

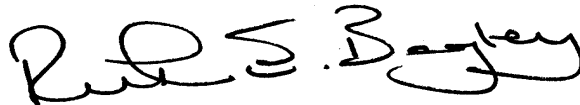
Date of despatch: 18th November 2013

To the Members of Slough Borough Council

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Council of this Borough which will be held in the Flexi Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on **Tuesday, 26th November, 2013 at 7.00 pm**, when the business in the Agenda below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours faithfully



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

PRAYERS

AGENDA

Apologies for Absence

PAGE

1. **Declarations of Interest**

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.

The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.

All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.

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| 2. | To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 26th September 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 7th November 2013 | 1 - 6 |
| 3. | To receive the Mayor's Communications. | |

Public Questions

- | | | |
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| 4. | Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9 (if any). | |
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Officer Reports

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| 5. | Community Governance Review of Parish Council Arrangements with the Borough of Slough | 7 - 34 |
| 6. | Review of Polling Districts and Places | 35 - 64 |

Motions

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| 7. | To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14. | 65 - 66 |
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Member Questions

- | | | |
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| 8. | To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (if any). | |
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MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Flexi Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Thursday, 26th September, 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains), in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Aujla, Bal, Brooker, Carter, Chaudhry, Chohan, Dar (left at 7.22 pm), Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Grewal, Hussain, Malik (left at 7.22 pm), M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mittal, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar (arrived at 7.07 pm) , Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Shah, Sharif (arrived at 7.07 pm), Small, Sohal (left at 7.22 pm), Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Coad, S K Dhaliwal, Munawar and Smith

21. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Chaudhry and Rasib declared a personal interest as members of their families were employed by Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Strutton declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 as he held a licensed driver and operators licence.

22. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 23rd July, 2013

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council at its meeting held on 23rd July, 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

23. To receive the Mayor's Communications

The Mayor placed on record his thanks to those Councillors who attended his Civic Service on Sunday, 15th September. The Service which included Harvest Festival, attracted generous donations of food and other items in aid of Slough Homeless our Concern (SHOC) and Slough Foodbank. The Mayor expressed his sincere thanks to his Chaplain Linda Hillier, for all her enthusiasm and help in arranging this very important Civic occasion.

Members were reminded that the forthcoming Annual Remembrance Sunday Services would be held on Sunday, 10th November and details would be distributed in the near future. The Armistice Day two-minute silence would be held in the Town Square on Monday 11th November and details would be circulated in due course.

The Mayor was shocked and deeply saddened by the news in August that former Councillor Peter Dale-Gough has passed away. Peter was a dedicated Member of the Council and carried out his duties as a Councillor and as Leader of the

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Conservative Group in an exemplary way. Peter gave selflessly of his time and energy and showed commitment and belief to supporting issues in his own Langley St Mary's Ward and the town as a whole.

The attendance at his funeral was testament to the high regard and affection in which he was held. Sympathy was conveyed to his wife Councillor Coad and the family.

The Council stood for one minute's silence in memory of Peter Dale-Gough.

24. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9 (if any)

None received.

25. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 16th September 2013: Treasury Management Strategy

It was moved by Councillor Anderson,
Seconded by Councillor Swindlehurst,

"That the Treasury Management Strategy be amended as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report."

The recommendation was put and carried unanimously.

Resolved – That the Treasury Management Strategy be amended as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

26. Recommendations of the Licensing Committee from its meeting on 18th July, 2013: New Policy for Disclosing and Barring Service

It was moved by Councillor Davis,
Seconded by Councillor Hussain,

" (a) That the draft Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy set out in the report be approved.

(b) That due to the need for urgent action to be taken as required, to approve a delegation to the Council's Head of Consumer Protection and Business Compliance the right to suspend a driver's licence on the basis of a failure to comply with the requirements of the DBS Policy, requiring the production of the original DBS Certificate."

The recommendations were put and carried unanimously.

Resolved-

(a) That the draft Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy set out in the report be approved.

(b) That due to the need for urgent action to be taken as required, a delegation to the Council's Head of Consumer Protection and Business Compliance the right to suspend a driver's licence be approved, on the

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basis of a failure to comply with the requirements of the DBS Policy, requiring the production of the original DBS Certificate.

27. Recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee from its meeting held on 25th June 2013: Annual Governance Statement 2012-13

Following the introduction of the report by Joseph Holmes, Assistant Director, Finance and Audit, the Mayor invited Mr Robert Grant, External Auditor, BDO to address the Council in respect of his interim report. Members asked a number of questions of detail about the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13. Following the completion of the questioning:

It was moved by Councillor Nazir,
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

“That the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 be approved.”

The recommendation was put and carried by 29 votes to 0 votes with 3 abstentions.

Resolved - That the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 be approved.

28. Audit of the 2012-2013 Financial Statements

It was moved by Councillor Nazir,
Seconded by Councillor Chohan,

- “(a) That the External Auditors update report set out at appendix A of the report be noted and that the Council’s external auditors are unlikely to complete their audit work in line with the 30th September 2013 timescales be noted.
- (b) That the final Governance letter from BDO be noted and that a set of revised financial statements will be submitted to a special meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee be noted.
- (c) That the Council’s draft financial statements for 2012 – 13 be approved subject to:
 - (i) the Council making the required adjustments detailed in the external auditor’s final Governance letter.
 - (ii) the External auditors issuing an unqualified opinion on the 2012-13 financial statements.
 - (iii) the Audit and Risk Committee being satisfied that (i) and (ii) above have been complied with.”

The recommendations were put and carried by 29 votes to 0 votes with 3 abstentions.

Resolved -

- (a) That the External Auditors update report set out at appendix A of the report be noted and that the Council's external auditors are unlikely to complete their audit work in line with the 30th September 2013 timescales be noted.
- (b) That the final Governance letter from BDO be noted and that a set of revised financial statements will be submitted to a special meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee be noted.
- (c) That the Council's draft financial statements for 2012 – 13 be approved subject to:
 - (i) the Council making the required adjustments detailed in the external auditor's final Governance letter.
 - (ii) the External auditors issuing an unqualified opinion on the 2012-13 financial statements.
 - (iii) the Audit and Risk Committee being satisfied that (i) and (ii) above have been complied with.

29. Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Pantelic,

“That the Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy (attached at Appendix A of the report) be agreed and be publicised to customers and staff with immediate effect”.

The recommendation was put and carried by 28 votes to 3 votes with 0 abstentions.

Resolved - That subject to the addition of guidance on the role of Heads of Service, the Management of Unreasonable Customer Behaviour Policy, (attached at Appendix A of the report), be agreed and publicised to customers and staff with immediate effect.

30. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14

It was moved by Councillor Wright,
Seconded by Councillor Strutton,

That the Motion be withdrawn.

Resolved - That the Motion be withdrawn.

31. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled)

A Member question and response was tabled for information.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.37 pm)

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Flexi Hall, The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, SL1 4UT on Thursday, 7th November, 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bains) in the chair; Councillors Abe, Anderson, Aujla (arrived 7.15 pm), Bains, Bal, Brooker, Chaudhry, Chohan, Coad, Dar, Davis, A S Dhaliwal, Dhillon (arrived 7.12 pm), Grewal, Hussain, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas (arrived 7.08 pm), Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Plimmer, Rasib, Shah, Sharif, Smith, Sohal, Strutton, Swindlehurst, Walsh (arrived 7.04 pm) and Wright

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Carter, S K Dhaliwal, Malik and Small

32. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bal, Chaudhry, Munawar and Rasib declared a personal interest as members of their families were employed by Slough Borough Council.

33. To consider the Motion attached.

It was moved by Councillor Wright,
Seconded by Councillor Abe,

"This Council resolves:

It has lost confidence in the present leadership of Slough Borough Council because of recent examples of financial mismanagement and poor governance, and it calls on those responsible to resign."

A motion to suspend Standing Orders in accordance with Rule 27 was moved by Councillor Abe and seconded by Councillor Coad to enable members to speak twice during the debate with no time limit. The proposed motion was put and lost by 6 votes to 25 votes with 1 abstention.

Councillor Smith sought to move an amendment which was ruled out of order.

Following a request for a named vote, the voting was as follows:-

There voted for the motion:-

Councillors Abe, Coad, Plimmer, Smith, Strutton and Wright6

There voted against the motion:-

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Councillors Anderson, Aujla, Bal, Brooker, Chohan, Dar, Davis, AS Dhaliwal, Dhillon, Grewal, Hussain, Malik, M S Mann, P K Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mittal, Munawar, Nazir, O'Connor, Pantelic, Parmar, Plenty, Rasib, Shah, Sharif, Sohal, Swindlehurst and Walsh.....29

There abstained from the vote:-

The Worshipful the Mayor..... 1

The motion was put and lost by 6 votes to 29 votes with 1 abstention.

Resolved – That the motion be rejected.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.50 pm)

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 26th November 2013
CONTACT OFFICER: Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services
Community Governance Review Group
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875011
WARD(S): All

PART 1
FOR DECISION

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL ARRANGEMENTS
WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SLOUGH

1. Purpose of Report

This report presents to Council the final recommendations of the Community Governance Review to enable Council to decide to what extent it wishes to implement the recommendations. The report outlines the responses to the 2nd stage of the public consultation carried out as part of the community governance review of the Borough Council area.

The Community Governance Review and 2nd stage consultation has had regard to the relevant law and the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to consider the final recommendations of the Community Governance Review Group and determine whether to Resolve:

Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

- (a) That the written responses received in relation to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council be noted and that, as part of its final recommendations, the Council reserves the right to test public opinion in an advisory postal poll at or after the next parish council elections in 2015 if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.

Britwell Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) That the results of the advisory postal poll and the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9th October 2013 be noted and the written responses received during the consultation both in support of the Parish Council and making representations on its future boundaries also be noted.

- (b) That the Council notes that the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.

Proposed Changes

Alteration of Parish Area

- (c) That the boundary of Britwell Parish Council be altered as shown on map attached at Appendix A.

Electoral Arrangements

- (d) That the number of Parish Councillors be reduced to seven.

Elections

- (e) That the term of office of the existing thirteen Parish Councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014 and that the newly elected seven Parish Councillors serve a five year term of office initially and then revert to the traditional four year term.
- (f) That subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to the proposed changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish a Reorganisation Order will be laid before Council for approval giving effect to the Council's final recommendations of the Community Governance Review

Wexham Court Parish Council

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) That the written responses received in support of Wexham Court Parish Council be noted.
- (b) That the Council note that the results of the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of retaining the Parish Council and reserves the right to test public opinion again in the future if it still has concerns about the Parish Council's governance arrangements.

3. Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities - Cross-Cutting themes

Civic responsibility - Effective governance arrangements are central to a successful modernised and transformational council and the Community Governance Review is an essential part of those arrangements.

Other Implications

(a) Financial

The costs associated with undertaking the Community Governance Review have been accommodated within existing budgets.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The conduct of a CGR is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act"), Slough Borough Council as a principal council, must comply with both Part 4, Chapter 3 (Sections 79 to 102) of the Act and the terms of reference adopted by the Council for the purpose of carrying out the review. Section 100 of the Act states that a principal council must have regard to the guidance on community governance reviews. This guidance is prescriptive. It sets out tests that have to be met

(c) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal Risk of legal challenge to decisions	Seek legal advice at all stages of the Review	Proposals must bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services
Property	N/A	N/A
Human Rights	None at this stage	
Health and Safety	N/A	
Employment Issues	None at this stage	
Equalities Issues	EIA prepared	
Community Support	Ensure consultation is appropriate and engages all interested parties so that community support for the way forward is effectively sought	Community engagement improved as a result of the recommendations of the review
Communications	Consultation is appropriate and engages all interested parties	Residents given the opportunity to influence how their local area is governed
Community Safety	N/A	N/A
Financial No financial provision exists for this review and costs have been absorbed within existing budget provision. There will be additional costs	Ensure statutory Guidance on Reviews is followed and recommendations are evidence based.	

associated with on-going legal advice and any subsequent challenge to recommendations could involve additional legal costs		
Timetable for delivery	The Review must be completed within one year of commencement. Final recommendations to be reported to November Council meeting.	
Project capacity	Review Manager currently supporting the Review.	
Reputation	Ensure statutory Guidance on Reviews is followed and recommendations are evidence based	

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed at the start of the Community Governance Review.

4. Supporting Information

- 5.1 At its meeting held on 29th January 2013 the Council agreed to carry out a Community Governance Review within the Borough area including the parishes and their electoral arrangements, and also other forms of governance in the un-parished areas. It also approved terms of reference for the review and a timetable, and appointed a Review Group to make recommendations to the Council.
- 4.2 The aim of the review is to consider and bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services, and to ensure that electors across the whole Borough are treated equitably and fairly.
- 5.3 Details of the current Parish Band D Precept, number of Parish Councillors, electorate sizes and 5 year forecast of the electorate for the three parished areas of the Borough are set out below

Parish	No. of Councillors	Electorate 2013	Electorate 5 Year Forecast	Precept (Band D) £	2013/14 Budget £
Britwell (current boundary)	13	3,911	4,000	66.10	119,600
Colnbrook with Poyle	13	4,157	4,314	47.70	93,450
Wexham Court	11	3,670	3,737	36.72	55,000

6. Background

- 6.1 The Council must as part of the review consult with local people and take into account any representations made in connection with the review. The review must ensure that the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the interests and identities of the community. It must also make certain that governance and parish arrangements are effective and convenient for the electors of that community.
- 6.2 As agreed by the Council the review is focused primarily on the parished areas of the Borough but may also consider other forms of community representation which local people may have set up in the Borough and which help make a distinct contribution to the community such as residents' associations, community forums, neighbourhood working groups etc.
- 6.3 The review may consider the creation, abolition, merging or altering of parish councils and any subsequent electoral arrangements. New parishes may be created as a result of the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, or sense of identity. All parishes must fall within the existing borough boundary.

