

## Report of the Executive Director

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Committee to recommend to Council the proposed changes to the polling districts and polling places set out in the appendices to the report.

2. Recommendation

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the proposed changes to the polling districts in appendix 2 and the designation of polling places set out in appendix 3 to the report be approved.**

3. Detail

At the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 17 July 2023 a report was noted regarding the proposed arrangements for a review of polling districts and polling places. Following public consultation, a number of representations were received, these are shown in appendix 1, along with (Acting) Returning Officer comments.

Maps showing the proposed new polling district boundaries are included in appendix 2. The changes proposed in Awsworth and Cossall are required to align the current ward boundary with the new parliamentary constituency boundary, which will come into effect at the next parliamentary election. Creating two new polling districts will ensure those electors affected vote at a polling place within the correct parliamentary constituency. The proposed change at Greasley also follows the parliamentary boundary review, an extra polling district was previously required due to a discrepancy between the parliamentary and ward boundaries, this will be resolved when the new parliamentary boundary takes effect. The remaining polling district changes aim to improve access for voters to an appropriate polling place.

Appendix 3 details the proposed amendments to polling places. The changes are recommended following preliminary consultation work, suggestions from the local community and current polling places being no longer available. The new polling places will need to be designated by Council so that they are effective for the elections in May 2024 onwards.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with activity being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 states that for local government elections, the Council may divide the borough or any ward thereof into polling districts and may alter any polling districts. Any power to constitute polling districts for the purpose of local government elections shall be exercised so that electors from any parliamentary polling district wholly or partly within the electoral area can, in the absence of special circumstances, be allotted to a polling station within the parliamentary polling place for the district unless the parliamentary polling place is outside the electoral area. The Electoral Commission guidance confirms that outside of compulsory reviews, all polling places and polling stations should be kept under consideration and an evaluation of their suitability carried out after each election.

6. Human Resources Implications

There are no Human Resources implications.

7. Union Comments

There are no comments from the Union.

8. Climate Change Implications

There are no comments from the Waste and Climate Change Manager.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

The review has been carried out to make sure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

## APPENDIX 1

Representations Received During Public Consultation

Reference	Connection to polling district	Polling District(s) commented on	Representation	(Acting) Returning Officer Comments
PDR/001	Resident / Community	NES3 / NES4	<p>Extra polling places should be supplied for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties off College Way, near Bilborough College due to distance to current polling place (Strelley Hall).</li> <li>• Properties off Hempshill Lane due to need to cross roundabout to access polling place (Nuthall Temple Centre).</li> </ul>	<p>There are no community buildings available within those areas, very limited parking, particularly near the college, and no appropriate location for a temporary unit. Splitting the polling districts would also mean that any resulting polling places would be serving a very small number of electors. The situation will be monitored and a change recommended should alternative venues be identified in the future.</p>
PDR/002	Resident	BCT1	<p>Preferred Cemetery Chapel on Wollaton Road for voting – steep hill to Bramcote Memorial Hall</p>	<p>The Cemetery Chapel building is not regularly used and so does not have appropriate facilities for polling staff. Bramcote Memorial Hall is a well established polling place and has been used for many years without issue. The situation will be monitored and a change recommended should an alternative venue be identified in the future.</p>

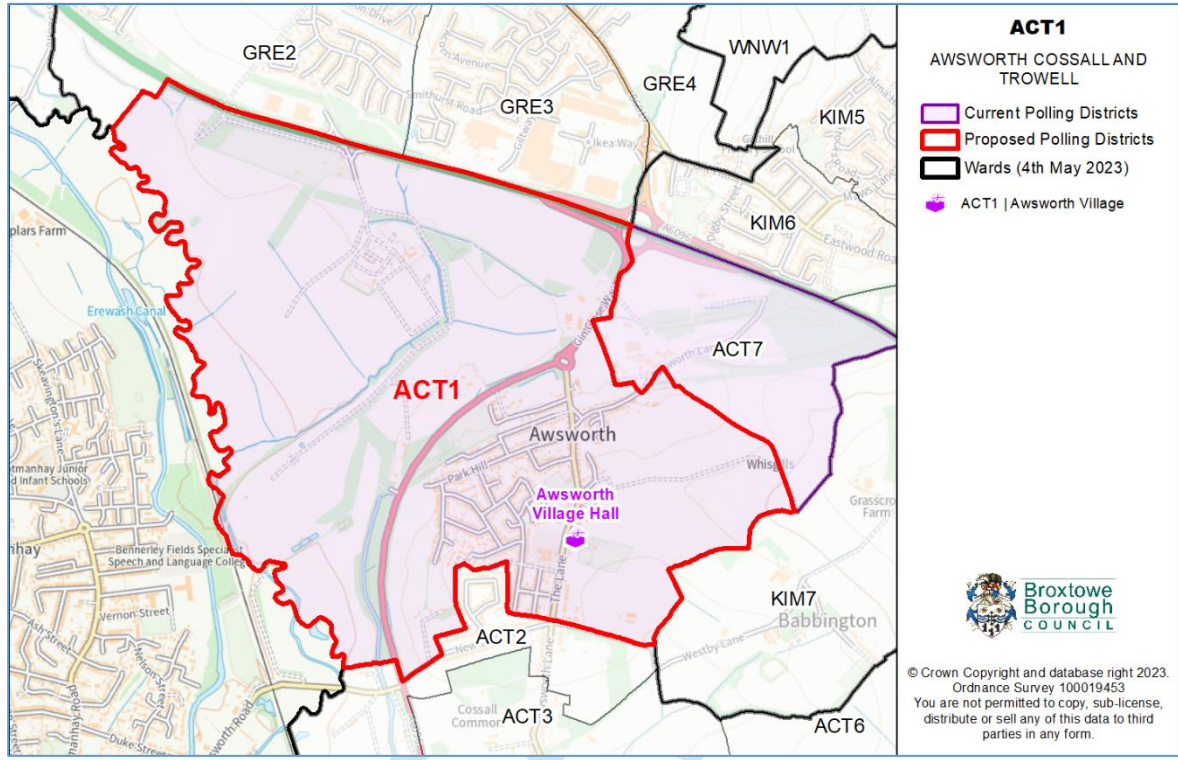
Reference	Connection to polling district	Polling District(s) commented on	Representation	(Acting) Returning Officer Comments
PDR/003	Political party	Eastwood / Brinsley	Support keeping current arrangement of polling districts and polling places, it is the best fit possible and well established.	
		Greasley	<p>GRE2/GRE3 - well established, no suitable alternative to temporary stations.</p> <p>GRE1/GRE4 - suggest alteration to boundary and move Hill Close, Brook Close, Scargill Avenue, Scargill Close and Valley Drive from GRE4 to GRE1 to ensure all Valley Drive estate is within one polling district.</p> <p>GRE5 - keep GRE5 polling district (do not merge with GRE1) and expand to include Moorgreen, Church Road and New Road.</p>	<p>Electorate numbers between GRE1 and GRE4 are well balanced. Moving streets would increase the electorate in one polling district and may result in the need for another polling station. The GRE1 polling station is reasonably close to the streets listed but electors may question why they would not be voting at the polling place closest to them – GRE4.</p> <p>GRE5 was required due to a discrepancy between the current ward and parliamentary boundaries, this will be resolved when the new parliamentary boundaries take effect. The current polling district covers a large rural area but has very few electors, even with the extra streets suggested this would only be 81 polling station voters. With so few electors it is not a viable polling district.</p>

Reference	Connection to polling district	Polling District(s) commented on	Representation	(Acting) Returning Officer Comments
PDR/004	Disability Group	All	General comments made regarding how to improve polling stations to make them accessible to all. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing clip boards to keep ballot papers in place.</li><li>• Extra training for polling staff on how to support electors to place their vote.</li></ul>	Comments will be followed up and the appropriate recommendations put in place for May 2024 elections.
PDR/005	Resident / Parish Councillor	Kimberley	Fully support the proposed changes for Kimberley.	

