	BAW (part)*	Barkham Village Hall	Arborfield Green Community Centre	Concerns have been raised about the distance that electors living in the Arborfield Green development must travel to attend Barkham Village Hall. The (A)RO proposes that a new polling district is created for electors living in the Arborfield Green area of polling district BAW, so that they can vote at the closer venue Arborfield Green Community Centre in future elections. This new polling district would be BAW2.

*see Appendix 1 for boundary detail

Andrew Moulton

(Acting) Returning Officer

Dated: August 2026

Appendix 1