7. Results of Public Consultation

- 7.1 The 2nd stage of the public consultation was approved by the Council at its meeting held on 23rd July 2013 and launched on 9th August with an updated Council webpage, public notices posted at St Martin's Place, libraries and community centres and notification by letter and email to local community and leisure organisations, housing associations, business organisations, the police, the health authority and local schools. The parish councils were also notified together with the National Association of Local Councils, Berkshire Association of Local Councils, the Slough District Association of Local Councils and the Slough Council for Voluntary Services. In this final stage of the consultation local electors and interested parties including the parish councils were invited to submit their views on the Council's recommendations by 14th October 2013.
- 7.2 In addition, the Council commissioned Electoral Reform Services to carry out an advisory postal poll of voters in the Britwell and Wexham Court parish areas to test public opinion on dissolution of the parishes and abolition of the parish councils and, in the case of Britwell on recommended boundary changes.
- 7.3 In response to the 2nd stage consultation, 22 letters, and emails have been received, one from the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) relates to all three parish councils, seven to Wexham Court, two to Britwell and eight to Colnbrook with Poyle. In addition, 190 standard letters have been received from residents within the Borough concerning the Britwell parish area, supporting the Parish Council, as reported later in this report. The letter from the Chairman of BALC expresses strong support for all three parish councils and stresses the fundamental importance of the democratic principle. In BALC's view parish councils have a democratic legitimacy which no community association, voluntary body or charity can emulate. It points out that the legislation is designed to promote local

democracy and that the Borough Council should support local councils and their role.

- 7.4 Copies of all of the written comments received are available to Members of the Council on request and will be published on the Council's website.
- 7.5 The detailed responses and consideration given by the Review Group to each parish is set out as follows.

(a) **Britwell Parish Council**

7.6 The response to the initial public consultation suggested that Britwell Parish Council was not working effectively in the best interests of local residents. There was evidence from the consultation to support the view that the Parish Council was unlikely to make and sustain any significant improvements in the way it works or succeed in bringing the community together. It also appeared that a significant number of local residents did not accept that the parish precept represented good value for money at £66 per annum for a Band D property. The Council also had concerns about the Parish Council's ability to operate effectively and transparently and, whilst some of its services were valued by local people, the Council believes that these and other services could be provided more efficiently and effectively for local residents by other means, and at lower cost to individual householders.

Many residents of the Britwell estate are on low incomes and costs to householders are therefore a particular concern.

7.7 In the 2nd stage of the review the Council consulted on the abolition option as well as on its recommended changes to the Britwell parish boundaries and a corresponding reduction in the size of the Parish Council to seven councillors.

7.8 It is also consulted on its recommendation to reduce the parish councillors' term of office by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014, with newly elected councillors serving a five year term of office initially and then reverting to the traditional four year term. These issues are set out in further detail for the Council's consideration in the light of the responses received to the public consultation and the results of the advisory poll.

Abolition of Parish

7.9 The Council decided to consult local electors and other interested parties on the abolition option. However, as the statutory guidance requires evidence of local support for abolition over a period equivalent to at least two terms of office of the parish councillors (i.e. eight years) it acknowledged that the 2nd stage consultation should gauge views on the future of Britwell Parish Council with a view to public opinion being tested again in a further four years' time.

Boundary Adjustments

7.10 As previously reported to Council, parts of Britwell Parish Council will fall into the newly created Britwell & Northborough and Haymill & Lynch Hill borough wards following the 2012 review of the borough ward boundaries undertaken by the LGBCE which come into effect in May 2014. As the LGBCE could not recommend changes to the external boundaries of the Parish Council as part of its review it created two parish wards - Britwell East (12 councillors) and West (one councillor) which will come into effect in May 2015. The creation of the single councillor Britwell West Parish Ward does not create a long-term solution and, in the light of the changes made to the borough ward boundaries and to reflect community identity and interest, the Council recommended that the boundary of the parish be altered with effect from May 2014 so that the arrangements for the borough and parish come into effect at the same time. The proposed changes are:

- a) To remove from the parish the part of the existing parish area that will fall into the new Haymill & Lynch Hill ward (Britwell West Parish Ward).
- b) To realign the parish boundary with the Britwell & Northborough local government ward western boundary.
- c) To alter the boundaries of the parish to the east around Long Readings Lane and to the south at Long Furlong Drive, so that the centre of the major roads at Wentworth Avenue and Long Furlong Drive become the new boundaries (which are clearly - defined and which are significant and recognisable geographical markers on the estate), and to remove existing anomalies where the boundary is currently highly confusing on the ground.

7.11 In summary, the parish area would be determined by the borough boundary to the north, the new Britwell & Northborough ward boundary to the west, Long Furlong Drive to the south and Wentworth Avenue to the east. If these proposals are adopted, the new parish would comprise 859 properties and have an electorate of 1,653 covering the area around the community hall and related recreation areas and facilities run by the parish council and used by local residents.

Size of Parish Council

7.12 The proposed adjustments to the parish boundary have implications for the number of parish councillors and if the parish area and electorate are to be reduced in size, as recommended, the Council also recommended making a corresponding reduction in the number of parish councillors. The Council therefore consulted on a reduction in the number of parish councillors from 13 to 7 on the grounds that a smaller Parish Council would be able to operate in a more strategic and focused way and bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Council Elections

7.13 The Council also recommended that the term of office of the existing Britwell parish councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014.

Local Government Boundary Commission Consent

7.14 If the Council decides to proceed with changes to the parish boundary, it will be required to submit an application to the LGBCE for consent to the changes to the parish as part of the LGBCE review process. If consent is granted, the LGBCE will issue a further statutory instrument and the Council may then make an Order implementing the changes

Response to Consultation

7.15 Two written comments have been received in response to the public consultation, one supporting abolition of the Parish Council and the other seeking clarification. The Review Group also met Councillor Isernia, Chair of Britwell Parish Council and three other parish councillors on 9th October 2013 to discuss the Borough Council's

recommendations. The notes of that meeting confirm that the Parish Council would prefer the boundary to stay where it is at present and probably extend into the Northborough estate. In their view Lynch Hill is part of the Britwell parish and it would be wrong to change the present boundaries. In their view, Lynch Hill should remain as a single member parish ward. The parish councillors did not see changes to the timing of their term of office/ parish elections as an issue but they would not support the recommended boundary changes.

- 7.16 In addition, 190 standard letters have been received from local residents in and around the Britwell parish area supporting the Parish Council. The letters were received at the end of the consultation period (14th October) and the Group noted therefore that some people may have voted in the parish poll as well as submitting a letter. The terms of 185 of the letters are set out below:

“I am writing to you in support of Britwell Parish Council. I believe that the Parish Council deserves a chance to implement their plans and improve the services that they offer.

I do not agree that the Britwell Parish Boundary should be reduced. I would like to see the boundary expanded to include the Britwell and Northborough polling district.”

Breakdown of letters received	No.
Letters from residents living in parish	106
Letters from residents living outside the Parish [Britwell Ward to the East]	39
Letters from residents living outside the parish [Britwell Ward to south west]	12
Letters from residents living outside the Parish [Northborough Estate]	10
Letters from residents living on the edges of Farnham	2
Letters from residents living outside the area [Other wards and outside Slough]	16
Total	185

The terms of 5 of the letters are set out below:

“I am writing to you in support of Britwell Parish Council. I believe that the Parish Council deserves a chance to implement their plans and improve the services that they offer.

I do not agree that the Britwell Parish Boundary should be reduced. I would like to see the boundary left as it is.”

Breakdown of letters received	No.
Letters from residents living in parish	3
Letters from residents living outside the parish [Britwell Ward to south west]	1
Letters from residents living outside the Parish [Northborough Estate]	1
Total	5

7.17 The Council's consultations also included an advisory postal poll of all of the 3,902 eligible voters in the parish plus 124 voters living in the adjoining area which it is proposed to be included in the parish area if the recommended boundary changes are agreed. The Poll was held between 20th September to 14th October 2013. Two questions were put to voters:

Question 1

Do you support the option that Britwell Parish Council should be abolished?

Number of eligible voters:	3,902
Total number of votes cast:	1,066
Turnout:	27.3%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	76
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	990

Result

Number voting YES 566 (57.2% of the valid vote)
 Number voting NO 424 (42.8% of the valid vote)
 TOTAL 990 (100% of the valid vote)

Question 2

Do you support the Council's recommendation for changes to the boundary of Britwell Parish Council and number of Parish Councillors?

Number of eligible voters:	3,902
Total number of votes cast:	1,066
Turnout:	27.3%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	112
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	954

Result

Number voting YES 534 (56.0% of the valid vote)
 Number voting NO 420 (44.0% of the valid vote)
 TOTAL 954 (100% of the valid vote)

Note: Of the 124 voters outside the parish area who were invited to vote - 21 of the 124 voters decided to vote in the poll comprising a turnout of 16.9% with a majority voting YES to Questions 1 and 2.

Consideration by the Review Group

7.18 The Review Group considered the consultation responses and results of the poll. Members were conscious that the aim of the community governance review was to consider and bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services, and to ensure that electors across the whole Borough are treated equitably and fairly. In considering the recommended parish boundary changes the Group had regard to the criteria underpinning the Review namely the identities and interests of the community and effective and convenient governance arrangements.

Abolition

- 7.19 The Review Group agreed to note the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9th October, together with the written responses received in support of the Parish Council and the results of the advisory postal poll. The Group recommend that the Council notes that the results of the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.

Boundary Changes, Size and Electoral Arrangements

General

- 7.20 The area and community has changed over time leading to the existing parish boundary being anomalous. Over the past 30/40 years the Parish has not been coterminous with the existing Britwell Borough Ward leading to an arbitrary situation in parts of Britwell being parished and some not and in some cases parts of streets parished and some not. [See maps set out at Appendix B]. The Council has consulted on proposals to change the boundary of the Parish Council and 56% of the residents who voted in the Poll supported the boundary changes. The Review Group makes the following arguments in support of its recommendations.

Realignment of the parish boundary with the Britwell & Northborough Local Government Ward Western boundary

- 7.21 The LGBCE review of Ward Boundaries resulted in a small part of Britwell Parish Council falling into the newly created Haymill & Lynch Hill Borough Ward. This part of the Parish was made into Britwell West Parish Ward as part of the Review with effect from May 2015 returning one councillor. The Council's proposal is to realign the parish boundary with the Britwell & Northborough western Ward boundary.
- 7.22 Whilst appreciating that the LGBCE had no choice but to create the Parish ward as it could not change the external boundaries of a parish as part of the Review, the Council does not consider that the creation of the single-member parish ward is an effective long term solution for both community identity and cohesion and efficient local government for the following reasons:
- A Parish Council with 12 Members representing the majority of the Parish area and 1 Member representing the remaining ward will create difficulties in terms of representation and appears arbitrary. It could lead to isolation of the single member area with the potential for that single councillor to be outvoted on issues affecting the larger area and overall does not lead to an effective internal dynamic within the Parish Council.
 - The Parish Ward is created with effect from the May **2015** elections, the Borough ward boundaries [that required the Parish ward to be created] come into effect in May **2014**. This will cause confusion to voters and complexities in managing elections for the area. The Council has undertaken a Polling District Review following the creation of the new borough wards. If the

Parish boundary is not altered with effect from May 2014 there will be implications for the creation of polling districts that will not be conducive to efficient and effective local government. A PD of 380 electors comprising the Britwell Parish West Ward will need to be created in 2014 despite the Ward not existing until 2015. The Council has aimed to get each Polling District in the Borough to comprise 1,500 to 2,500 voters and this PD will therefore be anomalous and costly.

- If there were to be a Parish-By election between May 2014 and May 2015 the Parish ward has not yet been established making an election extremely complicated. It is therefore desirable and efficient to settle the Borough Polling Districts and Parish boundary at the same time to be effective from the May 2014 elections.
- As part of its review of Ward boundaries the LGBCE accepted that the Haymill Valley had a distinct topographical nature and a distinct community identity and the creation of the Haymill & Lynch Hill Ward was consistent with the evidence presented of community identity in the area. The LGBCE had received some conflicting views on the split of the parish and the link to the area of Lynch Hill. However submissions argued that Lynch Hill was a community distinct from the Britwell Estate and that Lynch Hill looks west towards Burnham for services and faces the natural geographical boundary of the Haymill Valley which separates it from the rest of the Britwell Parish. The LGBCE were persuaded on these arguments and created the Haymill and Lynch Hill Ward as a result.

Alter the boundaries of the Parish along Long Readings Lane and Long Furlong Drive

- 7.23 The Council's proposal to alter the boundaries of the Parish to the East and South are to both reflect community identity and effective and convenient local government.

Long Furlong Drive

- The proposal uses a major road as the boundary for the Parish, as opposed to the current boundary which divides streets, individual properties and gardens at present, and which is hard to identify/makes little sense on the ground.
- It is an anomaly that the parish boundary does not extend along Long Furlong Drive and incorporate those houses in Winton Path, Cecil Way etc [Map to show]. To not include this small area of houses (124 voters) would perpetuate an existing anomaly that has left this area out of the Parish.
- The advisory poll included the voters in this area and on a 16.9% turnout there was a majority in favour of altering the boundary to include this area [14 for 6 against].