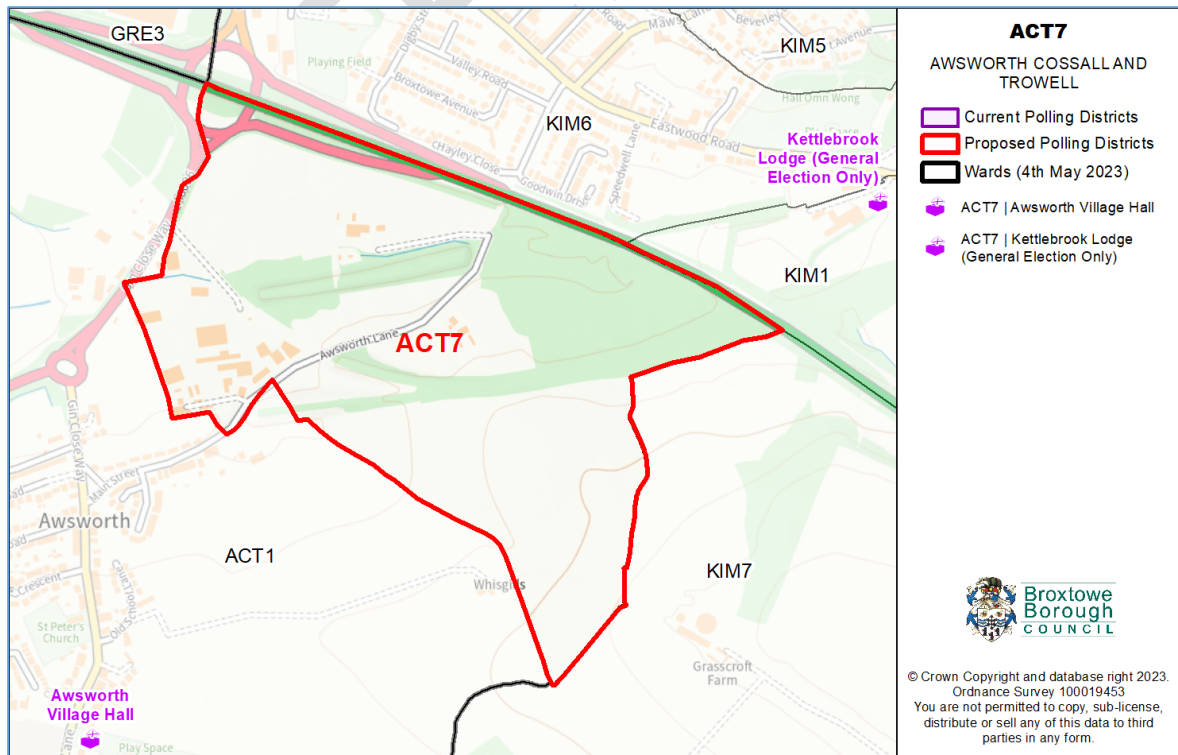
APPENDIX 2

Recommended Changes to Polling Districts

Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell – ACT1

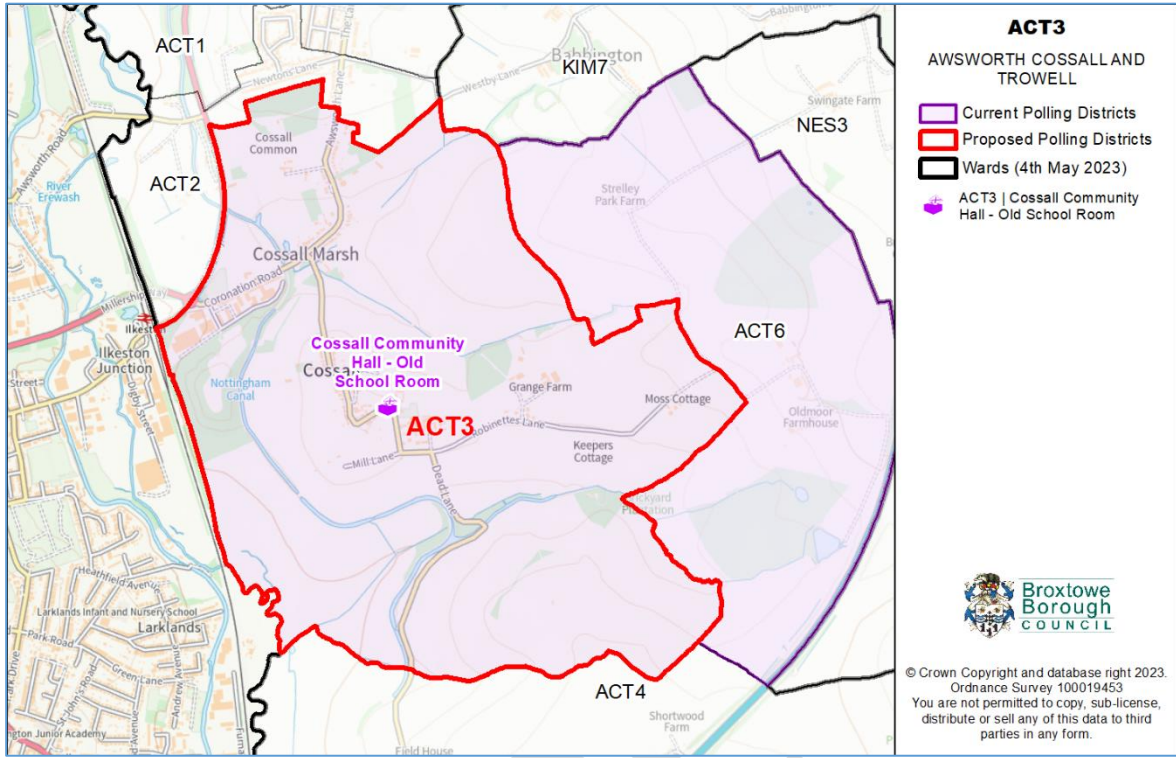


Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell – ACT7

