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To all Members of the Council

Date: **THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY 2015**

Time: **7.30 PM**

Venue: **COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH STREET, UXBRIDGE UB8 1UW**

Meeting Details: Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend this meeting

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Putting our residents first

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Agenda

Prayers

To be said by Mr Alan Wright

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes 1 - 16

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2014 *(attached)*

3 Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest in any matter before the Council

4 Mayor's Announcements

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6 Polling District and Polling Places Review 23 - 102

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To consider the annual report *(attached)*

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To consider Motions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12

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Minutes

COUNCIL

6 November 2014

Meeting held at Council Chamber - Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

Councillor Catherine Dann (Mayor)
Councillor George Cooper (Deputy Mayor)

	MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: Lynne Allen, Teji Barnes, Jonathan Bianco, Mohinder Birah, Wayne Bridges, Tony Burles, Keith Burrows, Roy Chamdal, Alan Chapman, Judith Cooper, Philip Corthorne, Peter Curling, Peter Davis, Nick Denys, Kanwal Dheer, Jazz Dhillon, Jas Dhot, Jem Duducu, Janet Duncan, Beulah East, Ian Edwards, Tony Eginton, Duncan Flynn, Neil Fyfe, Janet Gardner, Narinder Garg, Dominic Gilham, Raymond Graham, Becky Haggar, John Hensley, Henry Higgins, Patricia Jackson, Allan Kauffman, Judy Kelly, Manjit Khatra, Mo Khursheed, Eddie Lavery, Richard Lewis, Michael Markham, Peter Money, Carol Melvin, Douglas Mills, Richard Mills, John Morgan, John Morse, June Nelson, Susan O'Brien, Jane Palmer, Ray Puddifoot MBE, John Riley, Robin Sansarpuri, Scott Seaman-Digby, David Simmonds, Jagjit Singh, Brian Stead, Jan Sweeting, Shehryar Wallana, Michael White, David Yarrow
	OFFICERS PRESENT: Raj Alagh, Fran Beasley, Mark Braddock, Morgan Einon, Steven Maiden, Jean Palmer, Beth Rainey, Paul Whaymand, Lloyd White and Tony Zaman
28.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** *(Agenda Item 1)* Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crowe, Jarjussey and Lakhmana.
29.	**MINUTES** *(Agenda Item 2)* It was suggested that it had been agreed that additional information would be provided in relation to a question asked of Councillor Corthorne at the last meeting. Councillor Corthorne agreed to review the minutes with officers and ensure the written answer that had been requested was re-sent and included in the minutes. It was agreed that under agenda item 6, Members' Questions, the words "by Blue Sky" be removed from Councillor Allen's supplementary question (question 6.3).

	RESOLVED: That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September be agreed as a correct record.
30.	**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Agenda Item 4)* The Mayor announced that, since the last meeting of full Council, her charity appeal had donated £1,700 to the Michael Sobell Hospice which provided funds for a tumble dryer, wi-fi and training session for GPs and hospital staff on palliative care. The Mayor also announced that her chauffeur, Richard Wallace would be taking part in Trinity Charity's Big Sleep Out on her behalf and she urged Members to sponsor the event. It was noted that the Mayor's Charity Quiz Night would be taking place on 19 November 2014.
31.	**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES** *(Agenda Item 5)* **i) Urgent Implementation of Decisions** Councillor Puddifoot moved the recommendation as set out in the Order of Business. The motion was seconded by Councillor Simmonds and it was: **RESOLVED: That the Urgency decisions detailed in the report be noted.** **ii) Membership of Council Committees 2014/15** Councillor Puddifoot moved the recommendations as set out in the Order of Business. The motion was seconded by Councillor Simmonds and it was: **RESOLVED: That:** **a) Mr Rajiv P Vyas be appointed as independent Chairman of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year;** **b) The SRA for the Chairman of Licensing Sub-Committee be replaced with a SRA of £6,000 for the Vice - Chairman of the Licensing Committee;** **c) Substitute members of the three Planning Committees be drawn from the members of the Planning Committees and those Members who have undertaken formal Planning Committee training provided by the Council.** **d) Upon the recommendation of the Conservative Group the following changes be made to Committee Memberships 2014/15:** **Hillingdon Domestic Violence Forum - Councillor Haggar to replace Councillor Barnes (with Councillor Barnes becoming a nominated substitute)** **Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee - Councillor Davis to replace Councillor J.Cooper.** **Central and South Planning Committee - Councillor Yarrow to replace Councillor Hensley.** **North Planning Committee - Councillor Duducu to replace Councillor Yarrow and Councillor Melvin to replace Councillor Higgins.** **Major Applications Planning Committee - Councillor Yarrow to replace Councillor Hensley and Councillor Melvin to replace Councillor Higgins; and** **e) Upon the recommendation of the Labour Group the following changes be made to Committee Memberships 2014/15:**

Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee - Councillor Khatra to fill one vacancy.
Licensing Committee - Councillor Dhillon to fill one vacancy.

Members of the relevant Committees then stood and elected the following:

Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee
Councillor Bridges - Chairman
Councillor Barnes - Vice Chairman

Central and South Planning Committee
Councillor Edwards (Chairman)
Councillor Yarrow (Vice Chairman)

Major Applications Planning Committee
Councillor Edwards (Vice Chairman)

Audit Committee
Councillor Lewis (Vice Chairman)

iii) Establishment of a Local Pension Board for London Borough of Hillingdon Pension Fund

Councillor Puddifoot moved the recommendation as set out in the Order of Business. The motion was seconded by Councillor Simmonds and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to establish a Hillingdon Local Pension Board by 1 April 2015, in accordance with the following:

a) The membership of the Board to comprise of:
- **3 elected Members (2 Con' & 1 Lab')**
- **3 employee/scheme member representatives - scheme members to be asked for expressions of interest and then selected at interview by the Chairman and one other Member of the Pensions Committee and a Senior Officer, on the basis of capacity and/or experience.**

b) The Pensions Committee be reduced to 5 Members (3 Con' and 2 Lab')

c) The Investment Strategy Sub Committee be abolished and the powers transferred to the full Pensions Committee which will continue to meet four times per year. To enable any urgent decisions to be taken, authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance, aligned with the powers already delegated to him in relation to Treasury Management. Any exercise of those powers would then be reported back to Pensions Committee.

d) Reports to the Local Pensions Board to either reflect decisions taken by Pensions Committee or be reports for noting already seen by Pensions Committee.

e) Subject to guidance to be issued by the DCLG, the Pensions Board to meet quarterly in the month following Pensions Committee.

