

Appendix 4 – Polling place for Farnham North West 2- survey responses

1. Do you currently live in the Farnham North West 2 polling district?

Yes - 93%

No – 2%

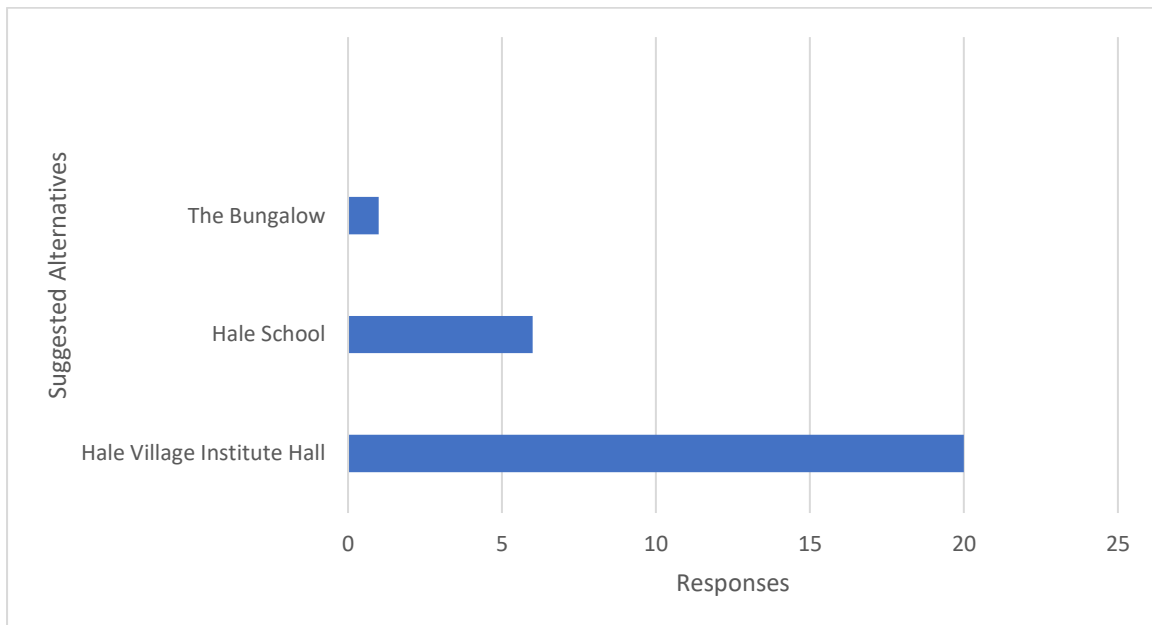
Unsure – 3%

2. Are you aware of another suitable venue within the polling district that could be used as a polling station?

No- 86

Yes – 27 (All responses given are for buildings outside of Polling District, see Q3)