Eastern Boundary around Long Readings Lane

- The proposal now uses a major double-width road in the centre of the estate as the boundary, as opposed to an arbitrary boundary that divides streets, individual adjacent properties and gardens at present, which makes no sense, and which has resulted in some roads in this part of the estate being parished and some not.
- 56% of the residents who voted in the Poll supported the boundary changes proposed by the Council – by altering the boundary a smaller more focussed parish council is created, represented by a smaller number of councillors who will be able to work more easily together, and work towards restoring confidence.
- The current parish boundary cuts between houses in the same road which is not reflective of community identity nor conducive to community cohesion. [See maps attached at Appendix B showing examples of boundary anomalies]
- Residents living in the east of the parish arguably engage less with the Parish Council and benefit less from its services.
- The existing Parish Council buildings and bar are situated in Long Furlong Drive, to the west of Wentworth Avenue, and the area around the Parish buildings forms the focus of the Council's activities.
- The newly defined Parish would cover the area around the Community Hall and related recreation areas and facilities run by the Parish Council and used by local residents in the immediate vicinity.
- Residents living in the east of the current Parish look to Monksfield Way recreation ground for their recreation activities rather than crossing Wentworth Avenue, which is a double-width road, to get to the Parish recreation area around Long Furlong Drive.
- Wentworth Avenue cuts the entire estate from north to south and is a double-width road. It forms a significant geographical/physical break between the eastern and western parts of the estate and the wooded/tree-lined section that runs down the middle of the road has been a significant physical landmark that pre-dates the estate itself. It is logical to use this boundary as it is widely recognised and understood, whereas the pattern of houses on and to the immediate west of Long Readings Lane makes the boundary here less well defined, less geographically significant, and a source of confusion on the ground under present arrangements.

Efficient Local Government

- Based on the responses to the consultation the Council was concerned that Britwell Parish Council was not working effectively in the best interests of local residents and that the Parish Council was unlikely to make and sustain any significant improvements in the way it works or succeed in bringing the community together.

- It appears a significant number of local residents do not accept that the parish precept represents good value for money at £66 per annum for a Band D property.
- The Council has concerns about the Parish Council's ability to operate effectively and transparently and, whilst some of its services are valued by local people, the Council believes that these and other services could be provided more efficiently and effectively for local residents by other means, and at lower cost.
- The Council considers a smaller more focused parish council would allow the Parish to have a more identifiable electorate centred around the Community Hall and related areas where more residents are connected with, and use, the parish facilities.
- There is evidence that the community centre bar, the 'Chicken Ranch' is not widely supported and is not used by a significant number of parish residents. The bar has to date been heavily subsidized and ran at a loss for some years; and the Council questions the appropriateness of large sums of expenditure on a subsidized bar with limited customer use by the electorate whose precept is subsidizing it.

Council Size and electoral arrangements

7.24 On the size of parish councils, legislation establishes five councillors as the minimum but does not make any link between the number of electors and the size of the council. There is no maximum number. The National Association of Local Councils believes that seven should be minimum size and has published some guidance, as follows:

Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
2,000	9
3,500	11
5,400	13
10,400	17
13,500	19

7.25 The Review Group considers that

- A smaller Parish Council of seven councillors would be able to conduct parish business more efficiently and effectively for the community it serves. The Review Group was given evidence that the Parish Council (currently thirteen Councillors) often struggled to reach agreement and that there were 'divides' between opposing 'informal camps' of councillors. The Group considers that a

smaller parish council comprising seven members would be more likely to work collaboratively and reduce the potential for infighting.

- Whilst elections for the Parish were contested in 2007 and by-elections in 2008 (2 candidates for 1 vacancy) and 2010 (10 candidates for 6 vacancies) were also contested, in more recent years there have not been contested elections to the Parish - the elections in 2011 were uncontested (13 candidates for 13 vacancies) and four vacancies on the parish since then have been filled by co-option.

7.26 The electoral forecast for the newly defined parish is as follows:

Parish	No. of Councillors (proposed)	Electorate 2013	Electorate 5 Year Forecast	Precept (Band D) £	2013/14 Budget £
Britwell (revised boundary)	7	1,653	1,691	66.10	£58,596

The councillor/elector ratio under the recommended proposals is therefore 1:236 which is more favourable than the current ratio of 1:300.

7.27 The Review Group has carefully considered the budget that would be available to the newly defined Parish Council (£58,596 based on 2013/14 precepts) and is satisfied that the new Parish would be financially viable and would not be adversely affected because:

- The revised budget is similar to the budget for Wexham Court Parish Council which is financially viable with an electorate of 3,737 – the electorate of Britwell Parish will be 1653 (less than half)
- The Parish Council have stated that the chicken ranch bar which has run at a loss in previous years has shown a profit of £6,700 in 2012/13.
- The Parish Council has additional sources of income, for example hall bookings, functions, hiring of pitches etc
- The Parish Council advised the Review Group that a reduction in the Parish precept was planned. The fact that the Parish Council advised that they would be looking to reduce the precept implies that the Parish Council would have had a surplus and the proposed budget reduction should therefore have less effect. The Parish Council would be free to reduce the precept as planned and undertake fewer, more focussed activities or leave the precept as it is and continue all their activities with a reduced electorate.

Review Group Recommendations:

Support for abolition/retention

- (a) **That the results of the advisory postal poll and the representations made by Britwell Parish Council in their meeting with the Review Group on 9th October 2013 be noted and the written responses received during the consultation both in**

support of the Parish Council and making representations on its future boundaries also be noted.

- (b) That the Council notes that the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of abolition of the Parish Council and that public opinion be tested again in a further four years' time.**

Proposed Changes

Alteration of Parish Area

- (c) That the boundary of Britwell Parish Council be altered as shown on map attached at Appendix A.**

Electoral Arrangements

- (d) That the number of Parish Councillors be reduced to seven.**

Elections

- (e) That the term of office of the existing thirteen Parish Councillors be reduced by one year from 2015 to 2014 in order to bring these changes into effect from May 2014 and that the newly elected seven Parish Councillors serve a five year term of office initially and then revert to the traditional four year term.**
- (f) That subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to the proposed changes to the boundaries and electoral arrangements for Britwell Parish a Reorganisation Order will be laid before Council for approval giving effect to the Council's final recommendations of the Community Governance Review**

(b) Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council

- 7.28 As reported to Council at its July meeting, the initial consultation response was generally positive and supportive of the Parish Council, with the police, local schools and others speaking of constructive working relationships and valued local services. However, some other respondents were more critical. According to their view, if it was to be truly representative, the Parish Council needed to be more open and inclusive. It needed to reach out more and be more receptive to new ideas and more responsive to local views. In response the Council decided to feedback these differing views to the Parish Council for its consideration and reserved the right to test public opinion at or after the next parish council elections in 2015 if it was not satisfied that the Parish Council was engaging more widely with local people.
- 7.29 Eleven written comments have been received in response to the 2nd stage consultation, a few of which are critical of the Parish Council whilst others call for a postal referendum to capture the views of local electors on the future of the Parish Council, similar to those carried out in the Britwell and Wexham Court parishes. The Council's final recommendation will go some way to meeting this point.

Review Group Recommendation:

That the written responses received in relation to Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council be noted and that, as part of its final recommendations, the Council reserves the right to test public opinion in an advisory poll at or after the next parish council elections in 2015 if it is not satisfied that the Parish Council is engaging more widely with local people.

(c) Wexham Court Parish Council

7.30 Evidence from the initial consultation suggested that Wexham Court Parish Council was not working in the best interests of local residents and, based on comments made by parish councillors, there were concerns that its governance arrangements were not sound. The Council concluded that there was a case for abolition of the parish and dissolution of the Parish Council and therefore decided to consult local electors and other interested parties on this option. However, as the statutory guidance requires evidence of local support for abolition over a period equivalent to at least two terms of office of the parish councillors (ie. eight years) it acknowledged that the 2nd stage consultation should gauge views on the future of Wexham Court Parish Council with a view to public opinion being tested again in a further four years' time.

7.31 Eight written comments have been received in response to the public consultation, all of which express support for the Parish Council.

The Council's consultations also included an advisory postal poll of all of the 3,730 eligible voters in the parish. The Poll was held between 20th September to 14th October 2013. The question put to voters was:

Do you support the option that Wexham Court Parish Council should be abolished?

Number of eligible voters:	3,730
Total number of votes cast:	988
Turnout:	26.5%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	40
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	948

Result:

Number voting YES 426 (44.9% of the valid vote)
Number voting NO 522 (55.1% of the valid vote)

TOTAL 948 (100% of the valid vote)

7.32 Review Group Recommendations:

- (c) That the written responses received in support of Wexham Court Parish Council be noted.**
- (d) That the Council notes that the results of the advisory poll returned a majority in favour of retaining the Parish Council and reserves the right to test public opinion again in the future if it still has concerns about the Parish Council's governance arrangements.**

Conclusion

The Review Group has given careful consideration to the responses to the consultation undertaken as part of the Review and has made recommendations in respect of the existing three parish councils that, based on the evidence received, have the aim of bringing about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

8 Background Papers

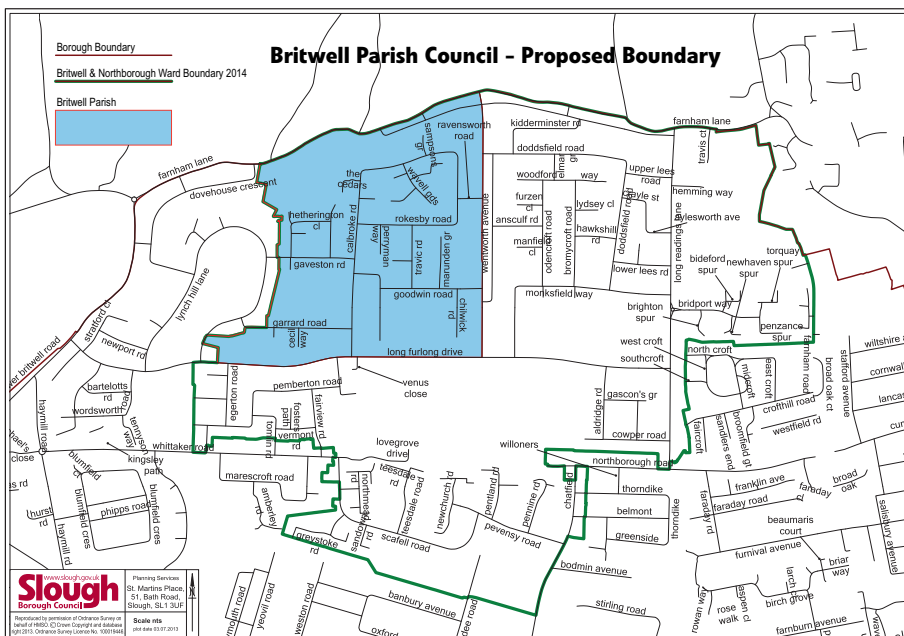
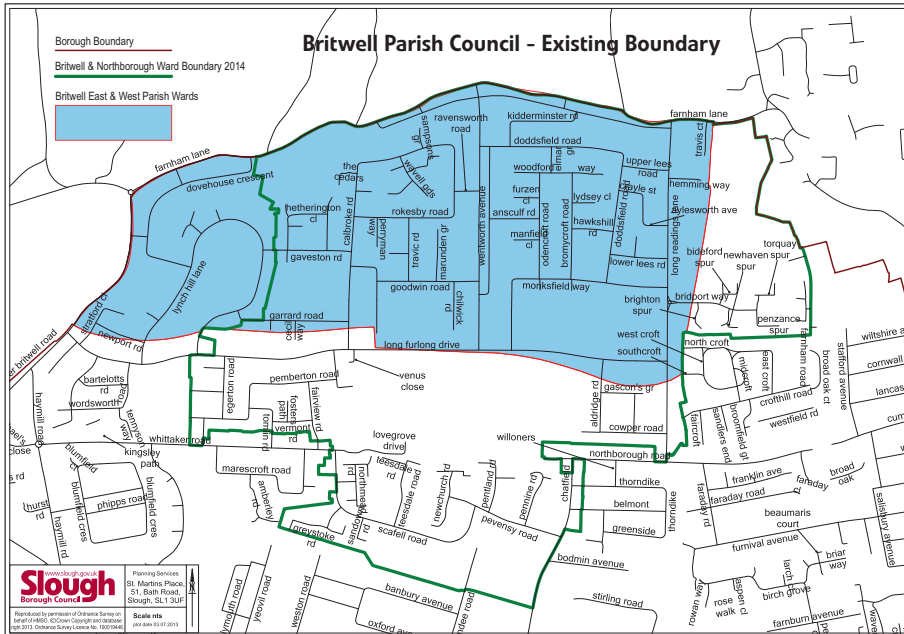
Written submissions received in response to the public consultation.

Notes of meeting dated 9 October 2013 held between the Council's Review Group and the Chair and representatives of Britwell Parish Council.