32.	**POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2014** *(Agenda Item 6)* Councillor Puddifoot announced that this item was to be deferred to allow for a further period of consultation.
33.	**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** *(Agenda Item 7)* **7.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MELVIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE** "Would the Cabinet Member please inform us of the work being done to assist tenants affected by the spare room subsidy changes to move into alternative accommodation and, where applicable, into employment?" Councillor Corthorne advised that the spare room subsidy had been introduced in April 2013. All households affected had been contacted and provided with information on how the changes would impact on them and encouraged to contact the Council, consider downsizing options and to discuss the temporary resolution through a Discretionary Housing Payment. The number of households affected by the spare room subsidy was 924 in September comprising 524 Council tenants and 400 housing association tenants. The average weekly shortfall for these households was £20.23 and at 1 October 2014 109 of them were in receipt of Discretionary Housing Payments. A financial incentive had also been made available to residents under the Home Release Reward Scheme. During the 2014/15 financial year, 37 households had been assisted in this way to move to new social letting which better met their requirements. This had released a total of 45 bedrooms. Two households had also used the Tenant Grant to Move Scheme which gave a grant of £500 to anyone who moved out of the Borough and gave up a dwelling with two or more bedrooms. Councillor Corthorne noted that the Council had also been working with Jobcentre Plus who had been a regular presence in the Housing Needs Section working with households affected by welfare reforms. So far, over 100 people had been helped to find employment to meet the challenges caused by the benefits cap. There was no supplementary question. **7.11 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR SIMMONDS** "In February 2013 a Cabinet report stated, 'Cabinet is asked to agree to receive in Autumn 2013 a report setting out the forecast demand for secondary school places over the next 10 years and to consider how need could be met.' In the Cabinet report of 19 December 2013 no options were outlined and it would appear that since then there have been no details as to how the additional secondary places could be delivered although the first places are required by September 2016. In view of the need for an additional 27 forms of entry of secondary places to be provided in Hillingdon over the next 8 years, when will the Council be publicising the options for increased secondary school capacity for September 2016 and up until 2022?" Councillor Simmonds advised that discussions had commenced between officers and

Head Teachers of Secondary Schools about expansion options. The Cabinet was being kept updated on developments and progress through Schools Capital Programme reports. It was noted that work to date had identified eight secondary school sites that could be expanded to provide an additional 13.5 forms of entry. This additional capacity would meet the forecasted demand for the next 4 years after which point substantial rebuilds would have to be considered. It was noted that options were being explored comprehensively and that issues and developments would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Councillor Sweeting, by way of supplementary question, asked whether there were any plans for a new secondary school in West Drayton.

Councillor Simmonds acknowledged the work of Councillor Gilham on the issue of providing school places in West Drayton. He advised that various sites across the Borough were being explored including the provision of secondary school places within existing primary schools and the development of Free Schools. He reassured Members that the current Administration would not fail the children of Hayes or West Drayton.

7.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR J.COOPER TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT

"Earlier this year a small number of Council employees went on strike for a day. Would the Leader of the Council please confirm that these employees were not paid by the Council whilst on strike?"

Councillor Puddifoot confirmed that the 88 members of staff who had taken part in the action had not been paid whilst on strike.

Councillor J. Cooper, by way of supplementary question, asked how much money the Council had saved as a result of this.

Councillor Puddifoot advised that the Council had saved £13,053 but noted that it was not the Council's place to profit from industrial action. As such, these funds would be donated to the charity, Trinity.

7.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ALLEN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

"Could the Cabinet Member please inform Members how many disabled residents, both adult and child, are awaiting major/minor adaptations to their homes which will ultimately improve the quality of their lives?"

Councillor Corthorne advised that a review of the major and minor adaptations processes was currently underway with new processes being implemented. There were three core pieces of work that were central to this:

1. A review of existing contracts to ensure robust contract management and work that met the required standards. This included the introduction of framework agreements for works such as stairlifts.
2. The testing of new ways of working for minor and major adaptations which was expected to streamline the existing processes as well as introduce key roles including a Clerk of Works and Project Manager to ensure timely delivery.
3. A clearance of the backlog. There was currently a backlog of 46 minor

adaptations with works underway or due to start on 34 of these cases. There was a total of 310 major adaptation cases (46 of which were children's) of which 37 had been allocated to contractors and another 21 were approved and awaiting a start date. A review of the performance data was integral to the adaptations review process that was currently underway.

The remaining 228 cases were being assessed using Occupational Therapy. Additional surveyor capacity had been put in place to accelerate this process and work was underway to identify further contractors who could complete the works.

Where there were social care needs arising directly from the need for adaptations, the Council was picking this up and liaising with residents to keep them informed.

Councillor Allen, by way of supplementary question, asked how long the review process would last for.

Councillor Corthorne advised that there had been significant delays in the review but that work was underway to make improvements. A progress report would be provided on this in 2015.

Subsequent to the meeting a written update was provided as follows:

Of the people on the waiting list as at 11 November 2014, there was an average wait time of 88 days following the Occupational Therapy site visit to works being allocated to a contractor to undertake the work. The shortest waiting time is one day with the longest waiting time being 229 days.

The timeframe for works varied depending on the type of work to be undertaken ranging from ramps through to extensions to dwellings. The need to complete a financial assessment for eligibility for a disabilities funding grant can also build delays into the process especially when there were delays in the provision of information. It also depended on whether the framework agreement was used or quotes needed to be obtained to undertake works.

This process was now being streamlined for all new cases and a plan was in place to clear the backlog of cases, ready for allocation to contractors, by January 2015.

7.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PALMER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

"Would the Cabinet Member please update us on progress with housing void turnaround times?"

Councillor Corthorne advised that, since his September 2013 update to Council on this subject, there had been considerable improvement to the Housing Repairs Service due to significant investment in ICT, the streamlining of processes and new management structures. In particular, the procurement and introduction of new, compliant contracting arrangements for voids work had led to faster turnaround times and more efficient operations.

The number of voids at any one time was not necessarily the best measure of performance as this depended on the number of dwellings handed back at any one time which was beyond the Council's control. This would also depend upon those

properties returned by the Fraud Team. Despite this, there had been a reduction from 150 to 30 void properties between the summer of 2013 and present. Furthermore, 68% of void repairs were now completed within 20 days whereas in 2013/14 only 23% were completed in this timeframe.

Councillor Corthorne informed Members that there would be significant changes in the structure of Housing Services with delivery becoming integrated into other service areas rather than remaining as a discrete operation. In order to deliver this, a phased approach would be adopted with services being moved to areas with which synergies had been identified.

There was no supplementary question.

7.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SANSARPURI TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

"How many Hillingdon families are currently being housed in budget hotel accommodation such as Travelodge, in this Borough or elsewhere?"

Councillor Corthorne advised that, as at 1 November 2014, there were 2 single men being housed in this type of accommodation; one at Feltham one at Heathrow.

Councillor Sansapuri, by way of supplementary question, asked what was being done to address this issue.