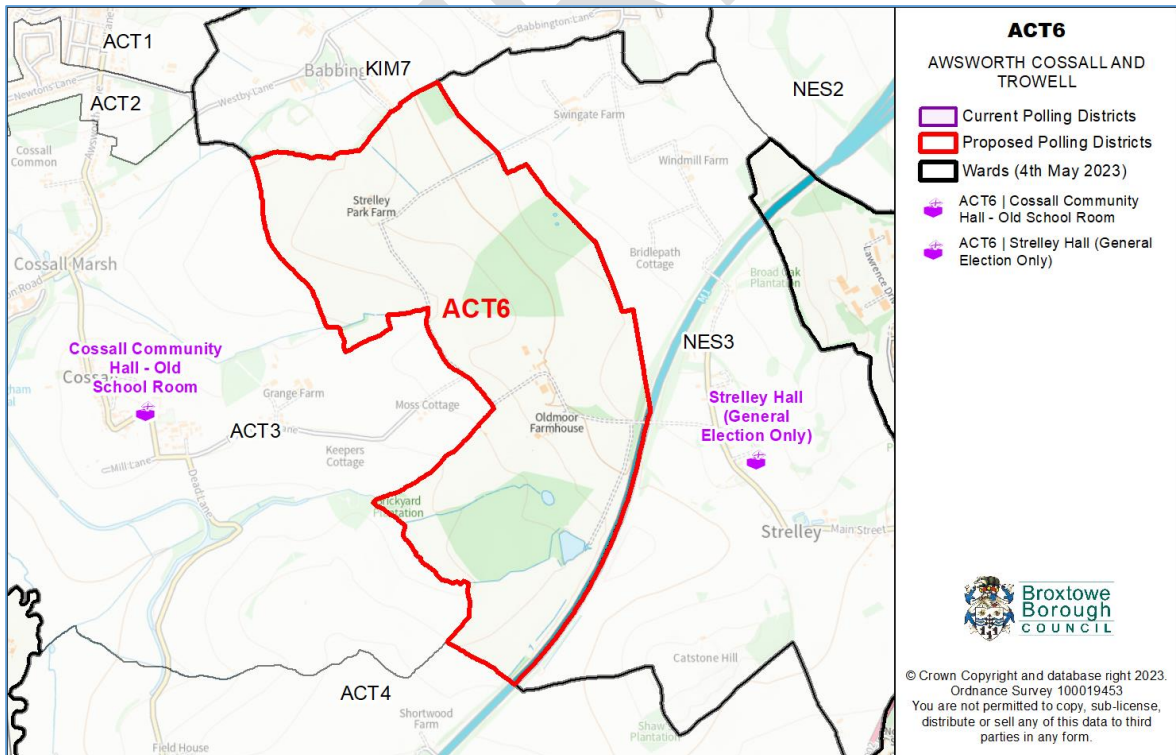




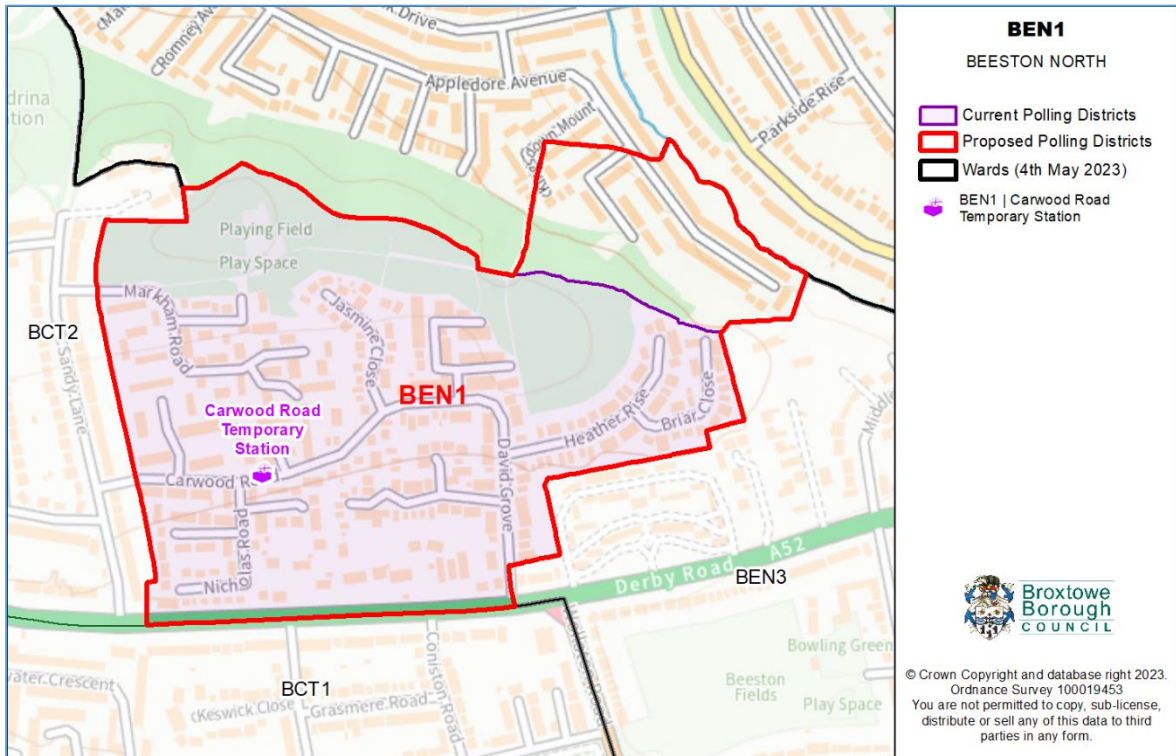
Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell – ACT3



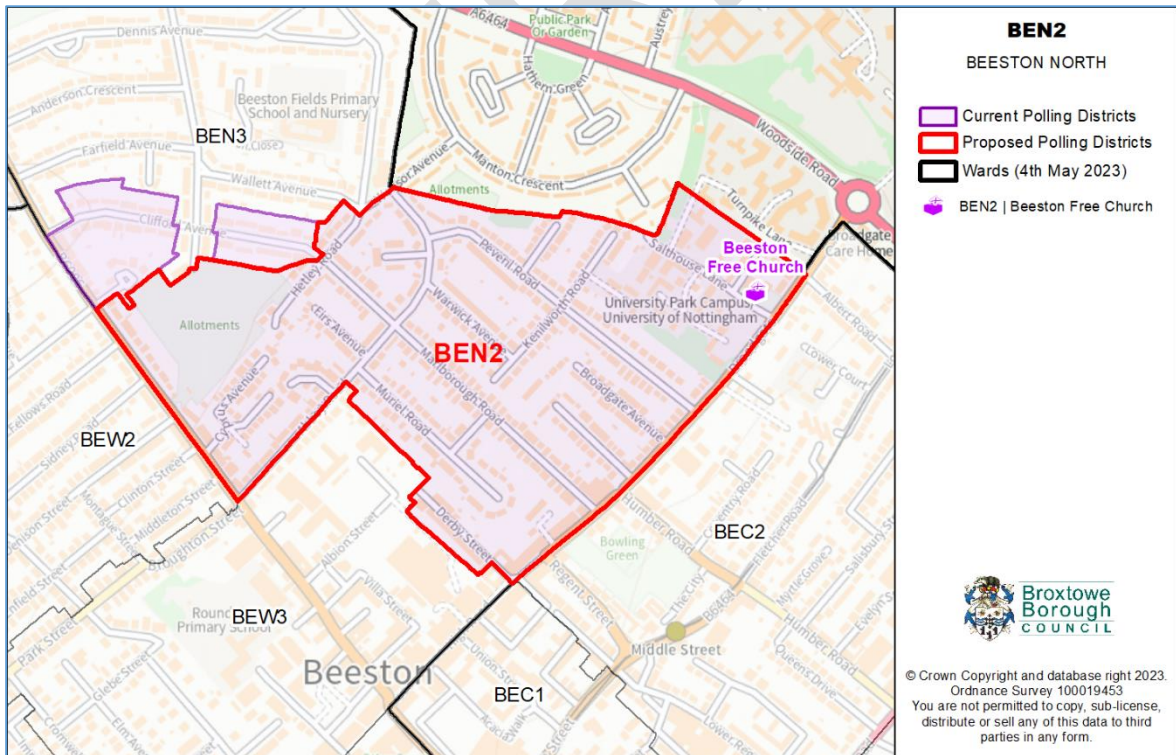
Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell – ACT6