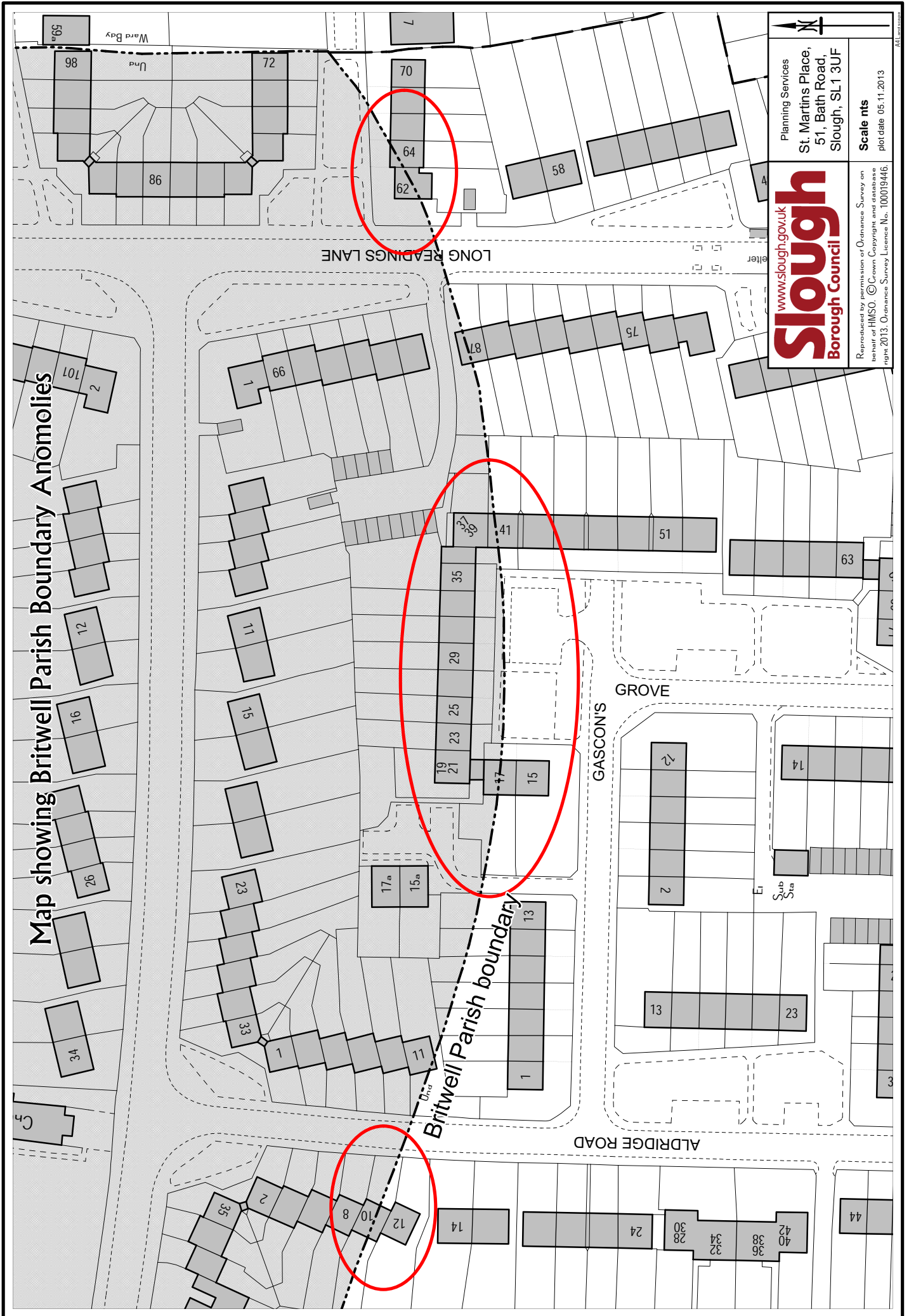
Electoral Reform Services reports dated 14 October 2013 on the results of the advisory polls in Britwell and Wexham Court parish areas.

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APPENDIX A

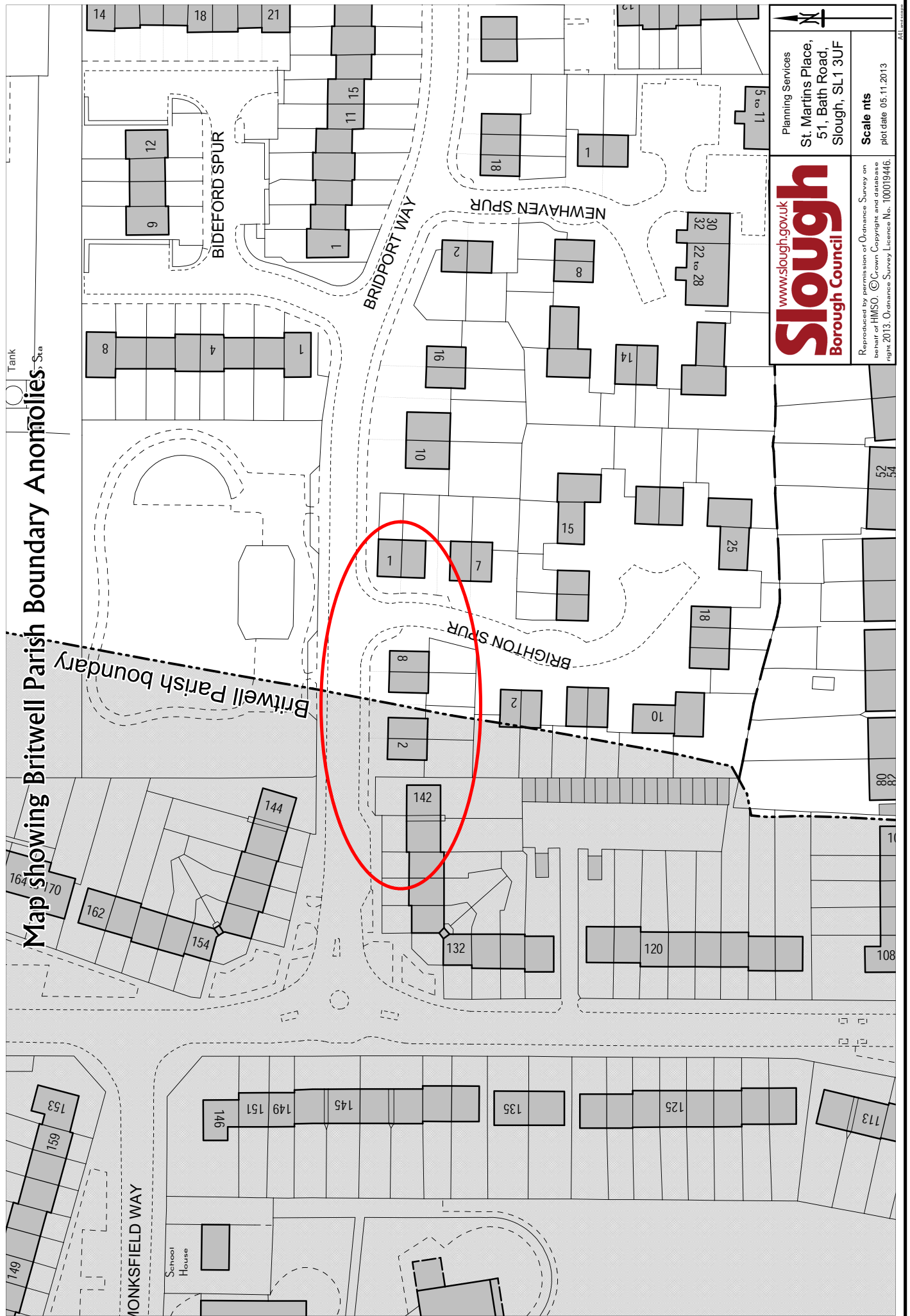


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Map showing Britwell Parish Boundary Anomalies



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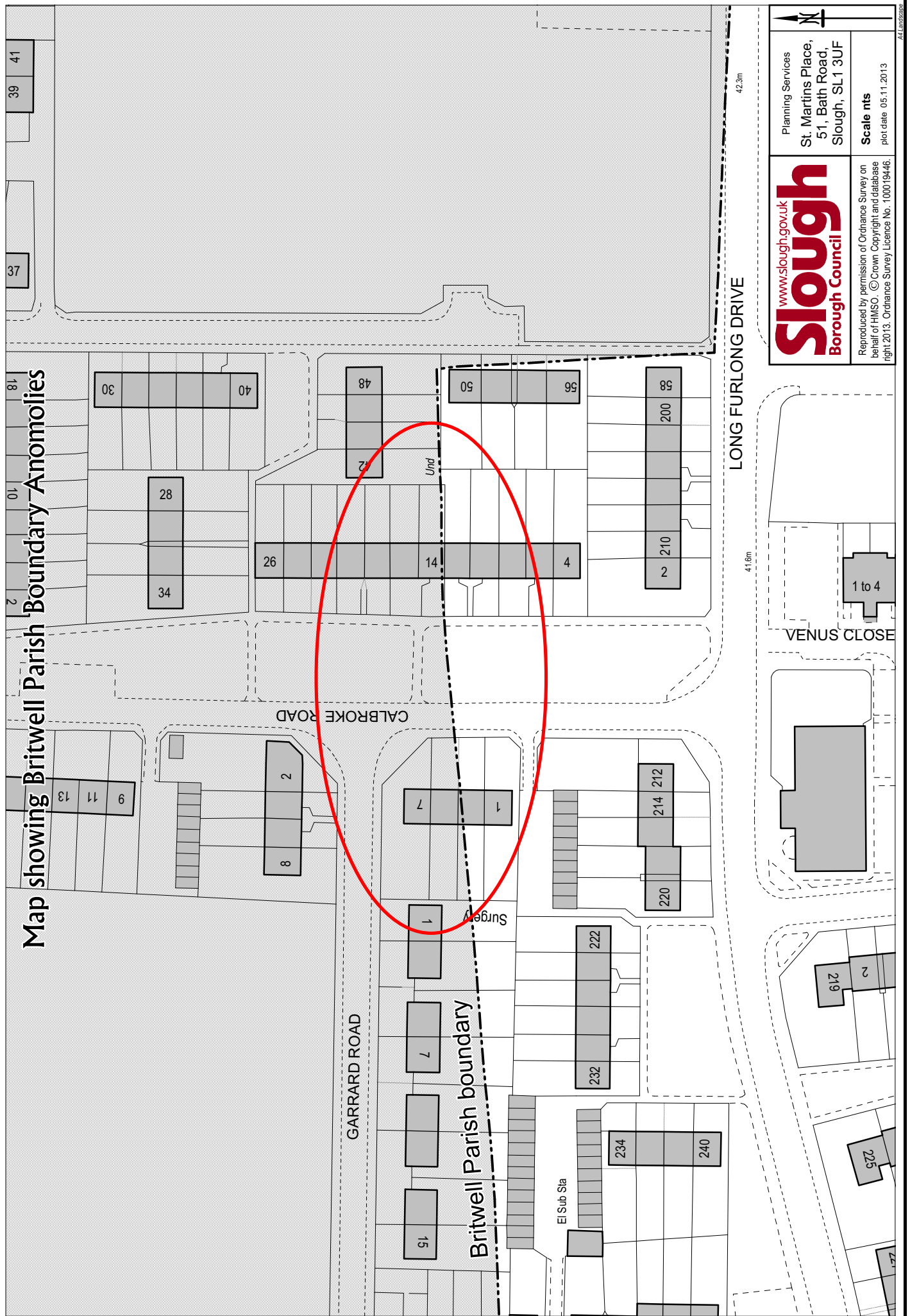
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Map showing Britwell Parish Boundary Anomalies



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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 26th November 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Catherine Meek/Melanie Dark-Gale
Head of Democratic Services/ Electoral Services Manager
Community Governance Review Group

(For all enquiries) (01753) 875011/5549

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR DECISION

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW – PROPOSALS FOR POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise the Council of the responses received to the consultation on the proposed revised polling district and polling places and seek agreement to the revised polling districts and places as recommended by the Review Group.

2. **Recommendations**

The Council is requested to resolve that the revised polling district boundaries be approved and that polling places be designated for each of the Borough Wards as set out at Appendix A and B respectively for implementation with effect from the May 2014 Borough Elections.

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

Effective, transparent and equitable democratic and decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial or risk management implications. The costs associated with the Review have been accommodated within existing resources.

(b) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report. The Review has been carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and the recommendations within this report meet legal requirements. The proposals have no workforce implications.

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 At its meeting on 29th January 2013 the Council was advised that it was a statutory requirement for a local authority to keep all polling arrangements under review and to establish a polling place within each polling district wherever possible. Arrangements must seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and that they are accessible to all electors, including any with disabilities. Given the Borough has revised ward boundaries with effect from 2014 a review of polling districts and places was required.
- 5.2 The Council agreed the terms of reference and timetable for a Review of Polling Districts and established a Member Working Group to carry out the Review.
- 5.3 The Working Group agreed the following principles to underpin the Review:
- An aim of 3 polling districts per ward unless exceptional reasons dictate departure [with a maximum of four]
 - An aim for approximately 2,000/2,200 voters per polling district wherever possible.
- 5.4 The Working Group also agreed to seek to minimise use of school buildings for polling places wherever possible.

Initial Proposals

- 5.5 The Working Group's initial proposals were submitted to the Council at its meeting on 23rd April 2013 and agreed for consultation. The consultation ran from 1st June to 30th September 2013 and was extended to 31st October to take account of the Council's duty under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to review polling districts.

Response to Consultation and Final Recommendations

- 5.6 The working Group met on 4th November 2013 to consider the responses to the consultation on the initial proposals. The schedule attached at Appendix B sets out, by Ward, the comments received on the proposals and the final recommendations of the Review Group. Maps at Appendix A detail the proposed polling district boundaries.
- 5.7 The proposed polling district boundaries and places in Haymill & Lynch Hill and Britwell & Northborough are dependent on the recommendations of the Community Review Group with regard to the boundary of Britwell Parish Council being approved by the Council and receiving the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (see previous item). If necessary the Council will receive a further report at its January meeting.

- 5.8 The final recommendations, if agreed, will result in the use of 5 school premises and 6 portacabins as polling places (currently 15 and 7 respectively).
- 5.9 Once agreed the Council's decision will be published for implementation in May 2014. The Electoral Register will also re-structured to take account of the new polling districts.

6 **Appendices**

Appendix A Maps detailing proposed polling district boundaries

Appendix B Schedule setting out the comments received on the initial proposals and the final recommendations of the Review Group for revised polling district boundaries and polling places.