Councillor Corthorne advised that the Council was seeking to improve the housing offer and reduce the turnaround of void properties in order to address this issue.

7.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES – COUNCILLOR BIANCO

"Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many Green Flags the Borough now holds?"

Councillor Bianco confirmed that there were now 28 Green Flag Awards across the Borough which was an increase of 4 Awards on the previous year. He advised that Hillingdon had more Green Flags than any other Borough in the country and that there were further plans to increase this number in the coming year. He stated that this was a fact that Hillingdon residents would benefit from recreationally as well as one that they could be proud of.

Councillor Chapman, by way of supplementary question, asked where within the Borough the Green Flags were located.

Councillor Bianco advised that there were 12 Green Flags in the north of the Borough and 16 in the south. He provided a breakdown of Green Flag Awards by ward.

7.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR EGINTON TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT

"As the Leader chairs the Health and Well Being Board which is responsible for working with Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), can he tell me whether he considers that the CCG is sufficiently aware of the needs of Hillingdon

communities to enable it to plan and provide services in the future?"

Councillor Puddifoot advised that he, as the Leader of the Council, was the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board which had taken over responsibility for public health activities from the NHS in April 2013. The Board was responsible for ensuring that health commissioners had the public health advice that they required but that it was not directly responsible for commissioning acute or primary care services. The Board had also taken on statutory responsibilities for compiling the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and, based on this, a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Councillor Puddifoot noted that he had spoken to the Chair of the Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Ian Goodman who had confirmed that he believed they were in a position to provide good services to residents. It was noted that the CCG was in deficit through no fault of its own as debts had been transferred from its predecessor, the Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Eginton, by way of supplementary question, asked how there could be trust in the CCG when its website significantly misrepresented the racial makeup of the Borough.

Councillor Puddifoot responded that his trust was in clinicians and not in those who managed the website.

7.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GILHAM TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

"Would the Cabinet Member please provide details of the work of the fraud team to tackle illegal sub letting of council house stock, success to date in retrieving such dwellings and on their general housing fraud activity?"

Councillor Corthorne advised that the Corporate Fraud Investigation Team's initiative to tackle illegal sub-letting had commenced in 2011 and, to date, had recovered a total of 165 illegally sub-let and vacant Council properties. 35 of those properties had been recovered since April 2014; 9 three bed, 9 two bed and 15 one bed.

Councillor Corthorne noted that further proactive work to detect and investigate fraudulent cases included the Bungalow Project (520 over-55's properties visited) and the Fairlie House Project with visits to all 72 flats and 5 Notices to Quit issued.

New projects included data matching and further fraud awareness presentations to key housing staff and caretakers. Furthermore, Fraud Investigation Teams were continuing to engage with key stakeholders and information on Housing Fraud Activity had been publicised through posters in the Housing Needs Reception and in the local press.

From August 2014 investigations of suspicious new housing applications had been initiated. Since June the Team had also investigated 73 temporary accommodation cases and over 16 of these had resulted in eviction, the issuing of a warning or a complete discharge of duty from housing. 2 cases were also being prepared for criminal prosecution - one a new applicant for housing and the other an existing applicant placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Councillor Corthorne thanked officers for their work in this area.

Councillor Gilham, by way of supplementary question, asked the Cabinet Member to confirm that enforcement was taking place across the Borough and not just in Hayes and Harlington.

Councillor Corthorne confirmed that this morally repugnant and criminal activity was enforced throughout the Borough.

7.9 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MORSE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND RECYCLING - COUNCILLOR BURROWS

"How much has the cost of cleaning up fly-tipping risen since the closure of the Rigby Lane civic amenity site in Botwell Ward in November 2008 and the subsequent closure of the South Ruislip civic site also?"

Councillor Burrows confirmed that there had been no rise in the cost of fly tip removal since 2008. He stressed that the closure of the Rigby Lane Civic Amenity Site had been a decision voted for by Labour Councillors from other London boroughs.

Councillor Morse, by way of supplementary question, asked how many fly tips had been removed per ward since 2009.

Councillor Burrows stated that he did not have these figures available to him but that he would ask officers to provide them outside of the meeting.

N.B. This response was subsequently provided and can be found at Annex A.

7.10 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DHEER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND RECYCLING - COUNCILLOR BURROWS

"What steps are being taken to improve disability access for wheelchair users crossing the public highway to gain access to local facilities in West Drayton?"

Councillor Burrows advised that this was a broad ranging question as the exact facilities had not been specified nor was it clear whether West Drayton was being referred to as a Ward or as a town centre. However, he noted that, in West Drayton and Yiewsley, the Council had recently seen the completion of the first major Town Centre scheme in Hillingdon, which involved investment from a number of sources, including the Council's own Capital funds, Section 106 contributions and funding from the Mayor of London, which amounted to £2.4 million.

Councillor Burrows advised that the scheme had transformed the roads and footways between Falling Lane and Swan Road and its development had involved a great deal of planning and consultation with a wide range of local people. Consideration of safe and proper wheelchair-friendly crossings both for the main high street as well as side roads was part of the planning process. Furthermore, the scheme had been developed in conjunction with Hillingdon's Mobility Forum which was continuing to work with the Council to improve access for vulnerable groups.

The Council has also been working with the Mayor of London and Transport for

London and engaging in an ongoing programme of bus stop improvement works across the Borough. In the West Drayton area, routes such as the 222 and U5 had already benefitted from this investment. It was noted that, although this was not about wheelchair users, access to bus services did make it easier for vulnerable people to be mobile.

Councillor Burrows also noted that West Drayton Station would soon benefit from an unprecedented level of investment through the Crossrail project. The Council had been working with key stakeholders in this development to ensure that the new station would be fully accessible for everyone. Improvements could extend beyond the station itself as the Council had bid for additional funding to transform the areas surrounding the station. The outcome of the bid would be known by the end of November 2014.

Councillor Dheer, by way of supplementary question, asked how much would be available in the budget for future improvements to wheelchair access.

Councillor Burrows advised that he did not currently have this information available to him and that he would provide it outside of the meeting.

N.B. The response was subsequently provided as follows:

There is not just a single budget dedicated purely to 'to improve disability access to cross highways and / or gain access to local facilities in the Borough' as every new road-related scheme is considered with accessibility right at the core of the proposals.

There is a dedicated sum of £100,000 allocated within TfL's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) budget specifically for measures to improve the convenience and safety with which disabled people can move around the Borough. This budget is managed by the Council's Accessibility Officer. Projects are identified through the Mobility Forum or through specific requests made by disabled people.