3. Please provide details of the alternative venue including the full name and address.

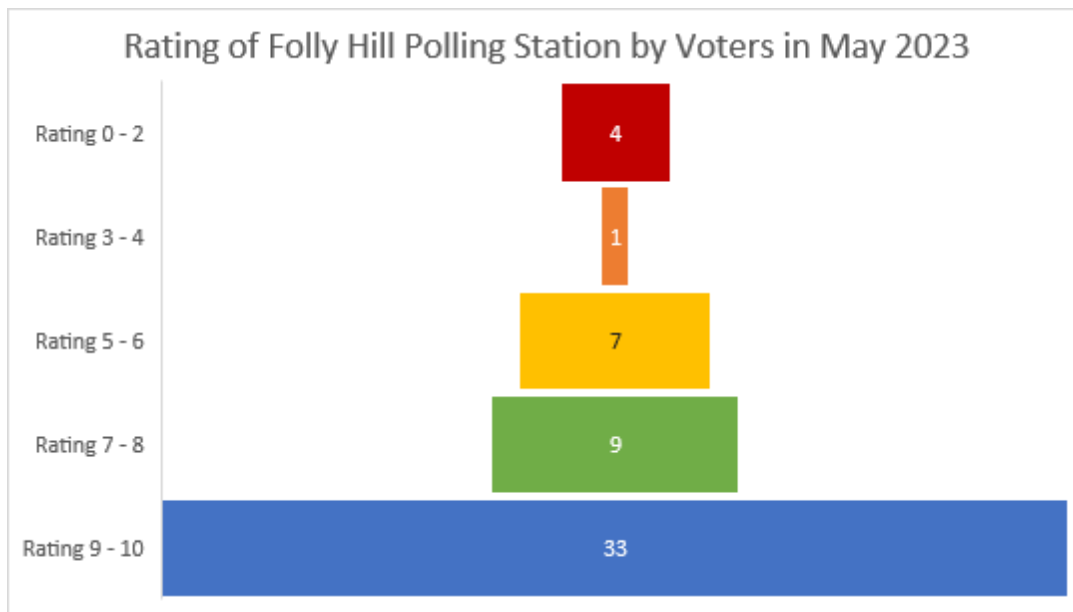


4. Did you vote at the polling station at the Folly Hill Infant School in May 2023?

Yes - 48%

No – 52%

5. Please provide a rating between 1 and 10 of your experience of voting at the Folly Hill Infant School Polling station in May 2023.



6. Please provide a brief explanation as to why you selected the rating above.

Of **42** Responses:

3 Explanations primarily talked about the closing of the school for an election and the detriment to childrens education/ inconvenience for parents.

1. "School closing for a day is very inconvenient for parents"
2. "It disrupted our child's education for no good reason. There was a perfectly adequate polling station at Hale Village Hall before, which has served the local community for years until some jobsworth redrew the boundaries."

6 Explanations talked more about the process of the election and comments on polling staff.

1. "Friendly "
2. "Efficient"
3. "No problems"

8 Explanations mentioned parking as the primary factor in their rating. There were also a number of explanations that noted the difficulty for elderly electors to travel uphill to the polling station.

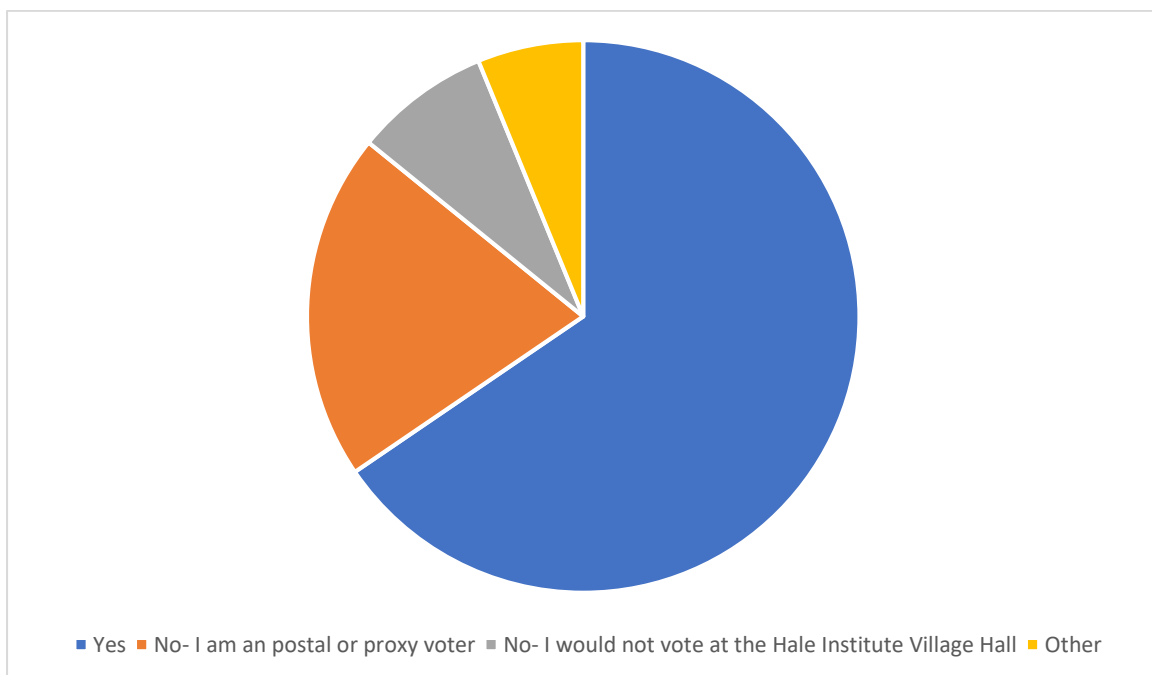
1. "Electoral volunteers were wonderful, but limited parking and even worse for disabled parking. Saw many elderly people struggle with wheelchairs and walkers up the hill"
2. "It has parking and seems to accommodate the number of voters adequately. "
3. "No parking and small venue "
4. "My personal experience was excellent, as I am able to walk there easily and there is parking available on side roads. However, I'm not sure how accessible it is for other users. "