Beeston North – BEN1

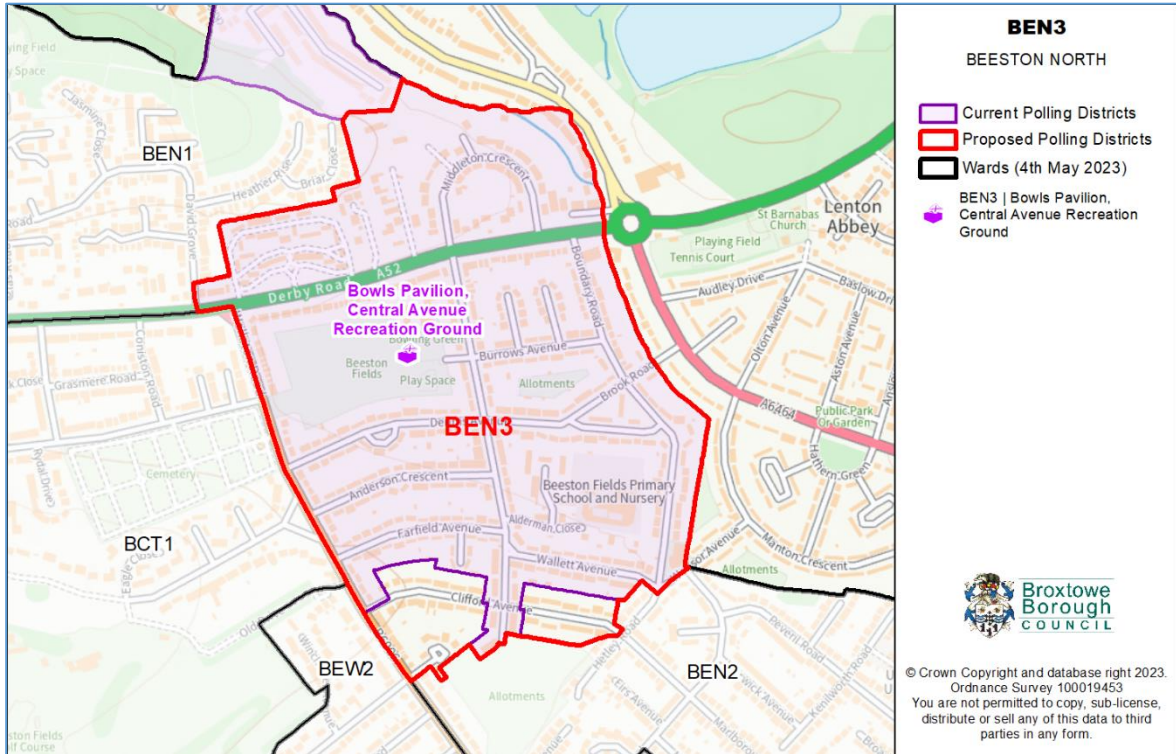


Beeston North – BEN2

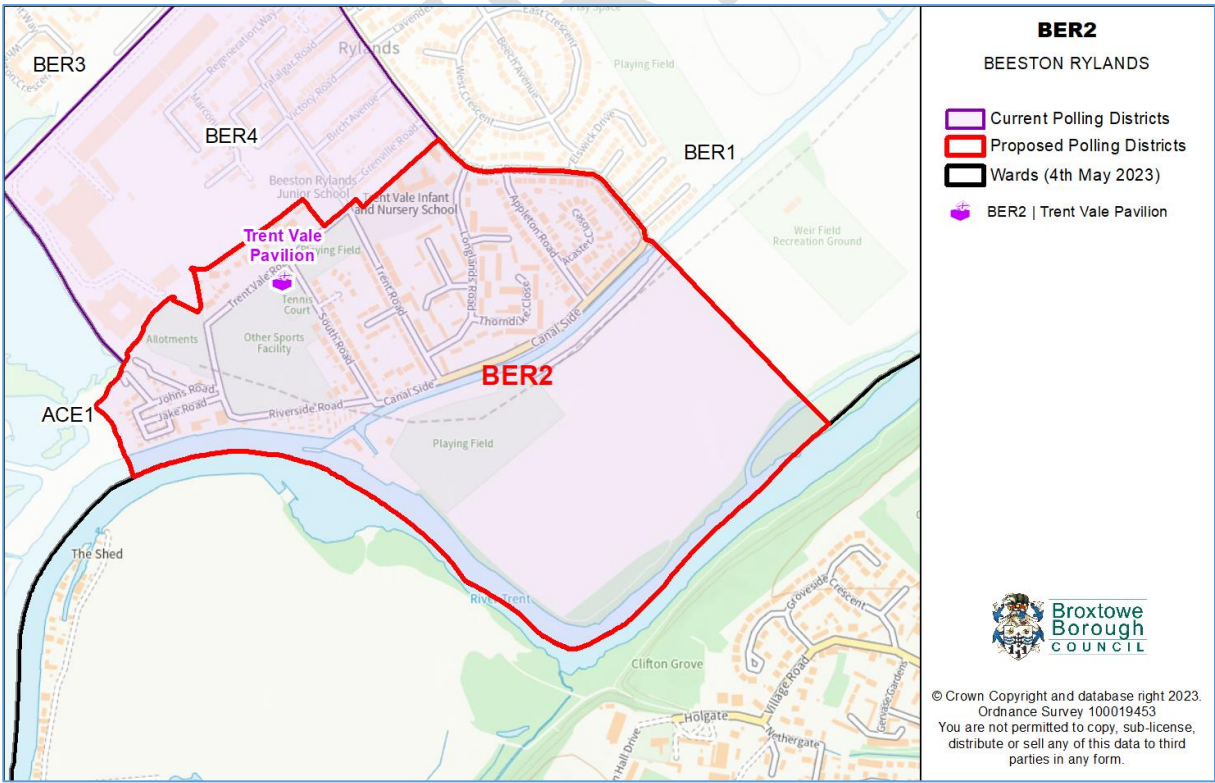




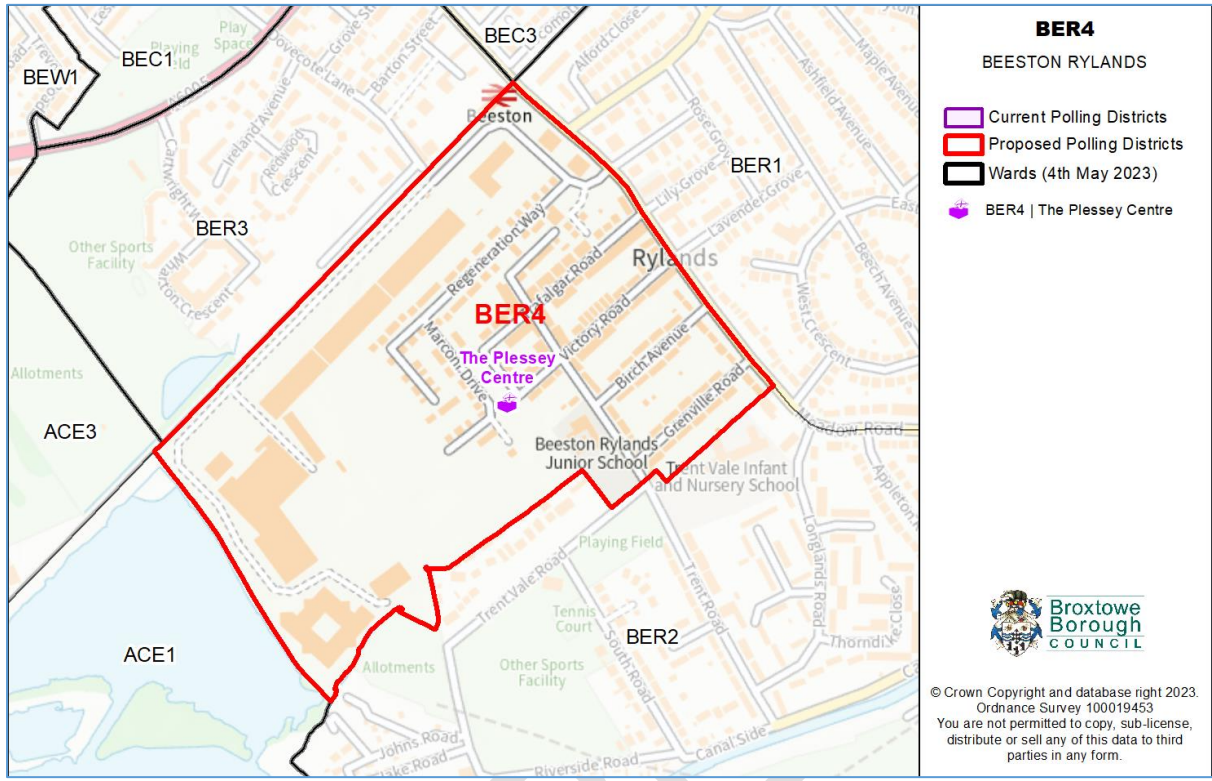
Beeston North – BEN3



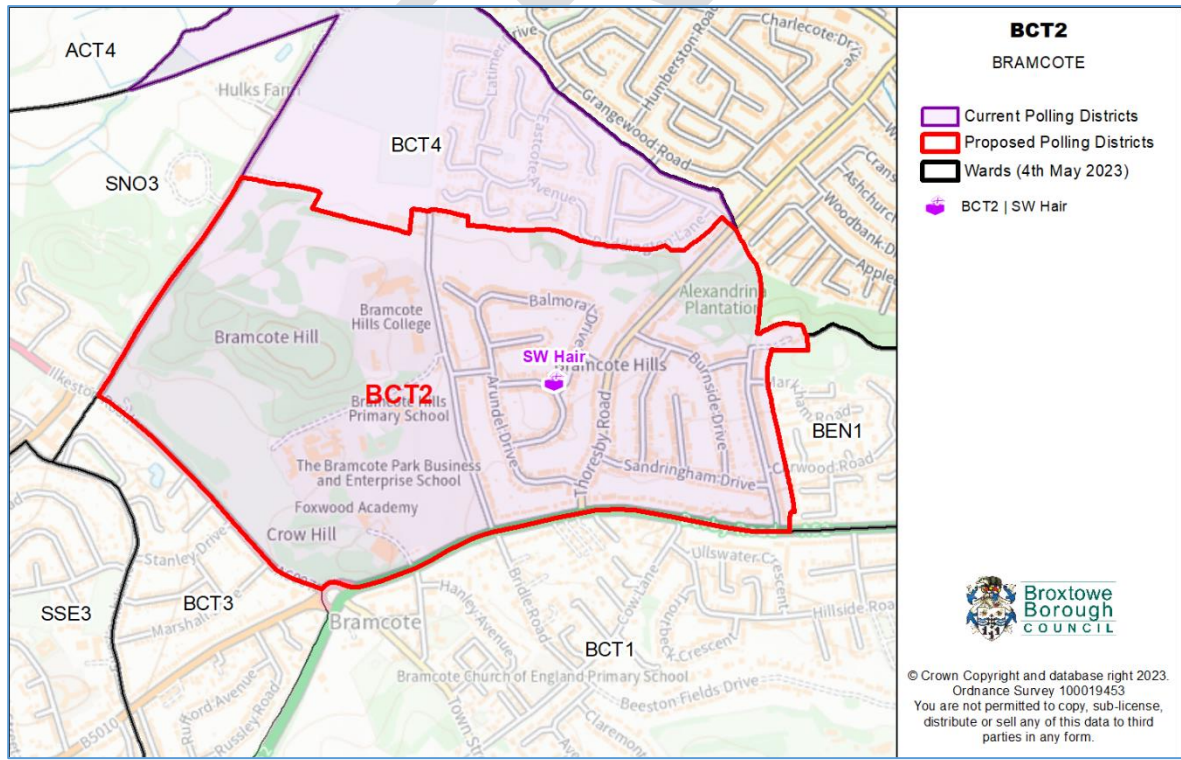
Beeston Rylands – BER2



**Beeston Rylands – BER4**

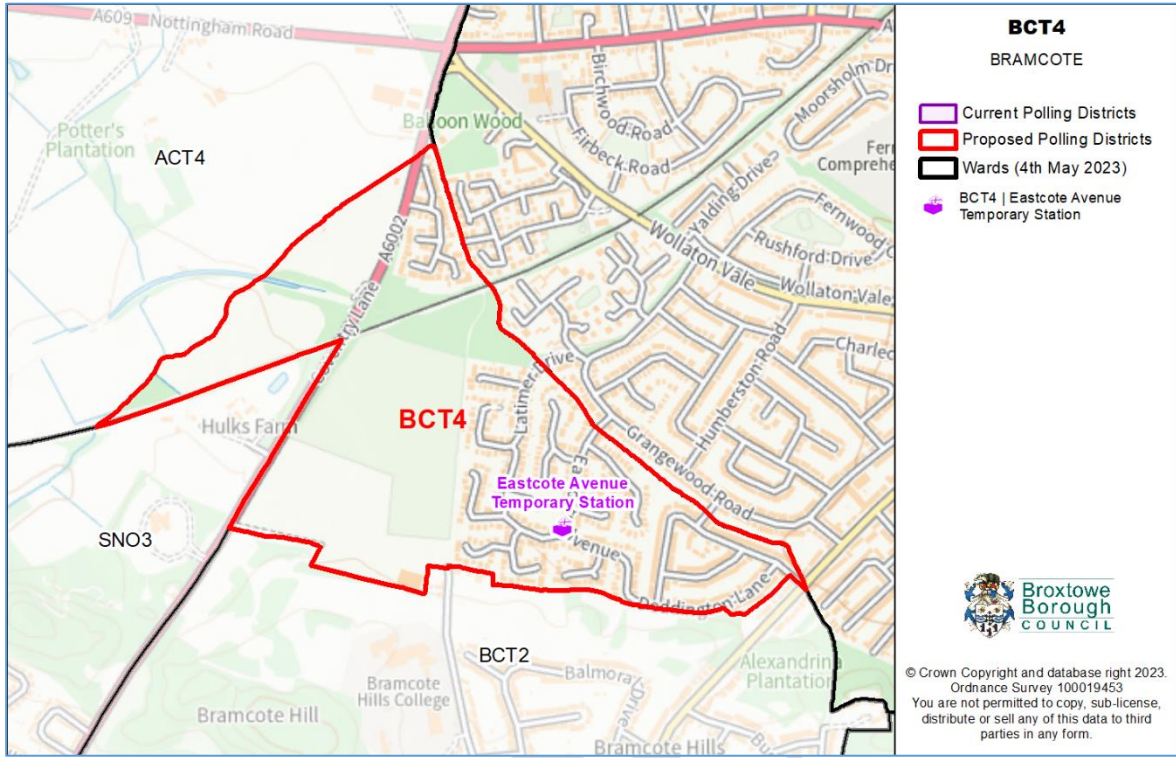


**Bramcote – BCT2**

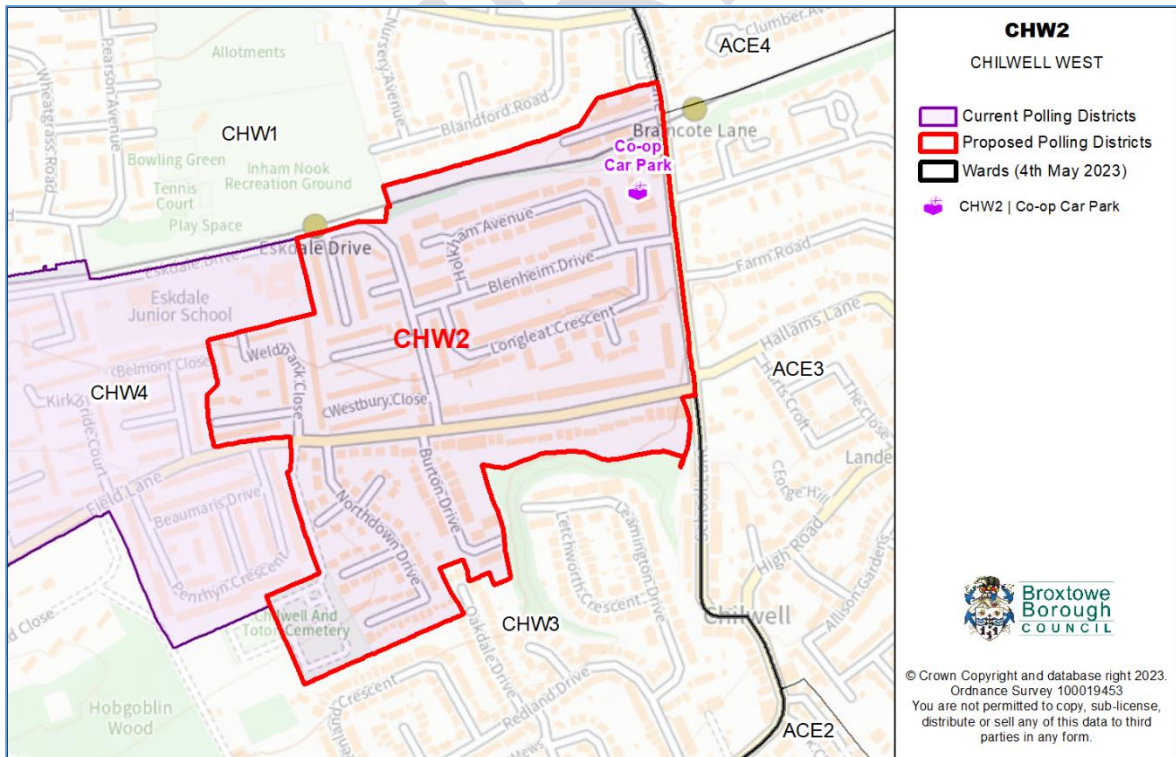




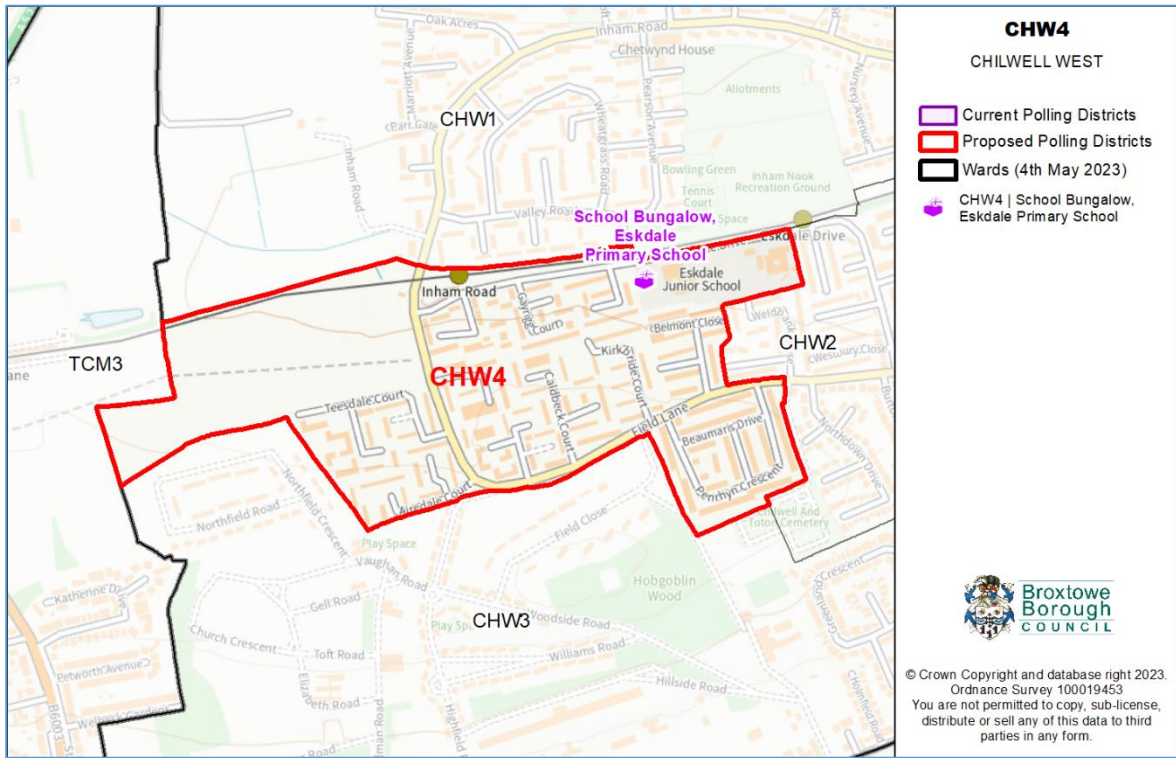
Bramcote - BCT4



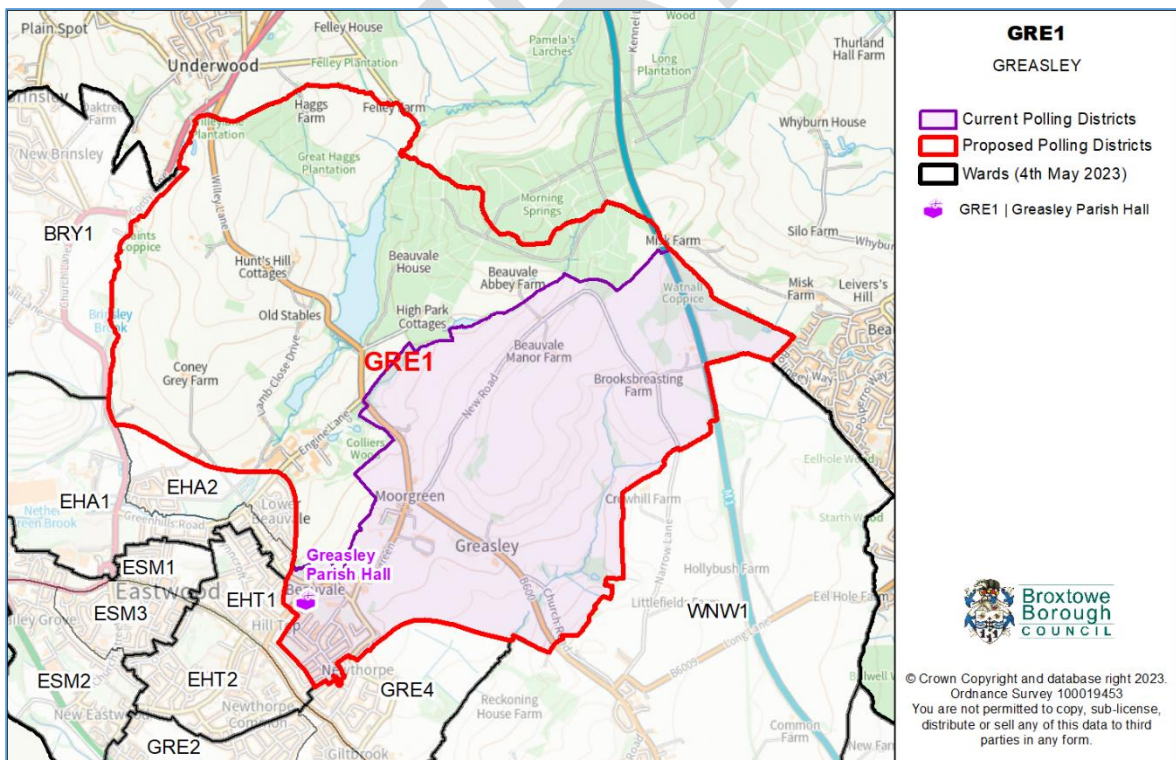
Chilwell West – CHW2



Chilwell West – CHW4

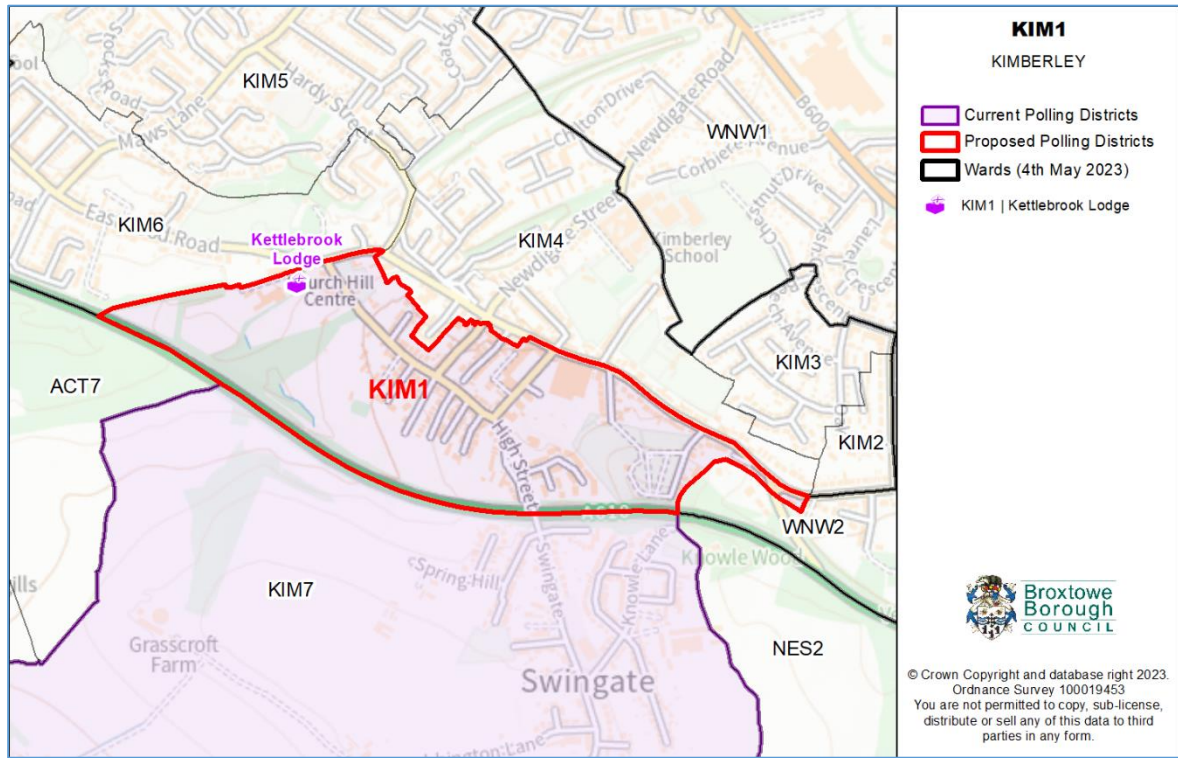


Greasley – GRE1

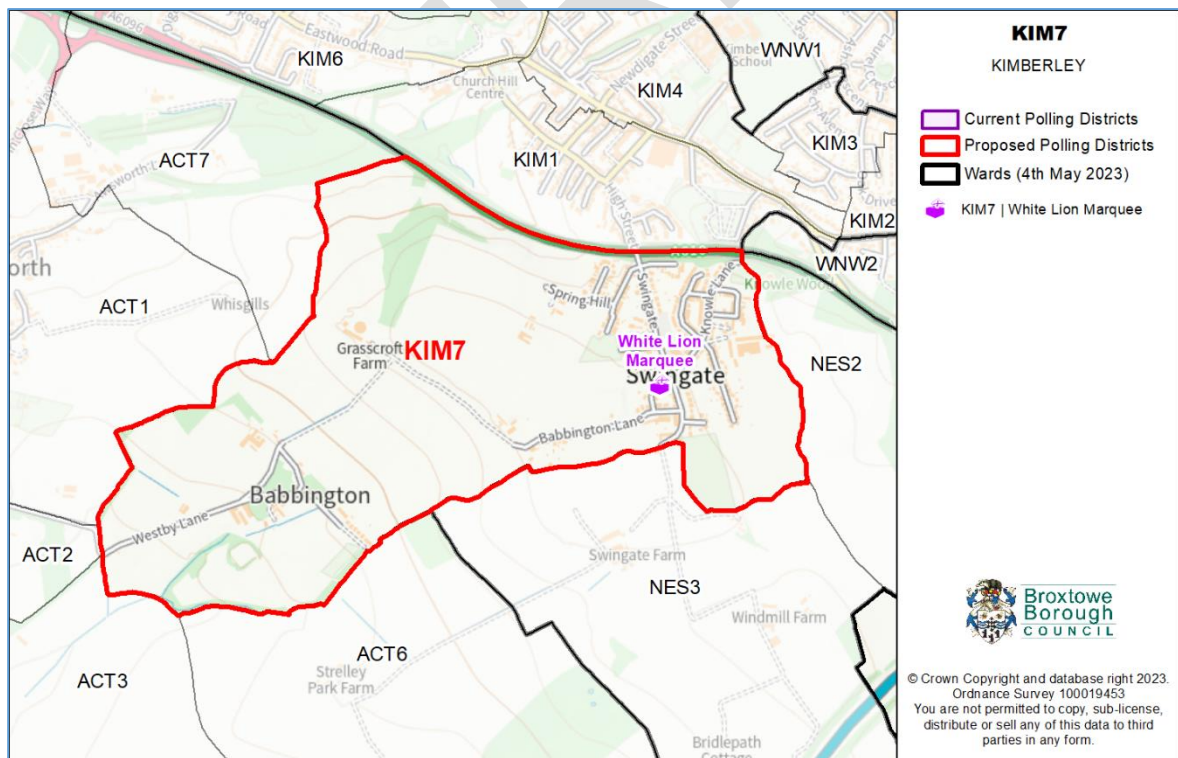




Kimberley – KIM1



Kimberley – KIM7



## APPENDIX 3

Recommended Changes to Polling Places

Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
<b>Attenborough and Chilwell East ACE4</b> 1,096	Masonic Hall, High Road, Chilwell	Grove Court, Central Avenue, Chilwell	Grove Court was the designated polling place for ACE4 for many years with no issue other but the room used for voting was too small so it was moved to the Masonic Hall. A larger room, the communal lounge, is now available. Grove Court is within the polling district and therefore more easily accessed by ACE4 electors.