In addition to this the Accessibility Officer is involved in shaping other highways and transport schemes to improve transport mobility and accessibility across the board. Such schemes include town centre schemes with measures to improve the mobility and accessibility of disabled people as an integral part of those schemes. Groups representing disabled people are consulted throughout the design process. In 2013/14 the budget for this included a TfL LIP contribution to town centre work in Yiewsley & West Drayton, Hayes, Ruislip Manor and Northwood Hills of £1,021,382. On top of this there was GLA investment in Northwood Hills specifically of £875,500 and at Ruislip Manor of £1.1M.

Other measures that benefit wheelchair users include the following:

- *School Travel Plan Road Safety Schemes - road safety measures in around schools including crossing facilities: £467,676*
- *Bus Stop Accessibility - measures to make bus stops accessible for all such as raised kerbs, removal of clutter: £314,545*
- *Pield Heath Cycle Track - cycle track at a Special Educational Needs School: £225,000*
- *Public rights of way - resurfacing to make footways accessible for all: £103,456*
- *Programme of footway improvements: £100,000*

The Council also has a dedicated Road Safety Budget amounting to £250,000 per annum from its own capital reserves which is designed to tackle issues of concern

	using ideas raised by residents. Again these schemes are aimed to benefit all road users.
34.	**MOTIONS** *(Agenda Item 8)* Prior to the debate, Councillor Puddifoot requested the meeting's permission to insert a comma between "jobs" and "that" in the final paragraph of the motion. The meeting consented to this amendment. Councillor Puddifoot moved the amended motion. The motion was seconded by Councillor Simmonds and, following debate (Councillors Curling, Sansapuri, Khursheed, Gilham, Money, Eginton, D. Mills, Morse and Khatra) was put to the vote and it was unanimously: **RESOLVED: That this Council:** **a) Notes the continued threat of the privately owned Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd, and its public relations organization "Back Heathrow", that they will close Heathrow and create unemployment if they are not allowed to build a third runway at Heathrow.** **b) Notes that, for the avoidance of doubt, neither the Council or the Mayor of London can determine if the airport remains open or closes and that the only body with the legal authority to make that decision is Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd.** **Reflecting on the results of the 2013 borough-wide referendum in which our residents voted overwhelmingly against expansion plans at Heathrow and the 2014 local election results which returned an administration totally committed to fighting expansion at Heathrow, Council resolves to:** **a) Continue to oppose the expansion at Heathrow and its devastating effect on the lives and wellbeing of our residents and to ensure that the Davies Commission and other interested parties give full consideration to the negative impact of Heathrow expansion, including the health implications for Hillingdon residents and others and the negative economic impact arising from the massive disruption that a third and more runways would cause to other vital infrastructure in West London.** **b) To deal appropriately with the spurious threats and claims made by Heathrow Airport Holdings Ltd or any of its public relations organisations, including the threat to jobs, that they have funded in the Back Heathrow campaign.**
	ANNEX A - FLY TIPPING BY WARD SINCE 2009
	The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.53 pm.

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Lloyd White, Head of Democratic Services on 01895 556743. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

Flytipping Notifications By Ward By Year Since 2009

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Barnhill	342
2010	Barnhill	355
2011	Barnhill	388
2012	Barnhill	350
2013	Barnhill	513
2014	Barnhill	522
		2470

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	West Ruislip	148
2010	West Ruislip	127
2011	West Ruislip	100
2012	West Ruislip	116
2013	West Ruislip	178
2014	West Ruislip	177
		846

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Uxbridge North	147
2010	Uxbridge North	166
2011	Uxbridge North	214
2012	Uxbridge North	144
2013	Uxbridge North	165
2014	Uxbridge North	204
		1040

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Yiewsley	394
2010	Yiewsley	254
2011	Yiewsley	327
2012	Yiewsley	287
2013	Yiewsley	287
2014	Yiewsley	346
		1895

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	West Drayton	314
2010	West Drayton	238
2011	West Drayton	353
2012	West Drayton	385
2013	West Drayton	377
2014	West Drayton	400
		2067

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Townfield	487
2010	Townfield	396
2011	Townfield	508
2012	Townfield	427
2013	Townfield	474
2014	Townfield	565
		2857

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Yeading	381
2010	Yeading	330
2011	Yeading	397
2012	Yeading	418
2013	Yeading	435
2014	Yeading	563
		2524

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Uxbridge South	496
2010	Uxbridge South	454
2011	Uxbridge South	353
2012	Uxbridge South	247
2013	Uxbridge South	381
2014	Uxbridge South	390
		2321

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	South Ruislip	146
2010	South Ruislip	150
2011	South Ruislip	130
2012	South Ruislip	113
2013	South Ruislip	160
2014	South Ruislip	198
		897

Flytipping Notifications By Ward By Year Since 2009

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Pinkwell	358
2010	Pinkwell	358
2011	Pinkwell	442
2012	Pinkwell	361
2013	Pinkwell	412
2014	Pinkwell	489
		2420

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Manor	159
2010	Manor	147
2011	Manor	159
2012	Manor	146
2013	Manor	156
2014	Manor	172
		939

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Heathrow Villages	375
2010	Heathrow Villages	296
2011	Heathrow Villages	398
2012	Heathrow Villages	420
2013	Heathrow Villages	422
2014	Heathrow Villages	607
		2518

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Northwood Hills	166
2010	Northwood Hills	195
2011	Northwood Hills	245
2012	Northwood Hills	277
2013	Northwood Hills	271
2014	Northwood Hills	285
		1439

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Ickenham	87
2010	Ickenham	74
2011	Ickenham	77
2012	Ickenham	82
2013	Ickenham	98
2014	Ickenham	106
		524

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Harefield	120
2010	Harefield	145
2011	Harefield	151
2012	Harefield	154
2013	Harefield	152
2014	Harefield	235
		957

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Northwood	126
2010	Northwood	101
2011	Northwood	113
2012	Northwood	139
2013	Northwood	153
2014	Northwood	141
		773

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Hillingdon East	197
2010	Hillingdon East	190
2011	Hillingdon East	244
2012	Hillingdon East	242
2013	Hillingdon East	217
2014	Hillingdon East	195
		1285

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Eastcote	140
2010	Eastcote	142
2011	Eastcote	134
2012	Eastcote	142
2013	Eastcote	170
2014	Eastcote	231
		959

Flytipping Notifications By Ward By Year Since 2009

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Charville	224
2010	Charville	211
2011	Charville	278
2012	Charville	290
2013	Charville	260
2014	Charville	331
		1594

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Botwell	348
2010	Botwell	426
2011	Botwell	422
2012	Botwell	384
2013	Botwell	434
2014	Botwell	461
		2475

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Cavendish	81
2010	Cavendish	79
2011	Cavendish	127
2012	Cavendish	93
2013	Cavendish	80
2014	Cavendish	138
		598

Year	Subject Ward	Incident Count
2009	Brunel	178
2010	Brunel	201
2011	Brunel	278
2012	Brunel	252
2013	Brunel	291
2014	Brunel	312
		1512

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REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

(i) CHARVILLE WARD BY-ELECTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the result of the Charville by-election be noted.