7. **Background Papers**

None

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BAYLIS & STOKE - WARD

LEGEND

-  Borough Boundary
-  Baylis & Stoke Ward

BSA

Polling Place Manor Park Hall

BSB

Polling Place The Falcon Sports Centre

BSC

Polling Place St Michael's Church Hall

Electorate:
BSA 2668
BSB 1959
BSC 2152

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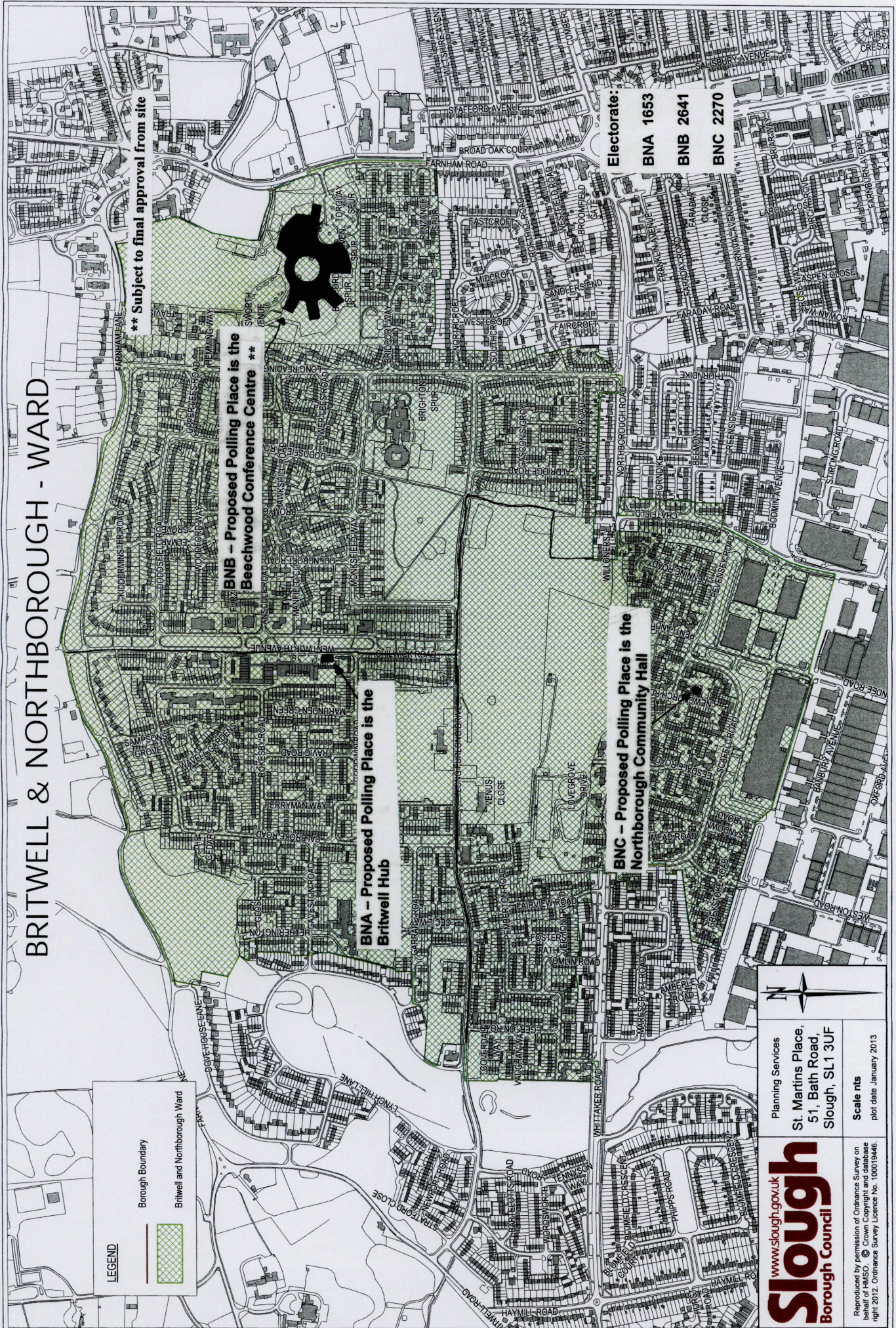
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BRITWELL & NORTHBOROUGH - WARD



** Subject to final approval from site

BNB - Proposed Polling Place is the Beechwood Conference Centre **


BNA - Proposed Polling Place is the Britwell Hub

BNC - Proposed Polling Place is the Northborough Community Hall

Electorate:
BNA 1653
BNB 2641
BNC 2270

LEGEND

- Borough Boundary
- Britwell and Northborough Ward


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CENTRAL - WARD

LEGEND

— Borough Boundary

▨ Central Ward

CEB – Proposed Polling Place is a Portacabin at Goodman Park

Polling Place Driving Theory Test Centre

CEC – Proposed Polling Place is St Mary's Church

Electorate:
CEA 2355
CEB 1685
CEC 2192

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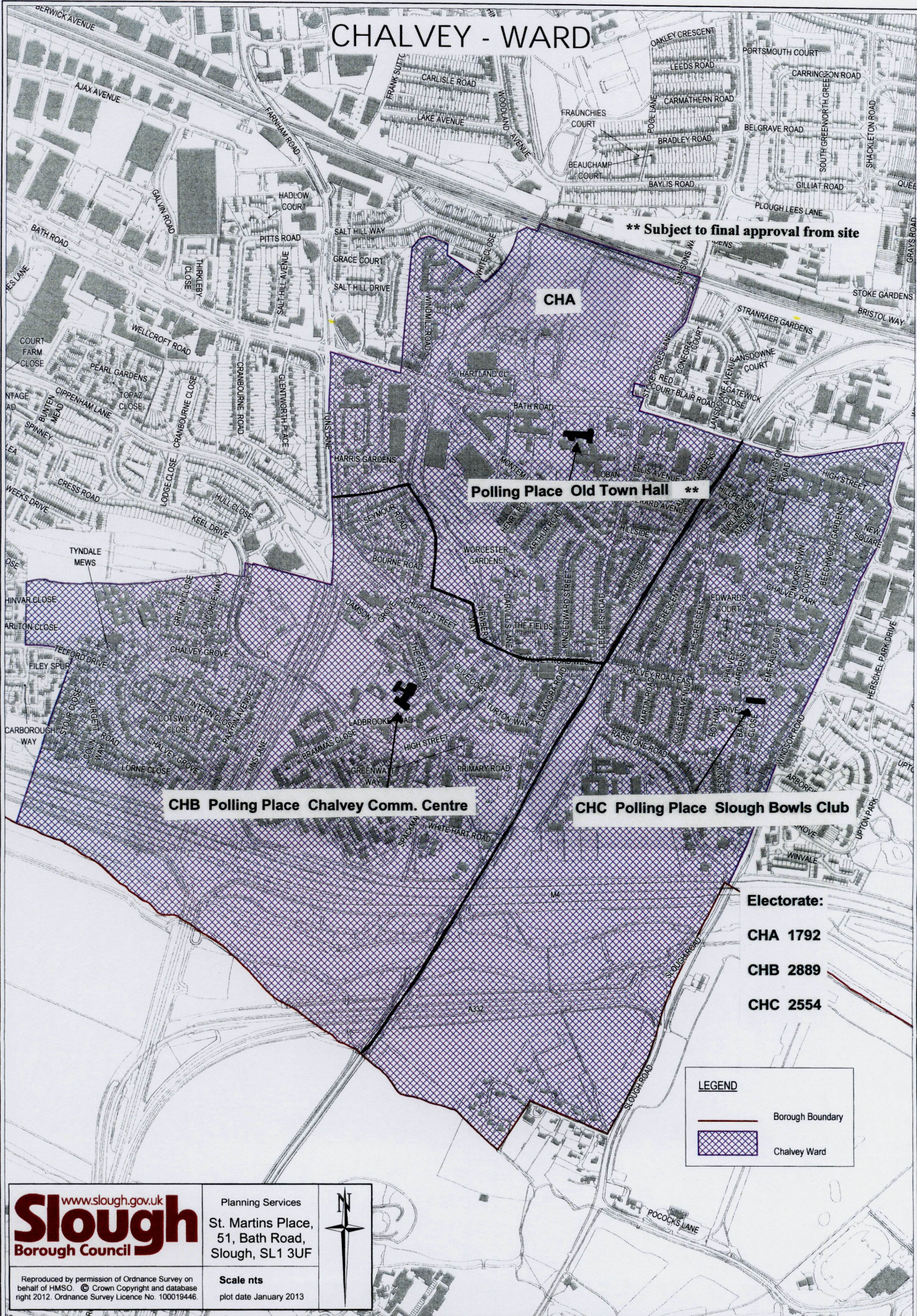
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CHALVEY - WARD



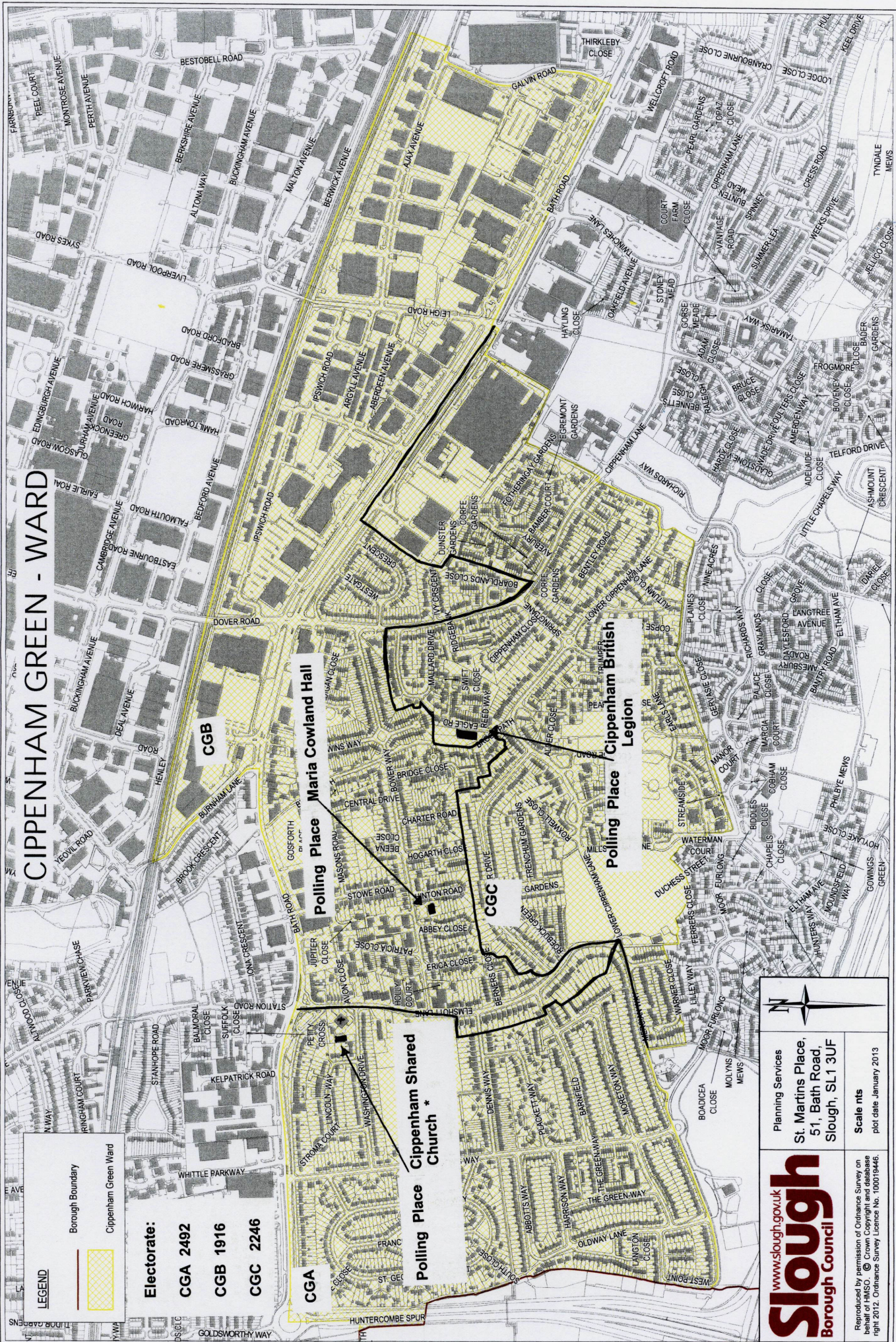
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CIPPENHAM GREEN - WARD