<b>Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell</b> ACT2 288	Trinity Farm Shop, Awsworth Lane, Cossall	Awsworth Village Hall, 60 The Lane, Awsworth	Facilities for electors with disabilities are not ideal at the Trinity Farm Shop and a portable ramp has to be provided for access to the polling station. The polling place only serves 288 polling station electors and is just 0.3 miles from Awsworth Village Hall which has better facilities and is superior in terms of accessibility.

Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
<b>Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell</b> ACT6 9	Cossall Community Hall, Old School Room, Church Lane, Cossall	<u>Parliamentary Elections</u> Strelley Hall, Main Street, Strelley <u>Local Elections</u> Cossall Community Hall	Following the Community Governance Review in 2022 and the Parliamentary Boundary Review the ward boundary is no longer coterminous with the parliamentary boundary, therefore there is a need to create an extra polling district. Electors in ACT6 will be voting in the Nottingham North and Kimberley constituency for parliamentary elections.
<b>Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell</b> ACT7 6	Awsworth Village Hall, 60 The Lane, Awsworth	<u>Parliamentary Elections</u> Kettlebrook Lodge, Eastwood Road, Kimberley <u>Local Elections</u> Awsworth Village Hall	Following the Community Governance Review in 2022 and the Parliamentary Boundary Review the ward boundary is no longer coterminous with the parliamentary boundary, therefore there is a need to create an extra polling district. Electors in ACT7 will be voting in the Nottingham North and Kimberley constituency for parliamentary elections.