Background Information

1. Following the resignation of Councillor Horne a by-election was held to fill the vacant seat in Charville Ward on 27 November 2015. The result is shown below and has resulted in no change to the political balance of the Council:

John Oswell	**The Labour Party Candidate**	**950 ELECTED**
Mary O'Connor	Local Conservatives	929
Cliff Dixon	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	468
Wally Kennedy	Trade Unionists and Socialists Against Cuts	40
Paul McKeown	Liberal Democrats	37

(ii) MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2014/2015

RECOMMENDATIONS: That upon the recommendation of the Labour Group the following changes be made to Committee Memberships 2014/15:

- **Councillor Oswell to be appointed to the vacancy on the Social Services, Housing and Public Health POC**
- **Councillor Oswell to replace Councillor Dhot on North Planning Committee.**

(iii) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Urgency decisions detailed below be noted.

Information

1. The Constitution allows a Cabinet or Cabinet Member decision to be implemented before the expiry of the 5 day call-in provided there is agreement from the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Executive Scrutiny Committee to waive this. All such decisions are to be reported for information only to the next full Council meeting.

2. Recently the following decisions have been made using the urgency procedures:

Date of Decision	**Decision Type** / Nature of Decision	Decision-Maker
03/11/2014	**Capital Release** - Kings College Pavilion Running Track: Refurbishment and Infield Drainage Works (£227k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
12/11/2014	**Tender** - Housing Services Maintenance and Replacement Programme - Warm, Safe, Dry - Engagement of External Specialist Consultant.	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health & Housing (Special Urgency)
12/11/2014	**Capital Release** - Disabled Facilities Grant 2014/15 No. 4 - adaptation of multiple properties for elderly and/or disabled residents who require assistance (£232k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
12/11/2014	**Capital Release** - Disabled Facilities Grant 2014/15 No. 5 - adaptation of multiple properties for elderly and/or disabled residents who require assistance (£46k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
20/11/2014	**Cabinet** - a decision in respect of interim delegated authority for executive decision-making over the winter season.	Cabinet (Urgency)
24/11/2014	**Capital Release** - HRA Works to Stock 2014/15 - adaptations required to Council properties for disabled tenants at various properties across the Borough - Release No.4 (£148k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
28/11/2014	**Capital Release** - Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2014/15 - Reactive Replacement of Domestic Boilers - Melbourne House - Release No 41 - (£130k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
18/12/2014	**Combined Tender & Capital Release** - Primary School Capital Programme - Cherry Lane Primary School - conversion of the existing School Library in to a Specialist Resource Provision Area.	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Special Urgency)
22/12/2014	**Capital Release** - ICT Single Development Plan 2014/15 - implementation of a a bespoke ICT system ' ClearCore' for multi-agency working across children's services (£71k).	Leader of the Council. Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (Urgency)

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Decision Notices

(iv) PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2015/16

RECOMMENDATION: That the timetable of meetings for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A, be approved and the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Chief Whip of the Majority Party be authorised to make any amendments that may be required throughout the course of the year.

Members should note that during the course of the year meeting times and dates of some meetings may change or additional meetings may be called in order for the effective conduct of the council's business.

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Appendix A

Programme of Meetings 2015/2016

NB. Times may occasionally vary from those shown in first column. Dates in brackets are reserve dates for the budget process

MEETING (and start time)	May	June	July	Aug'	Sept'	Oct'	Nov'	Dec'	Jan'	Feb'	Mar'	April	May
COUNCIL (7.30pm)	14 (A)		9		10		5		14	18 (25)			12 (A)
CABINET (7pm)	21	18	23		24	22	19	17	21	11	17	21	19
Central & South Planning Committee (7pm)	20	11,30	22	11	2, 22	14	3, 26	15	6, 28	16	9,31	19	18
North Planning Committee (7pm)	13	2,23	16	5, 26	15	6, 28	18	8	5, 20	9	3, 22	12	11
Major Applications Committee (6pm)	13	2,23	16	5, 26	15	6, 28	18	8	5, 20	9	3, 22	12	11
Whips Meeting (5pm)	12		7		8		3		12	16 (23)			9
Pensions Committee (7pm)		17			23			9			23		
Pensions Board (5pm)			1			7			12			5	
Audit Committee (5pm)			2		24			15			15		
Health & Wellbeing Board (2.30pm)			21		22			10			15		
Health & Wellbeing Board Working Group (dates tbc)													
Domestic Violence Action Forum (2pm)			8			7			6			6	
Domestic Violence Steering Executive (10am)		29			14						21		
Petition Hearings with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation & Recycling (7pm)	20	17	15		16	14	11	9	20	17	16	13	18
Petition Hearings with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property & Business Services (7pm)		24			9		4		13	24		20	
Petition Hearings with other Cabinet Members (dates & times tbc)													
Licensing Committee (10am)		17			24				12			14	
Licensing Sub-Committee (time tbc)	15, 29	5, 26	3, 23	7, 21	1, 16	2, 16	6, 26	7	5, 21	3, 19	1,16, 31	18, 22	
Executive Scrutiny Committee (at the rising of Cabinet)	21	18	23		24	22	19	17	21	11	17	21	19
Social Services, Housing & Public Health Policy Overview Committee (POC) (7pm)			2, 30		8	6	4		20	23	24	20	
Residents' & Environmental Services POC (5.30pm)		25	29		23	15	12		19	24	23	27	
Children, Young People and Learning POC (7pm)		24	15		9	7	25		13	17	16	13	
Corporate Services and Partnerships POC (7.30pm)		25	21		15	13	10		7	2	10	26	
External Services Scrutiny Committee (6pm)		17	14		17	8	17		12	16	15	26	
Hillingdon SACRE (7.30pm)		16					4				8		
Standards Committee (7pm)		15			14			7			7		
Corporate Parenting Board (5pm)	11		20		21		16		11		14		18
Registration & Appeals Committee (dates / times tbc)													

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POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Reporting Officers: Head of Democratic Services and Electoral Services Manager

SUMMARY

1. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2013, the Council has a statutory duty to conduct a regular review of its polling districts and polling places. The current review must be completed by 31 January 2015. The last such review was completed in 2011.

2. The aim of the review is to seek to ensure that:
   (a) all the electors in the borough have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
   (b) so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That, with the aim of ensuring a consistent level of provision of 3 Polling Places per ward wherever possible, the proposed polling arrangements within the Borough, be approved.