LEGEND

- Borough Boundary
- Cippenham Green Ward

Electorate:
CGA 2492
CGB 1916
CGC 2246

Polling Place Maria Cowland Hall

Polling Place CIPPENHAM Shared Church *

Polling Place CIPPENHAM British Legion

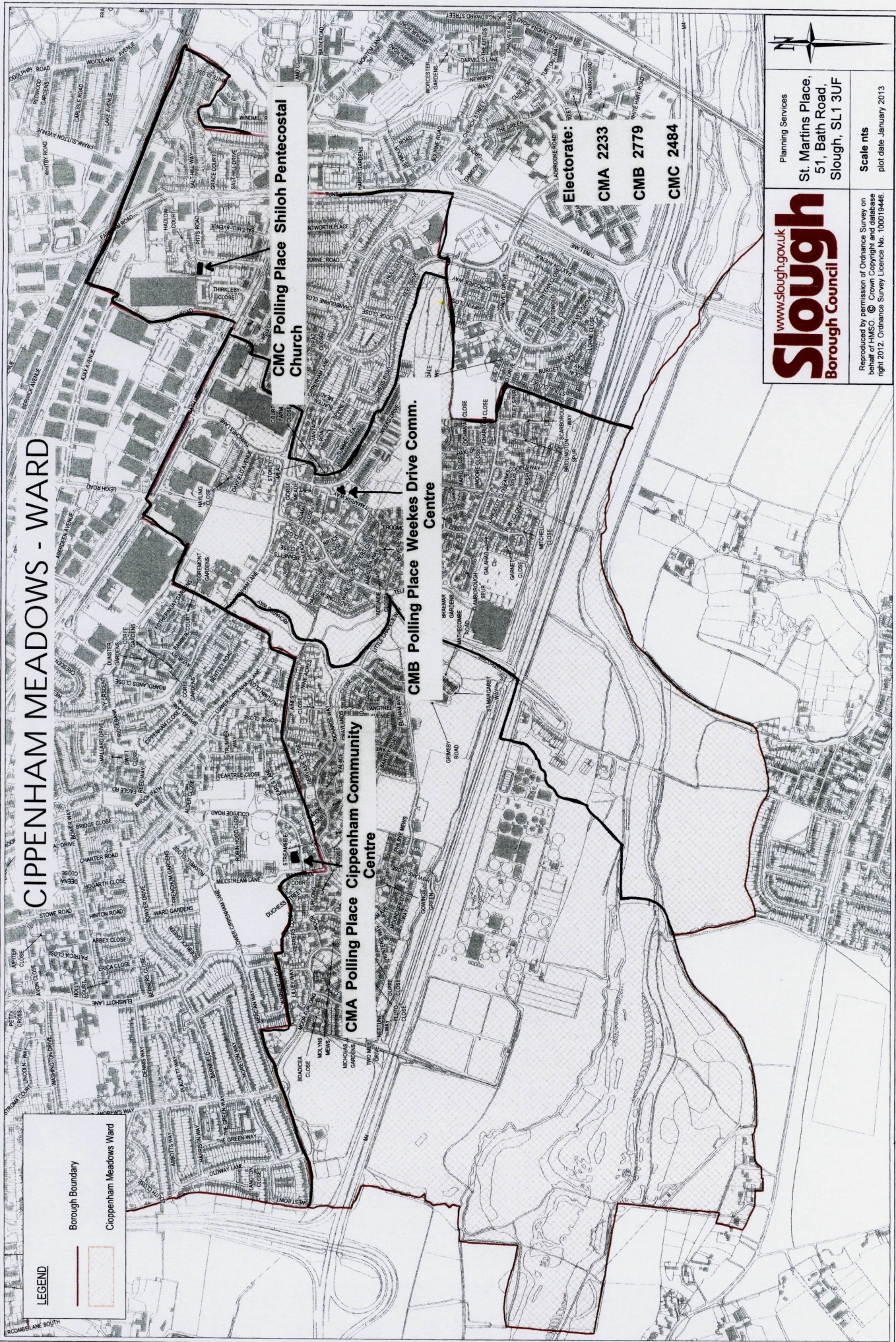


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CIPPENHAM MEADOWS - WARD

LEGEND

— Borough Boundary

▭ Cippenham Meadows Ward

CMC Polling Place Shiloh Pentecostal Church

CMA Polling Place Cippenham Community Centre

CMA Polling Place Weekes Drive Comm. Centre

Electorate:
CMA 2233
CMB 2779
CMC 2484

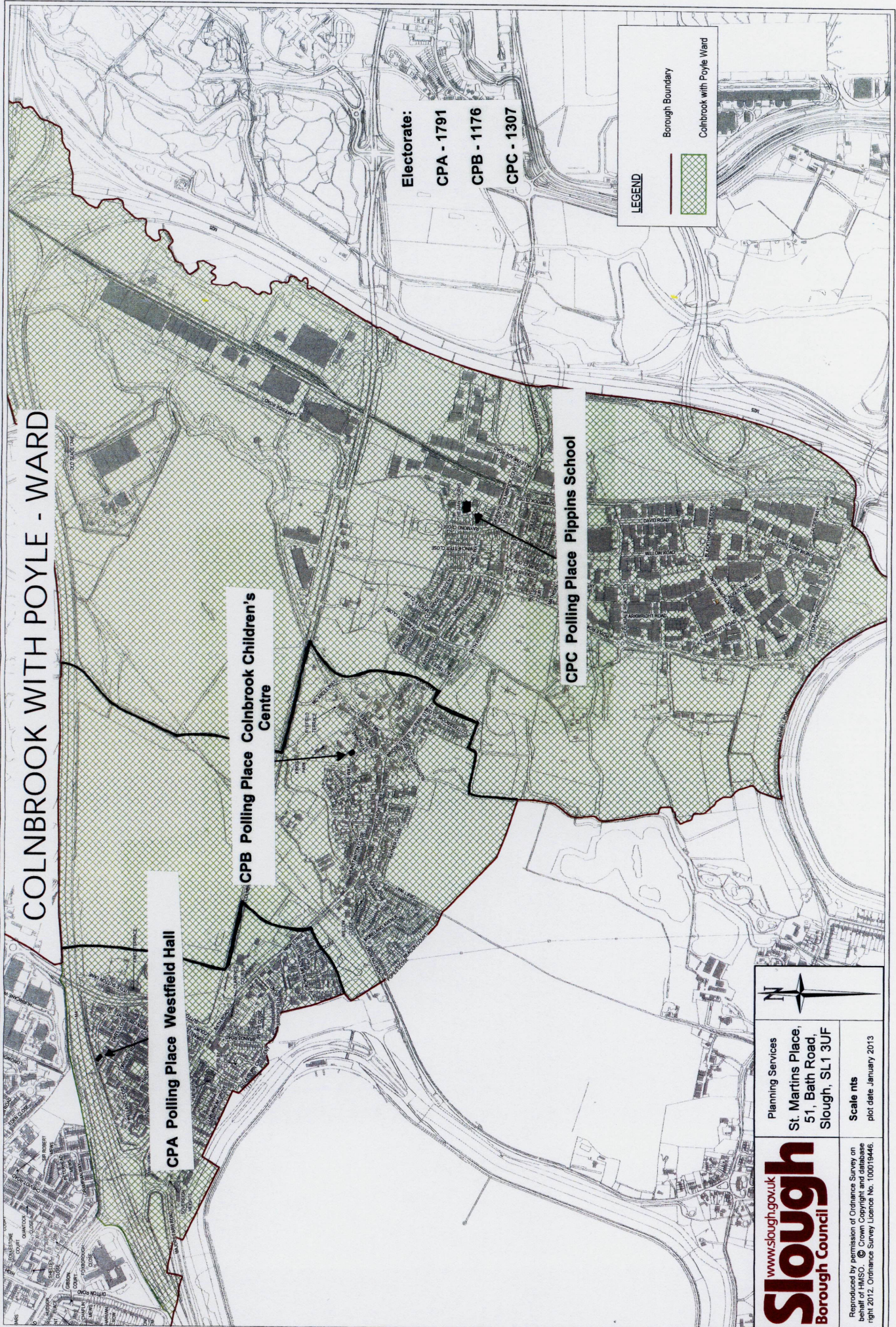
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COLNBROOK WITH POYLE - WARD

Electorate:
CPA - 1791
CPB - 1176
CPC - 1307

LEGEND

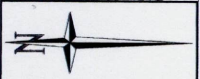
— Borough Boundary

▨ Colnbrook with Poyle Ward

CPA Polling Place Westfield Hall

CPB Polling Place Colnbrook Children's Centre

CPC Polling Place Pippins School

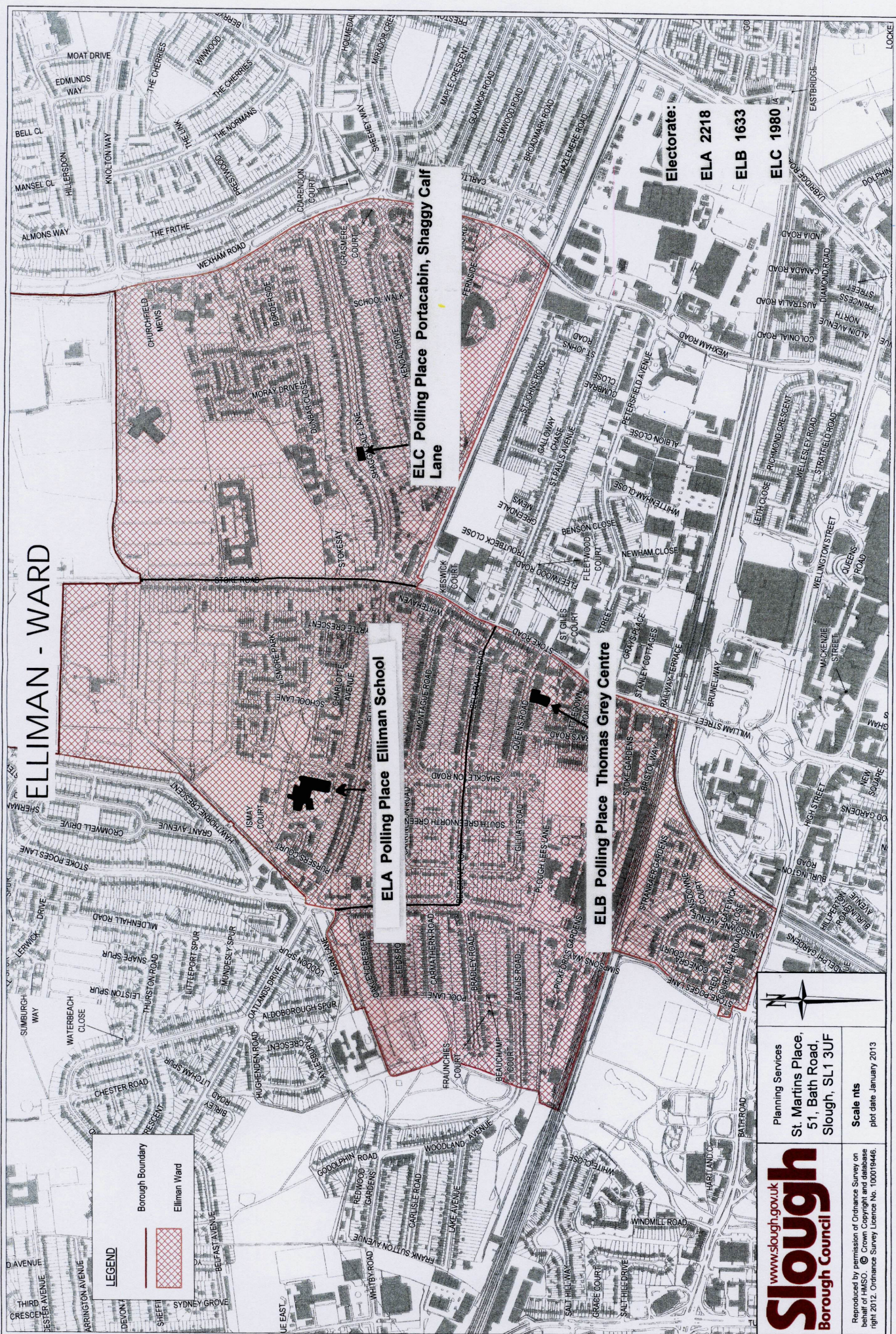


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Electorate:
ELA 2218
ELB 1633
ELC 1980 A