25 Explanations said that Convenience and Access were the main factor of their rating, mostly due to Folly Hill Infant School being within walking distance for most properties.

1. "Within walking distance of my home"
2. "Convenient, Spacious and ideal for walking there or for those who need to drive. Serves our community perfectly. "
3. "Very close to us! No queue."
4. "It was convenient & relatively close to where I live."
5. Convenient and satisfactory venue"
6. "Easy location and access for me "
7. "Know the location and live very close"
8. "Because it is very convenient for us as we are across the road from it. M"

7. The Hale Institute Village Hall has been suggested as an alternative venue for the polling station for future polls.

If the polling station was relocated, would you travel to the new venue at Hale Institute Village Hall, 1 Wings Road, Farnham GU9 0HN



8. Please provide further information on why you wouldn't vote at the Hale Institute Village Hall.

We received **12** responses to this primarily covering that Hale Institute Hall is not within the Polling District, nor within walking distance, that there is no parking, or that Folly Hill Infant School is their preferred polling station.

1. "I would prefer folly hill infant school as it is a lot easier for me to get to on foot."
2. "It's not in the voting district, it's not reasonable walking distance and the parking is awful around there and it's dangerous pulling out onto Upper Hale road from there."
3. "The current station is very convenient to our community. I cannot fathom why you want to move something that works well."

4. "I have limited mobility. I'd need to be able to park very close by. If no parking, I couldn't vote at all. I think there would be more parking space at the school. My reason for not voting last time was nothing to do with the venue, but due to my lack of confidence in any of the candidates. "
5. "The venue at the present is convenient to walk to and has easy access to parking if needed. If it moves to Wings road it would be more inconvenient."

9. Do you have any further comments?

Of the **49** Legitimate responses for further comment, **24** aligned towards the use of Hale Village Institute as opposed to Folly Hill Infant School – predominantly because of the disruption to education in the use of Folly Hill.

1. "I do not agree with the further disruption of children's education that occurs with the use of Folly Hill Infant Academy. The school has to be completely closed and I don't agree that it's right that children should miss out on a full day's education just because the boundaries were moved. "
2. "Hadn't realised from map that Hale Institute was a possible venue. That would be better than having to close the Folly Hill school. I would travel to Hale Institute if I wasn't a postal voter - and am currently considering ending my postal vote."
3. "Using the school last year was wholly disruptive and contradictory to policy: parents are warned in no uncertain language to not take children out of school but then had to at someone else's whim. Not to mention the loss of income/logistics of needing to take time off work. "
4. "Hale Village hall is a much further walk -10 minutes. I would prefer to walk rather than drive unless the weather is bad. There is parking there and I think it's a good alternative if one is needed for Folly Hill school."
5. "The institute would be a better location for two main reasons - it's more accessible to those with mobility issues (Folly Hill school up a steep hill) and does not require the closure of the school which is disruptive for local families."

There were also **12** Responses that were in favour of maintaining Folly Hill Infant School as the polling station for Farnham North West 2, detailing largely convenience and accessibility, as well as fears of parking.

1. "It's quite a bit further to get to the Hale Institute, which might put off people in the southern area of the district. Also, it seems more likely that people would drive rather than walk. This could cause traffic and parking congestion. Also it is undesirable for health and environmental reasons."
2. "Wings road is narrow and getting in and out of the car park for Hale Institute Village Hall isn't ideal for large volumes of people. Folly Hill Infants is safer for people driving."
3. "Would prefer it to stay at the school and provide income for the use of their facilities and also to promote the school to the local community. The Folly Heights development has increased the number of registered voters in the area, and there are no additional residents close to the new facility "
4. "Folly Infant School is a good location for our house"