INFORMATION

3. The aim of the exercise is to make voting convenient to electors, providing places that are well located within communities, avoiding road safety hazards and using any existing boundaries (i.e. open space land, railway lines etc) but with an eye to economising where possible – particularly in view of the number of electors who now choose to vote by post.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

4. To ensure clarity in discussing issues arising from the review the following definitions are used:

   - **polling district;** a geographical sub-division of an electoral area i.e. a UK parliamentary constituency, a European parliamentary electoral region, a ward or an electoral division.
   - **polling place**; a geographical area in which a polling station is located. However, as there is no legal definition of what a polling place is, the geographical area could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district.
   - **polling station**; the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

REVIEW PROCESS

5. Public Notice of the review was published at the Council Offices, in Hillingdon People, on the council website, and sent to all Councillors, the three local MP's, various residents associations, community groups and libraries. Views were

invited from residents, local political parties and councillors as well as such persons as the Council thinks have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Documentation provided included ward maps showing polling station locations as well as polling boundaries and also the electorate served by each polling area. The consultation concluded on 31 December 2014.

6. There is no requirement to change existing arrangements if it is felt that these are suitable, but consultation must take place so that the process is seen to be open and fair and any decision to make no change must be clearly supported by a reason, such as that the current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

7. The Returning Officer must comment on all existing polling stations and any proposed or possible new ones. His comments were included in the consultation documents issued.

8. The final stage of the review is for Council to consider all the proposals and comments received, approve and then publish the results of the review. The completion of this review does not preclude reviewing polling places further should circumstances change e.g. a better venue becomes available or an existing polling place is no longer available.

9. The responses received are all listed in the appendices by Ward and one general response is included at Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The costs of the public consultation were met from existing budgets. The net effect of the proposals would produce a reduction of approximately £2,500 on polling location hire and staffing costs. It is only local elections where this cost is met by the authority.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2013, places a duty on all local authorities to review all polling districts and polling places every five years. This report seeks to give effect to this duty.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

12. The aim of the exercise is to make voting convenient to electors, providing places that are well located within communities, avoiding road safety hazards and using any existing boundaries.

13. The review is based on the number of electors on the current register of electors. The borough currently has 74 polling districts. Each polling district should serve approximately equal numbers of electors and polling locations should be 'logical' i.e. electors should not have to travel past another polling place to get to their own and none should be shared by different wards.

14. This exercise does not allow the movement of ward boundaries. Any issues relating to this would be dealt with as a different exercise. This is merely to determine whether the electors in each ward are best served by the current polling arrangements.

15 An additional element in this year's review has been the effect of Individual Elector Registration (IER) upon overall elector numbers. Pilots have shown that IER can, initially, result in a decrease in the number of people registered. Although the full effect of IER on elector numbers in Hillingdon will not be known until late 2015, the publication of the most recent register in December 2014 (the first such since the IER process commenced) has already seen a reduction of 4416 people registered to vote in a Parliamentary election in comparison with the figure used in the initial consultation.

15. The Wards where the consultation has produced proposals for change, or are exceptions to the principal of having three Polling Places per ward, are summarised below. The detail of all wards is attached as an appendix. Maps showing all the proposed polling stations are available as a background document, in the Group offices and on the Council website.

Ward	Recommendation
Botwell	• With the electorate size and high voting turnout, there are grounds for retaining 4 polling districts in this ward • HB2 - Albert Hall, Albert Road - relocate to Hayes and Harlington Community Centre as used at last election. • HB4/HB5 - combine at Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane.
Brunel	• UA3 - relocate to Bishopsholt School instead of St John's Church. • UA4 - remove Salem Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road, and redistribute electors in the following roads to UA2, Walter Pomeroy Hall Royal Lane: Cherry Grove, Morello Avenue, Stella Close, West Drayton Road, White Heart Avenue, Barncroft Close, Barwick Drive, Glasshouse Close, Harlington Road, Hooper Drive and Little London Close, with the balance to UA3, Bishopsholt School, Royal Lane. • Move electors in the following roads from UA3 to UA2, Walter Pomeroy Hall, Royal Lane: Amberley Way, Concorde Close,

Ward	Recommendation
	Cornfield Close, Hillingdon Road, Ivybridge Close, Kingston Lane, Merryfields, Orchard Waye, Park Road East, The Greenway, Turnpike Lane and Whitehall Road.
Charville	• HC2 Hewens College, Hewens Road - relocate to Hayes End Library
Eastcote and East Ruislip	• With the electorate size and high voting turnout, there are grounds for retaining 4 polling districts in this ward
Heathrow Villages	• HD2/3 Cherry Lane School, Sipson Road - combine into single station • HD4 Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane - close and combine with HD2
Northwood Hills	• RE4, Northwood Library, Potter Street, - remove and redistribute the electors between RE1, Hillside School, Northwood Way and RE3, Harlyn Primary Nursery School, Tolcarne Drive, using Pinner Road as the natural boundary (Pinner Road electors going to RE3 along with those roads south of Pinner Road, all roads north of Pinner Road relocating to RE1).
South Ruislip	• UE1 South Ruislip Christian Fellowship - electors in the following roads to be relocated to UE2: Bourne Avenue, Cedar Avenue, Great Central Avenue, Manor Gardens, Primrose Gardens, Priors Gardens and South Park Way • UE2 South Ruislip Youth Centre - relocate to South Ruislip Library • UE3 Ruislip Gardens Primary School, Stafford Road - in keeping with the principle of having three Polling Places per Ward, close and relocate to UE1.
Uxbridge North	• The development of the former RAF site would suggest the need to retain 4 polling areas at this stage. • UF1, Hermitage Primary School, Belmont Road - relocate to Christ Church, Redford Way.

Ward	Recommendation
Uxbridge South	UG1, Uxbridge Centre, The Greenway - remove and redistribute the electors between UG2, Whitehall Infants School, Cowley Road and UG4, Cowley Meeting Hall, using the boundary of High Street and Cowley Road in UG1 to move either south to UG4 or north to UG2.
West Drayton	• The size of the electorate and the development at the former RAF site suggest that four polling stations should be retained for this Ward. • HG1, 2nd West Drayton Scout Hall, Rowan Road - relocate to the Meadows Community Centre, Wise Lane. • HG1 and HG2 - relocate the electors in the following roads from HG1 to HG2, St Catherine's Church Hall, Money Lane: Avenue Close Brooklyn Way Catherines Close Church Close Church Rd Copse Close Frays Close Mill Close Mill Rd Money Lane Pippins close St Martin's Rd St Martin's Close The Common The Green Wren Drive • HG1 and HG2 - relocate the electors in the following roads from HG2 to HG1: Rowlheys Place Stainby Close
West Ruislip	Officers have explored the possibility of an alternative location for RF3 at the Air Training Corps HQ, Ickenham Road. Pending final agreement, then electors in the following roads would move from RF2 to RF3: Barnwood Close, Beaufort Road, Blenheim Crescent, Cordingley Road, Harwell Close, Ickenham Close, Ickenham Road (part) and Lysander Close

Ward	Recommendation
Yiewsley	• UH2 Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall, Colham Avenue - relocate to Yiewsley Library, High Street.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Various written responses to consultation; maps of all polling locations

Appendix A

General submission from Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party
London Borough of Hillingdon Labour Group

Hayes and Harlington CLP and Hillingdon Council Labour Group welcome the opportunity to participate in the review of electoral wards Polling Districts. However, we are somewhat concerned that the proposals circulated by the Returning Officer appear, on paper at least, to be part of yet another cost saving exercise by the local authority rather than a meaningful review of the current arrangements. We believe that the proposed arrangements will not lead to any meaningful savings but WILL make voting for a large number of electors more difficult and certainly less convenient.