ELLIMAN - WARD

LEGEND

— Borough Boundary

▨ Elliman Ward

ELA Polling Place Elliman School

ELC Polling Place Portacabin, Shaggy Calf Lane

ELB Polling Place Thomas Grey Centre



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FARNHAM - WARD

LEGEND

Borough Boundary

Farnham Ward

Electorate:
FAA 2460
FAB 2531
FAC 2142

Polling Place St Anthony's Church

Polling Place Faraday Club

Polling Place The Centre

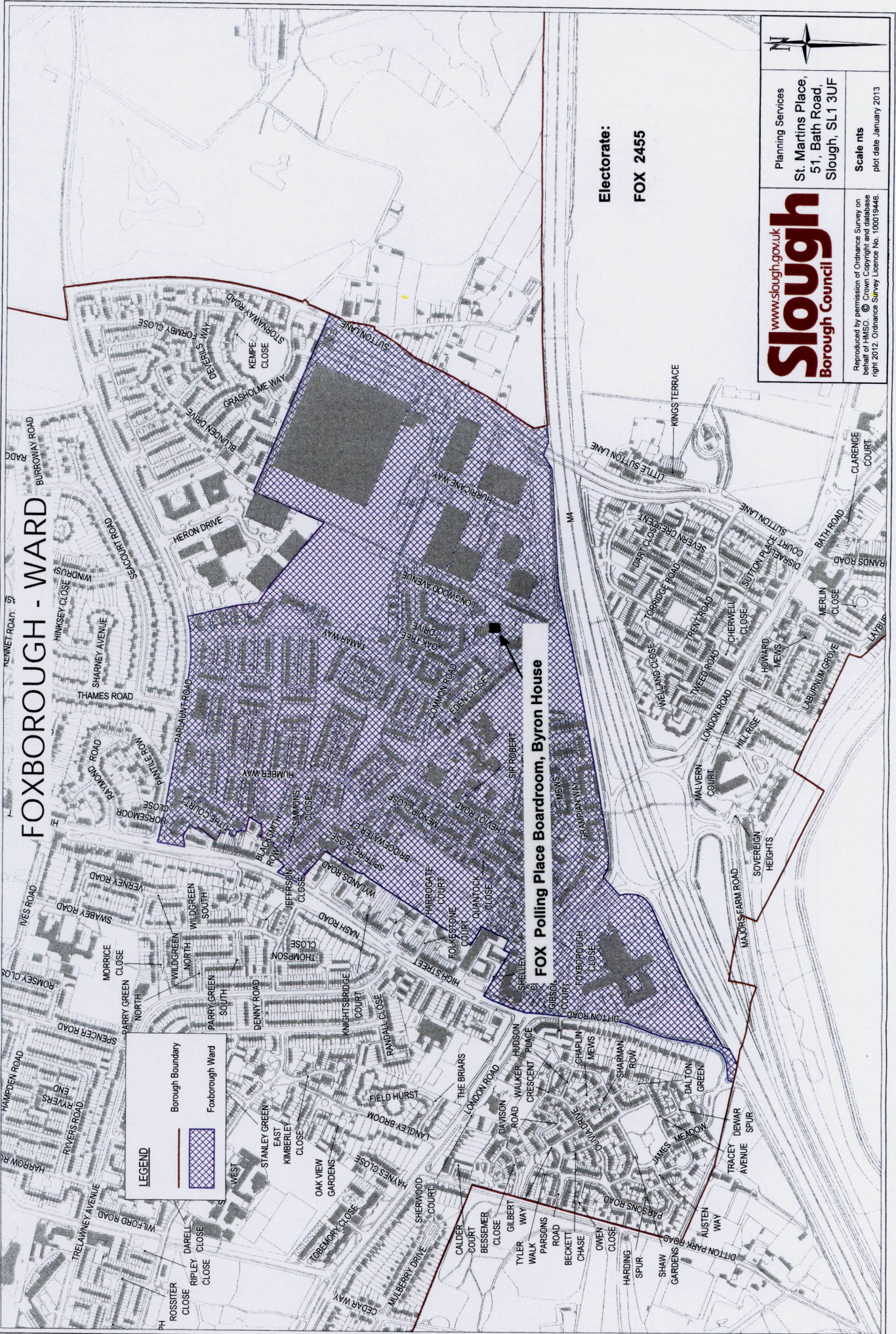


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FOXBOROUGH - WARD

FOX Polling Place Boardroom, Byron House

**Electorate:
FOX 2455**

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LEGEND

- Borough Boundary
- Foxborough Ward

HAYMILL & LYNCH HILL - WARD

LEGEND

-  Borough Boundary
-  Haymill & Lynch Hill Ward



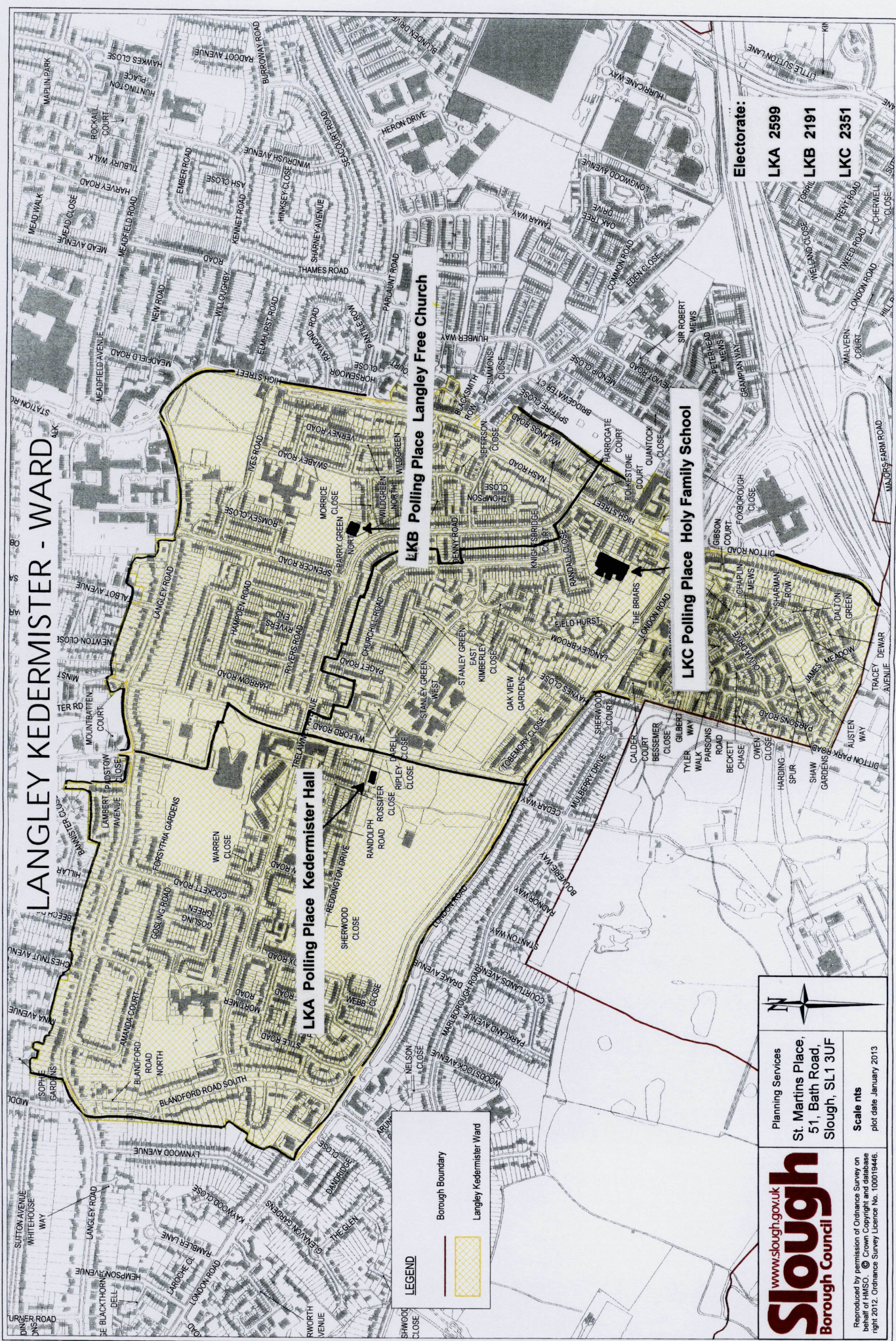
HLA Polling Place Church of Latter Day Saints

HLB Polling Place Portacabin, Whittaker Road

HLC Polling Place Primrose Hall

Electorate:
HLA 2320
HLB 2506
HLC 2288

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Electorate:
LKA 2599
LKB 2191
LKC 2351



LANGLEY KEDMISTER - WARD


LKB Polling Place Langley Free Church

LKA Polling Place Kedmister Hall

LKC Polling Place Holy Family School

LEGEND

-  Borough Boundary
-  Langley Kedmister Ward



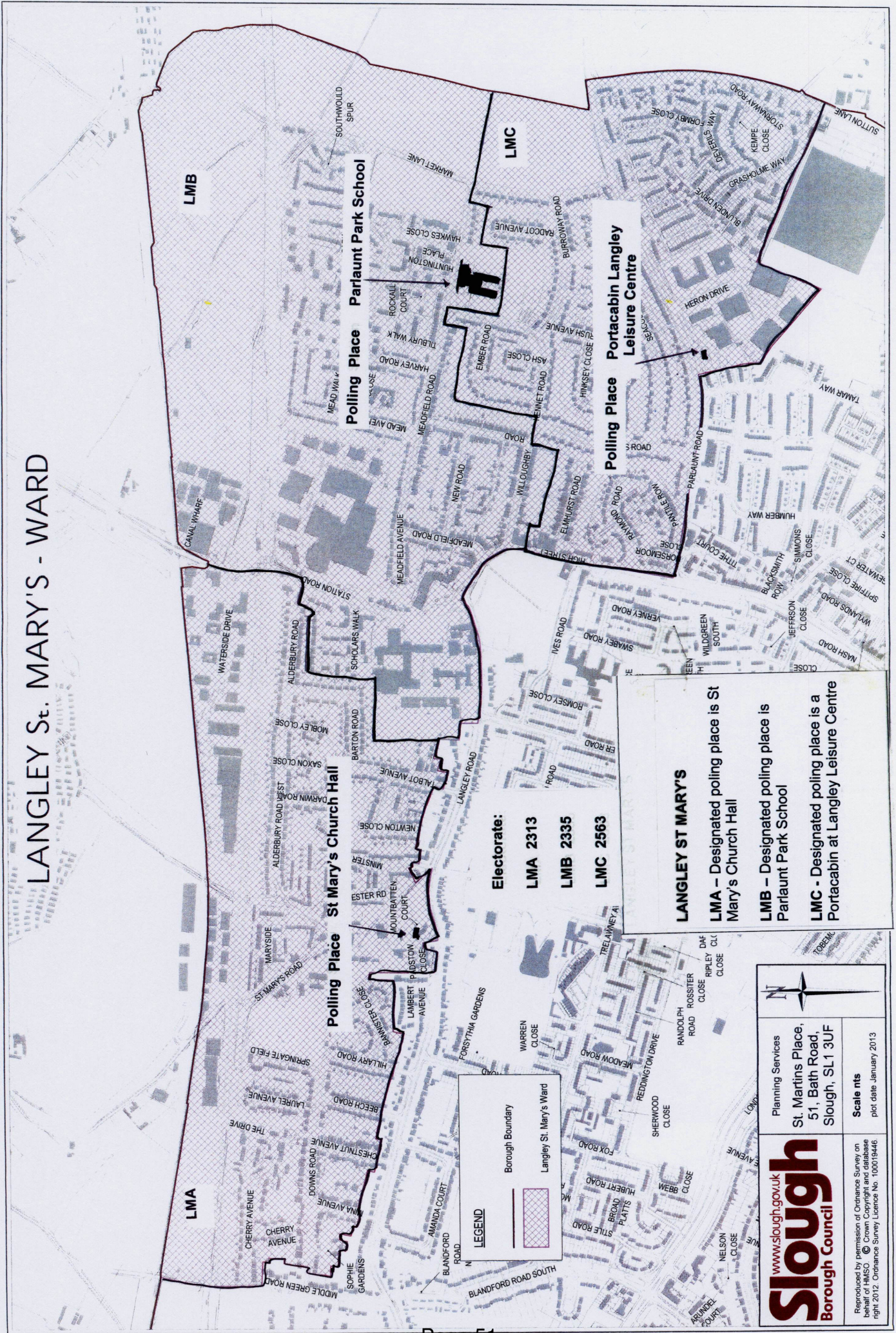
Planning Services
 St. Martins Place,
 51, Bath Road,
 Slough, SL1 3UF

Scale nts
 plot date January 2013

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
 Borough Council

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LANGLEY St. MARY'S - WARD



Electorate:
LMA 2313
LMB 2335
LMC 2563

LANGLEY ST MARY'S
LMA – Designated polling place is St Mary's Church Hall
LMB – Designated polling place is Parlaunt Park School
LMC - Designated polling place is a Portacabin at Langley Leisure Centre

LEGEND

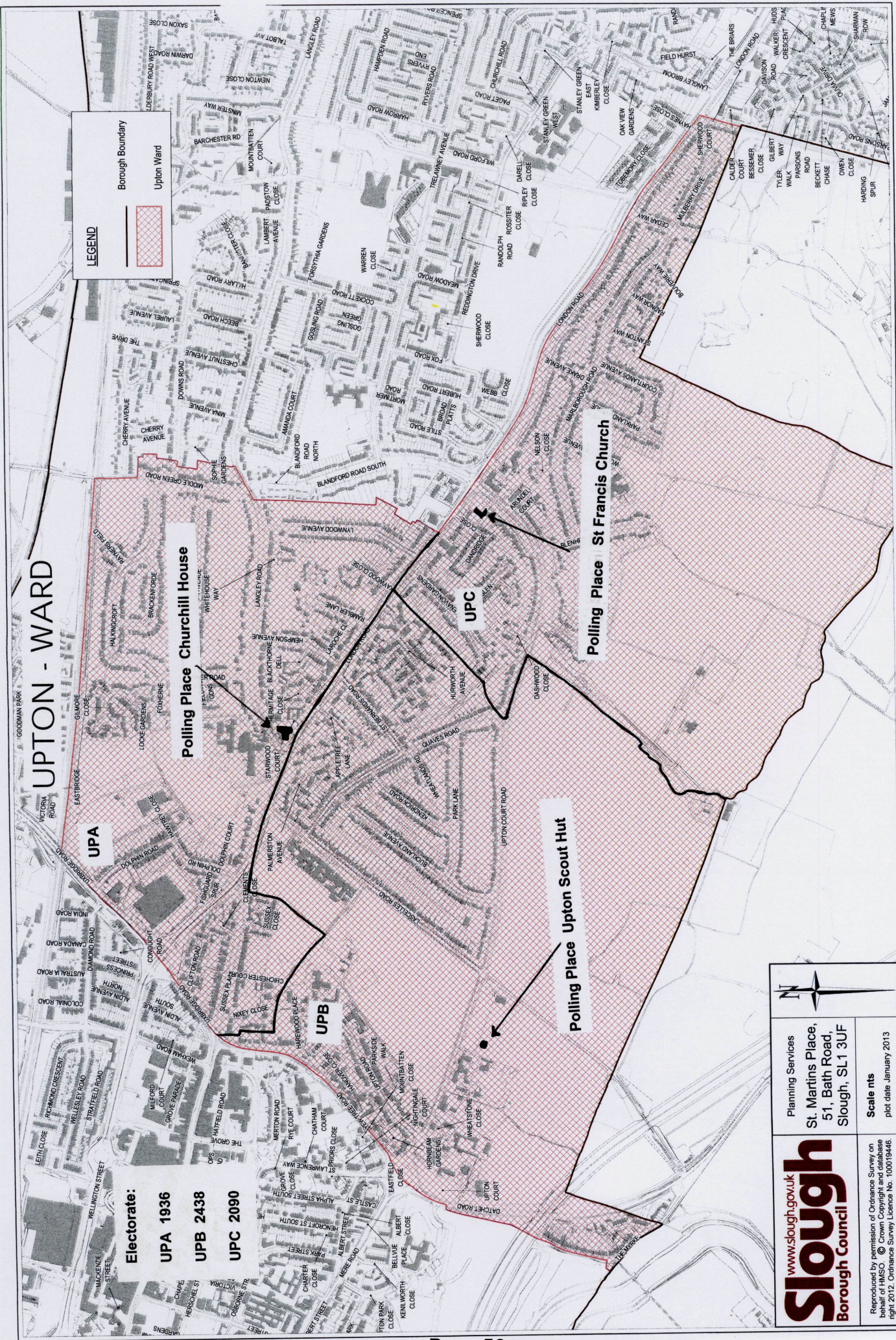
- Borough Boundary
- Langley St. Mary's Ward

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LEGEND

Borough Boundary

Upton Ward

UPTON - WARD

Electorate:

UPA 1936

UPB 2438

UPC 2090

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Borough Council



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WEXHAM LEA - WARD

LEGEND

-  Borough Boundary
-  Wexham Lea Ward

Electorate:

- WLA 1401**
- WLB 2311**
- WLC 2038**
- WLD 1301**

WLA

CHURCH
HUXLEY CLOSE
BENJAMIN LANE
WEXHAM PARK LANE
OPAL COURT
CHURCH LANE
FOREST CLOSE
NORWAY DRIVE
FARM CRESCENT
MONT DRIVE
EDMUNDS WAY
HILLERSDON
MONS WAY