<b>Beeston Rylands</b> BER4 785	Trent Vale Pavilion, Trent Road, Beeston	The Plessey Centre, Marconi Drive, Beeston	The Plessey Centre is a newly built community facility with good disabled access. It is within easy walking distance of properties within the new polling district.

Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
<b>Bramcote</b> BCT2 1,021	Creo, Seven Oaks Crescent, Bramcote	SW Hair, Seven Oaks Crescent, Bramcote	The previous polling place has now been converted to housing. SW Hair was successfully used as a polling place for elections in 2023. It is centrally located within the polling district.
<b>Bramcote</b> BCT4 797	Creo, Seven Oaks Crescent, Bramcote	Eastcote Avenue Temporary Station, Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote	The previous polling place has now been converted to housing. A temporary polling station was successfully situated on Eastcote Avenue for elections in 2023. Temporary stations are not ideal as they may not be accessible to elderly voters or voters with disabilities without ramps which, in wet weather, can become slippery and make access difficult. However, Eastcote Avenue is centrally located within the polling district and easily accessed by electors especially those on foot.
<b>Kimberley</b> KIM2/3/4 1,030	Kimberley Parish Hall, Newdigate Street, Kimberley	Kimberley Parish Hall, Newdigate Street, Kimberley – temporarily use Rumbletums, Newdigate Street for elections in 2024	Kimberley Parish Hall is due to be rebuilt during 2024, so will not be available as a polling place. Whilst it is intended to return to the Parish Hall following the building work a temporary replacement is needed. Rumbletums is close to the Parish Hall, accessible to those with disabilities and uses the same parking provision.



Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
<b>Kimberley</b> KIM6 835	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Hill, Kimberley	Kettlebrook Lodge, Eastwood Road, Kimberley	<p>There are some concerns about the access to Holy Trinity Church Hall from the car park. Whilst there is a ramp, the path to access this is quite narrow. Kettlebrook Lodge has a number of rooms and could be used as polling place for KIM1, KIM5 and KIM6. This would also help with the voter confusion experienced at elections in 2023 due to the close proximity of the two polling places - Kettlebrook Lodge and Holy Trinity.</p>
<b>Kimberley</b> KIM7 700	Kettlebrook Lodge, Eastwood Road, Kimberley	White Lion Marquee, 74 Swingate, Kimberley	<p>Complaints were received from electors in 2023 regarding the distance to the polling place at Kettlebrook Lodge. Kimberley Primary School was approached but were unable to accommodate a polling station. The White Lion has a permanent marquee to the rear of the pub which can be accessed via the car park. The marquee has electricity and can be made more easily accessible by ensuring a temporary ramp is provided. Temporary heating could be installed for cooler weather. The White Lion is closer and therefore more easily accessed by electors within that polling district than the previous location.</p>

Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
<b>Nuthall East and Strelley</b> NES2 1,300	Hickory's Smokehouse, Mornington Crescent, Nuthall	Temporary Station, Hickory's Smokehouse Car Park, Mornington Crescent, Nuthall	The area inside Hickory's was not big enough for a busy polling station and some electors may have been put off attending due to needing to go inside the pub. Mornington Primary School were approached but were unable to provide space for a polling place. Temporary stations are not ideal as they may not be accessible to elderly voters or voters with disabilities without ramps which, in wet weather, can become slippery and make access difficult. However, the car park location is within the polling district and can be accessed easily by electors. The situation will be monitored and a change recommended should an alternative venue be identified in the future.