Whilst we will, in the main, concentrate on the proposed arrangements for the Hayes and Harlington Constituency it is important to consider the arrangements as a whole.

Note: The grid below assumes that PDs sharing a single polling place counts as a single PD

Ward	Current No. PDs	Council Proposed No. PDs	Results Summary
Barnhill	3	3	No Change
Botwell	4	3	Minus 1
Brunel	4	3	Minus 1
Cavendish	3	3	No Change
Charville	3	3	No Change
Eastcote & East Ruislip	4	4	No .Change
Harefield	3	2	Minus 1
Heathrow Villages	4	3	Minus 1
Hillingdon East	3	3	No Change
Ickenham	3	3	No Change
Manor	3	3	No Change
Northwood	3	3	No Change
Northwood Hills	4	3	Minus 1
Pinkwell	2	2	No Change
South Ruislip	4	3	Minus 1
Townfield	3	3	No Change
Uxbridge North	4	4	No Change
Uxbridge South	4	3	Minus 1
West Drayton	4	4	No Change
West Ruislip	3	3	No Change
Yeading	3	3	No Change
Yiewsley	3	2·	Minus 1
Total Number of PDs	74	66	Minus 8

From the figures shown above it can be assumed that there is an aim to limit wards to 3 or less polling districts, that only 3 wards will have 4 polling districts and despite the large number of new homes built across the borough NO proposals have been made to increase the number of polling districts within a single ward.

Whilst we do not see it as our responsibility to comment on polling arrangements for wards outside of our constituency we are amazed that it is proposed to remove the polling district for Ruislip Gardens in the South Ruislip Ward and also to the removal of UA4 in the Brunel ward. These changes will dramatically affect the electors in these areas and we wish to assure the current ward Councillors for these wards that all of our Labour Councillors will support them if they seek to make amendments to the proposals for these wards.

The Returning Officer states in his letter that the aim is 'locate all of our Polling Places a convenient distance from the majority of electors homes, easy to find, and easily accessible to all'. This is not demonstrated when, for example, the proposal suggests the removal of Polling District HB2 (Botwell Ward) when the accessibility to the new proposed polling place is anything but convenient to any of the electors living within the current HB2 Polling District.

Generally it is clearly believed, and demonstrated, that convenient polling places near to where the majority of electors live voting turnout figures are likely to be higher.

We, as a Constituency Labour Party, along with the Labour Group, have carefully considered the proposals and have also consulted with electors. We believe that our detailed proposals, detailed below, are fair and are clearly justified. We endorse the proposal to merge polling districts that share a suitable and convenient, to all, single polling place and have, therefore, only made proposals to amend the council's proposals where there are valid and supportable reasons to do so.

We propose the following

Ward	**Current No. PDs**	**Labour Proposed No. Pds**	**Results Summary**
Botwell	**4**	**4**	**Retain HB2**
Heathrow Villages	**4**	**5**	**Retain HD4 and create new PD for Cranford Cross**
Pinkwell	**2**	**3**	**Create 1new PD**
Townfield	**3**	**4**	**Create 1new PD**

We are convinced that the proposals, we are submitting, are fair and equitable and will help the electors involved in being able to vote in a convenient polling place near to where they live .

This submission is supported by the councillors for the four named wards and fully supported by the Labour Group.

NB: - further, detailed responses are contained in the following appendices relating to Botwell, Heathrow Villages, Pinkwell and Townfield Wards.

Ward	Barnhill
Electorate	8863
Postals	853

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HA1	2222	Barnhill Community Centre Ayles Road		2222
HA2	3460	Grange Park Primary Lansbury Drive		3460
HA3	3181	Sheltered Accommodation Hall Langworth Drive		3181

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Mrs Ashton (resident) - I use Grange Park Primary School which is easily accessible from home, either by car or by walking and, as such, is ideal.

Proposal

No change - current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Ward	Botwell
Electorate	10690
Postals	1109

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HB1	2524	Botwell House RC School		2524
HB2	979	Albert Hall, Albert Road	Hayes and Harlington Community Centre	979
HB3	3694	Rosedale College, Wood End Green Road		3694
HB4	3044	Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane		3493
HB5	449	Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane	Combine with HB4	0

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

HB2, Albert Hall, Albert Road (Hayes and Harlington Community Centre used at last elections in 2014) - whilst acknowledging the natural boundary created by the railway line, the small number of electors allocated to this polling district would suggest some logic to removing this polling district and combining with HB1, Botwell House RC School as shown above.

Polling districts of HB4/HB5 currently share a location (Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane) and should be combined together.

Responses Received

- Mrs K Malkin (resident) - During the last election an amount of elderly people knocked on my door asking why 9th Hayes Scout Headquarters wasn't being used as a polling station. Many decided that going to Rosedale Collage was too far to walk and would be grateful to see it reinstated as a polling station.
- Councillor Gardner (Ward Councillor) - Are you really suggesting that someone who lives at the end of North Hyde Road on the boundary with LB Ealing, makes their way to the RC Church in Hayes Town. It's an idiotic idea, did anyone consider the disabled and elderly who live in the current area? Obviously not! Well we have and there are a great many. The railway line has always been the dividing line regarding the polling area. The RC church already has the addition of all the flats at High Point Village, are we to presume that all the new dwellings to be built in Blyth Rd and surrounds will also be required to

use the RC school, next thing is you will be using the church. Can you please reconsider this proposal, and here's an idea - 'put the residents first' - do what works for them, not what works for the 'council'.