Polling Place Wexham Court Hall

WLB

CHURCHFIELD MEWS
STOKE ROAD
MONA DRIVE
BORDERSIDE
DUNBAR CLOSE
SHAGGY CALF LANE
KENDAL DRIVE
SCHOOL WALK
GRASMERE AVENUE
UPTON LEA PARADE
MALPAS RD
FERNSIDE
CLARENDON COURT
THE FRITHE
THE LINK
THE CHERRIES
WINWOOD
BERRYFIELD
ROCKETS
DORNEIS
SHORTFERN
CROFTARDS
DAWES MOOR CL

Polling Place Portacabin, The Cheries

WLC

GRASMERE COURT
SNEEGY WAY
HOLMEDALE
MIRADOR CRES
THE FRITHE
CARLTON ROAD
MAPLE CRESCENT
CLANN ROAD
ELA ROAD
BROADMARK ROAD
HAZLEMERE ROAD

Polling Place Upton Lea Centre

WLD

ROCHFORDS GARDENS
GOODMAN PARK

Polling Place Portacabin, Rochfords Gardens



Planning Services
St. Martins Place,
51, Bath Road,
Slough, SL1 3UF



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APPENDIX B

COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING DRAFT PROPOSALS						
Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations	
Baylis & Stoke	BSA	Manor Park Hall	No Comments Received	Central to the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Manor Park Hall	
	BSB	The Falcon Sports Centre	No formal comments received, although verbal dissatisfaction voiced by a Slough Councillor	Although on the edge of the area it has excellent facilities, access and car parking	Designated Polling Place is The Falcon Sports Centre	
	BSC	Portacabin junction of Oatlands Drive and Aldborough Spur	No formal comments received, although verbal dissatisfaction voiced by a Slough Councillor	An alternative was sought as one of our aims was to reduce the number of portacabins used. St Michael's Church Hall, on Whitby Road has been inspected and found to be suitable	Designated Polling Place is St Michael's Church Hall	
Britwell & Northborough	BNA	Britwell Hub	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known by the local community	Designated Polling Place is The Britwell Hub	
	BNB	Scout & Guide Hut	No Comments Received	Following an amendment to the proposed polling district boundaries an alternative was sought. The Beechwood Conference Centre has excellent facilities, access and car parking and use of this facility saves having to use Claycots School	Designated Polling Place is Beechwood Conference Centre	
	BNC	Scout & Guide Hut	No Comments Received	Following an amendment to the proposed polling district boundaries an alternative was sought which was more central to the new polling district area. The new proposal is relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as AN existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is The Northborough Community Hall	

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Central	CEA	British Legion	A Slough Borough Councillor would like the Lady Hague Club on Stoke Road reconsidered, due to traffic access issues (congestion etc.) as well as community concerns about having a polling station in a location where alcohol is served. These views are supported by residents and other Labour Group members. He suggests moving this polling station to be a portacabin, either along Petersfield Avenue or somewhere around the park entrance on St Paul's Avenue. Either of these locations will be easily accessible, including to residents from the Diamond Road / Wellesley Road area.	There are no other community buildings in this area. The argument given regarding the premise being unsuitable as alcohol is served in the premises is not supported as we have other premises where this is the case and there is nothing in legislation regarding such premises being unsuitable for use to facilitate polling. The argument about a portacabin being more suitably located for residents of the Diamond Road and Wellesley Road area is also not supported as these roads do not fall into the proposed polling district. A portacabin would cost in the region of £2,000 and location would be subject to finding a suitable space to locate it safely. However, the Driving Theory Test Centre on Petersfield Avenue is a suitable alternative	Designated Polling Place is Driving Theory Test Centre
	CEB	Portacabin, Goodman Park	No Comments Received	Although the location is not ideal, there is no way of relocating it to a more central position, however it is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin on Goodman Park
	CEC	St Mary's Church	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is St Mary's Church
Chalvey	CHA	Portacabin, Montern Lane	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place. Given our aim to reduce portacabins, the Old Town Hall is a suitable alternative	Designated Polling Place is Claycotts Annexe at The Old Town Hall site.
	CHB	Chalvey Community Centre	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is The Chalvey Community Centre
	CHC	Slough Bowls Club	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Slough Bowls Club

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Cippenham Green	CGA	Cippenham Shared Church	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known by the local community	Designated Polling Place is Cippenham Shared Church
	CGB	Maria Cowland Hall	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Maria Cowland Hall
	CGC	Cippenham British Legion	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known by the local community	Designated Polling Place is Cippenham British Legion
Cippenham Meadow	CMA	Cippenham Community Centre	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area it has excellent facilities, access and car parking and is well known to the local community	Designated Polling Place is Cippenham Community Centre
	CMB	Weekes Drive Community Hall	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area it has excellent facilities, access and car parking and is well known to the local community and is an existing polling place.	Designated Polling Place is Weekes Drive Community Hall
	CMC	Cophorne Hotel	A Slough Councillor does not feel that a hotel is an appropriate polling station. The fact that the hotel is at (or near) the M4 junction crossroads and so could be dangerous to get to. The distance from the Salt Hill area and that community, which is greater than distance of previous polling station. For the reasons that I have outlined, I would favour the new polling station being designated as the Polish church at Pitt's Road or nearby.	The Church on Pitts Road, would need to be visited to ascertain if it is suitable for our needs and whether they are happy for us to use it. It was originally considered as an option but members of the Working Group felt that the Cophorne Hotel was more widely known. Given that Shiloh Pentecostal Church is also located here and is a suitable existing polling place this would make more sense.	Designated Polling Place is the Shiloh Pentecostal Church on Pitts Road

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Colnbrook with Poyle	CPA	Holiday Inn	The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead replied - We understand that the hotel will allocate a suitably sized room for polling, that is easily accessible from the car park and that they have agreed to waiver car parking charges on polling day. If this is the case then we are happy to accept the proposal. A Slough Member also asked that the hotel in Colnbrook is not used as a polling station due to the position of a council run facility on the other side of the road	Initially officers recommended the continued use of Westfield Hall on Severn Crescent. However Members of the Working Group were concerned that the voters who are being added to this polling district may not know where the hall is located as it is tucked away at the edge of the area. The Holiday Inn was then considered as to have been more likely to be known by the new electors in the area. Officers are more than happy to revert to the original recommendation of the polling place being Westfield Hall.	Designated Polling Place is Westfield Hall
	CPB	Colnbrook Children's Centre	The RO at RBWM commented: We do not have any knowledge of this venue but believe it to be in a similar location to the previous polling place and therefore providing the venue is DDA compliant do not have any further comments	The location of this building is opposite the existing polling place, which has been problematic in terms of booking and the facilities offered for polling are inadequate for both electors and staff.	Designated Polling Place is Colnbrook Children's Centre
	CPC	Pippins School	The RO at RBWM commented: We are not aware of any issues in the past with this venue at parliamentary elections and are not aware of any other more suitable locations. We would hope that the school have been asked to locate the polling station as close as possible to the entrance.	Unfortunately there is a distinct lack of suitable facilities in this area. The school is central to the residential part of the area and is well know as an existing polling place.	Designated Polling Place is Pippins School

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Elliman	ELA	Orchard Youth Centre	A Slough Councillor believes Orchard youth club is not the right place. He suggests that there should be a portacabin in South Green off Belgrave Road car park	Following an amendment to the proposed polling district boundaries, the proposed polling place is designated as Elliman School	Designated Polling Place is Elliman School
	ELB	Thomas Grey Centre	Some Slough Councillors are not happy with the location of the Thomas Grey Centre as this is one corner of ward and is too far for Lismore Park residents. Instead of Thomas Grey Centre they suggest it should be Elliman School or portacabin near the school	Following an amendment to the proposed polling district boundaries, the proposed polling place is designated as the Thomas Grey Centre, which is more central to the newly proposed polling district	Designated Polling Place is the Thomas Grey Centre
	ELC	Portacabin, Shaggy Calf Lane	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and the island provides a safe location for the portacabin to be placed	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin in Shaggy Calf Lane
Farnham	FAA	St Anthony's RC Church	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known as a local polling place	Designated Polling Place is St Anthony's RC Church
	FAB	Faraday Ex-Servicemen's Club	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known as a local polling place	Designated Polling Place is Faraday Ex-Servicemen's Club
	FAC	The Centre	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area, it has excellent facilities and is well known as a local polling place	Designated Polling Place is The Centre

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Foxborough	FOX	Boardroom, Byron House, Common Road	<p>A resident of the area proposes that the new Foxborough ward polling station should, if possible, be sited in the old Horsemoor Green community centre, which he understands is now run by Slough Mencap, which lets out rooms/halls etc for community use. Should that venue not be available, could consideration be given to using the Langley Village club, which is currently for sale, though such use would obviously depend upon its new owners. It is unlikely to continue being licensed premises whoever buys it. Both above options are very close to the current GA polling station, and have parking available. fallback options, which could be considered if necessary, include the ground floor community rooms in Byron/Lyndon House flats, which are run by a housing association, and Harvey Park changing rooms (run by Parks, but it might not be suitable). At a push, even Redwood House in Cheviot Road could be considered as it too has a communal area.</p>	<p>Horsemoor Green Community Centre has already been inspected and found to be ideal for use. Given that Langley Village club has recently been sold and is to become a place of worship, no decision to designate could be made until the new owners confirm they are happy to be hired for voting purposes and a site visit is carried out to assess suitability. However, it is considered that Byron House is more central to the majority of voters in this area and therefore the boardroom at Byron House, which is situated on the ground floor and is fully accessible is proposed.</p>	Designated Polling Place is The Boardroom in Byron House

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
	HLA	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	No formal comments received, although verbal dissatisfaction voiced for a Slough Member	Previously used without complaint from staff or electors. The Church does not permit the consumption of Tea or Coffee within the premises, which some politicians feel is not fair on the staff. However the staff were given free Hot Chocolate and caffeine free soft drinks throughout the day and have given favourable feedback to the premises and associated arrangements	Designated Polling Place is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Haymill & Lynch Hill	HLB	Portacabin, Whittaker Road	No Comments Received	The original proposal for this area was to use the Haymill Youth and Community Centre, which was on the left hand boundary of the polling district. However we have been informed that this building is due for closure in the not too distant future, so an alternative has been sought, which preferably is more central to the voters in the area. A portacabin placed on the green along Whittaker Road is therefore the recommended proposal.	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin in Whittaker Road

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Haymill & Lynch Hill	HLC	Primrose Hall	A Slough Councillor commented: The move of the polling station serving South Haymill (ie south of the railway line) from its near central position at Cippenham Bows Club to the eastern edge of the ward area is a detrimental relocation. Primrose Hall, sited halfway along a residential U-street rather than on a thoroughfare like Station Road is a deterrent to getting voters into the polling station. The Bows Club is on the route home of rail commuters who live in South Haymill as well as being more central. For voters wanting to drive, Primrose Hall does not offer a car park and when I was there last week the road was choked with parked vehicles. Continued use of Foxborough school should be a last resort as use of any school inevitably causes considerable disruption, not only to children's education, but also to working parents who have to deal with the fallout from changed childcare arrangements.	Whilst it is agreed that Primrose Hall is not absolutely central to the whole ward it is argued that the alternative bowls club is less central to more voters than the current proposal and whilst it may have a car park, parking in it is difficult due to use by commuters. Foxborough School is not in the Ward or the polling district	Designated Polling Place is Primrose Hall
	HLD	Portacabin, Lynch Hill Lane	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin in Lynch Hill Lane
Langley Kedermister	LKA	Kedermister Hall	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Kedermister Hall
	LKB	Langley Free Church	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Langley Free Church
	LKC	Portacabin, Haynes Close	No Comments Received	Given the aim of reducing the number of portacabins, due to cost and siting difficulties, an alternative is to return to Holy Family School	Designated Polling Place is Holy Family School

Ward	Polling District Code	Proposed Polling Place	Comments Received	Officer Comments	Final Recommendations
Langley St Mary's	LMA	St Mary's Church Hall	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is on a busy road and well know to the residents of the area	Designated Polling Place is St Mary's Church Hall
	LMB	Parlaunt Park Primary School	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is on a busy road and well know to the residents of the area	Designated Polling Place is Parlaunt Park School
	LMC	Portacabin, Langley Leisure Centre	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin at Langley Leisure Centre
Upton	UPA	Churchill House	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is on a busy road and well know to the residents of the area	Designated Polling Place is Churchill House
	UPB	Upton Scout Hut	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is on a busy road and well know to the residents of the area	Designated Polling Place is Upton Scout Hut
	UPC	St Francis Church	No Comments Received	Although on one side of the area it is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is St Francis Church
Wexham Lea	WLA	Wexham Court Parish Hall	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is Wexham Court Parish Hall
	WLB	Portacabin, The Cherries	No Comments Received	Relatively central to the majority of voters in the area and the island provides a safe location for the portacabin to be placed	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin in The Cherries
	WLC	Upton Lea Centre	No Comments Received	Whilst outside of the ward boundary, there are no other council run buildings in the vicinity, but is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is The Upton Lea Centre
	WLD	Portacabin, Rochfords Gardens	No Comments Received	Although on the edge of the area it is well known as existing polling place	Designated Polling Place is a portacabin in Rochfords Gardens

General Considerations

Reduce use of schools where possible
Central, convenient and accessible to voters
Portacabins cost in the region of £2,000 each to hire, locate and equip

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 26th November, 2013

CONTACT OFFICER: Teresa Clark
(For all enquiries) Senior Democratic Services Officer
(01753) 875018

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR DECISION

MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 14

The following motions have been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14:-

1. **Recording, Filming and Photographing of Meetings**

(Moved by Councillor Strutton, seconded by Councillor Wright)

“This Council resolves: -

That the constitutional panel and Council considers allowing public meetings to be recorded, filmed and photographed for greater transparency and public scrutiny. Thereby, revising Part 4.1 Section 25.1 and Section 25.2 of the Council’s Constitution to allow for the photographing, recording or oral reporting of any proceedings of the Council. Slough Borough Council should also endeavour to record meetings for greater accuracy, record keeping and quality assurance purposes.”

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