- Petition; "We, the residents of Albert Road, Black Rod Close, Dallas Crescent, Gordon Crescent, Harold Avenue, Keith Road, Nestles Avenue, North Hyde Gardens, Old Station Road, Sandow Crescent, Sutherland Avenue *strongly oppose* the merging of polling districts HB1 and HB2 which would result in an inaccessible Polling place for all HB2 electors." - containing 138 signatures (representing 13.3% of electors in the roads listed.)
- Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party, London Borough of Hillingdon Labour Group - The Botwell Ward has a total electorate of 10,783 and is currently divided into 5 Polling Districts. The proposals are to combine polling districts HB4 and HB5 into a single polling district as they share the same polling place and to combine polling district HB2 with HB1 resulting in there being only 3 polling districts in the future. As HB4 and HB5 share the same polling place and the polling place is suitably placed for both districts we support this proposal. However, we are totally opposed to combining HB2 with HB1. Whilst on paper it might appear that the two districts are close and adjacent to each other they are, in fact, quite separate. On the northern edge of HB2 is the railway line and on one side or other of the railway line a substantial belt of industry and commerce. There only two routes electors could take to get to the proposed polling place at Botwell House RC School:
  1. by crossing the railway bridge, in Station Road, and either walking through the town centre, or, if travelling by car, driving round the one way street system; or
  2. by walking/driving along the West Drayton Road and then either travelling to Printing House Road to Botwell Lane or by using Botwell Common Road to Botwell Lane.

  Either journey would be extremely inconvenient and troublesome. The distance, for many would be too far to walk and would either result in more cars unnecessarily being forced on narrow residential streets or the need for people to travel by bus. We should be using Polling District reviews to look at ways to making voting easier and convenient not more difficult or more costly for the individual. It is also important to remember that there are a large number of elderly people living in this Polling District. The removal of a close and convenient polling place, for this area, would very adversely affect voting turnout. Further, there appears to be no recognition of the fact that the Polling District HB1 is already due to an increase in the number of electors because of the number of residential units currently being built in Blyth, Clayton and Station Roads:

Development	Number of Units
Old Vinyl	810
Paradigm	87
Enterprise	96
Union House	46
Avis Building	98
Total	1,137

We very strongly propose that on the grounds of equal and reasonable access, to vote, for all that HB2 be left alone and that the Polling Place be at the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre or at the Elim Church close by.

- John McDonnell MP - I am writing in response to the council's polling station review. I regret that the council has not adequately advertised or publicised this review. I have not met many constituents who had been notified of this review and were aware it was taking place until I informed them. Inevitably if local residents are not made aware of the review there will be a low rate of participation in the consultation exercise and the decisions eventually taken by the council will be based upon inadequate local knowledge and information. However I have now consulted a number of my constituents and they share my strong concerns about a number of the proposals set out in the review. In four areas in my constituency the proposals will seriously undermine the ability of my constituents to access a polling station and exercise their democratic right to vote. This will impact upon overall turnout at elections which has significantly fallen over the last 30 years. In Botwell Ward the proposal to combine HB2 and HB1 polling districts will result in presenting a large number of my constituents with a lengthy journey on foot to be able to vote or a car journey through a heavily congested area. This will act a severe deterrent to voting and flies in the face of the objective of Government and council of encouraging more people to participate in the democratic process. Overall I do not believe that any reasonable person could judge that the proposals set out in the review document are rational or sensible in achieving the objective of facilitating the opportunity of my constituents to vote. Indeed I consider that the opposite is the case. The proposals in these four wards serve as an active deterrent to voting. It appears that they are driven by other factors, possibly to reduce expenditure, than sound judgement aimed at maximising democratic participation. I urge that in these four wards the council now brings forward proposals to address effectively this democratic deficit.
- Mrs Clarke (resident) - It has come to my attention that the above polling station will no longer be available and my nearest station is at Botwell School. I for one would not be able to go and vote at this station. The parking is severely limited in this area let alone trying to fight through the congested streets. I am able bodied but would NEVER walk through Hayes Town alone. The last time I visited the town to say it was unsavoury would be an understatement. I vowed then never to return. If the polling station at HHCC has to be closed could I be allocated a polling station nearer to Harlington? I feel safer in this area and parking is more readily available.
- Mr Nicholls (resident) - I understand that voters in our polling area will no longer be able to vote at the Hayes Community Centre. Having lived in Asa Court for over 25 years I was amazed to learn that the local polling station will now be at Botwell School! There does not appear to have been any consultation with local electors on the subject. I and I expect most of my neighbours would have raised objections if we had had the courtesy of being asked. As far as I understand it Councils are there to serve the local population & not the other way round. I am sure that there are many more ways of cutting costs if that is what this is supposed to do rather than making life more difficult for voters. I would urge the council & its officers to reconsider not using the Community Centre for future elections.

- S.Arain (resident) - I have found out that recently the Council undertook a review of where our polling stations are to be located. I believe that one of the polling stations we will lose is the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre in Albert Road and that in future all living in and around our road will have to vote at Botwell RC Primary School on Botwell Lane. I do not agree with the Council's decision of not to have Hayes and Harling Community as polling station. It will be very inconvenient for the residents living around or nearer to the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre, who will then have to travel all the way to the other side of Hayes town. I believe this will deter majority of people from exercising their democratic right to vote. I request that the Council re considers, and will include Hayes & Harlington Community Centre as one of the polling station because:-
  - Hayes and Harlington Community Centre is more accessible for us, as majority can easily walk that short distance between 7am and 10pm (particularly for people returning late from work).
  - It is also very convenient for the commuters travelling by buses from various directions onto Station Road (parallel to Albert Road). All buses i.e. U4, U5, E6, 140, 90, H98, 365 and 195 stop behind the Community Centre (one minute walk from the stop to Albert Road).
  - Easily accessible also for all those commuters travelling to and from Hayes and Harlington train Station.
  - Elderly, disabled or any other car users do not have to make a long (one way) journey through a heavily congested area through Hayes town to get to Botwell RC Primary School.

  I and other residents in my neighbourhood will be grateful for a favourable result.
- Mrs Leung (resident) - I am the neighbourhood co-ordinator and residents' secretary for the Botwell Ward area covering the following streets; North Hyde Road, Black Rod Close, Dallas Terrace, Harold Avenue, Sutherland Avenue, Gordon Crescent, Sandown Crescent, North Hyde Gardens. I am writing on behalf of residents to request that the polling station at the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre on Albert Road not be closed. We put a petition in a couple of months ago as we residents were not consulted on the relocation of the polling station, we request that our voices are heard on this major change as this is a real concern for us. We are very worried for the elderly, disabled and young parents in our area who will not be able to get to the new location at the Botwell Catholic School as this would be too far for them to get to an may not even bother to put their vote in. Please can you reconsider that the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre to be kept open for the local residents as this is a lot closer for them and we have been voting here for many years.
- Mr Ahmed (resident) - I strongly oppose closing down Polling Station at Hayes and Harlington Community Centre as going to Botwell RC Primary School will be very inconvenient for me and my family. Please note all my three children are voting age.
- Mr and Mrs Baghri (residents) - I understand that there has been a review of where polling stations are to be located. We use the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre in Albert Road. We are concerned that we may now be required to travel to Botwell RC school which will be difficult for us to use. We usually go to vote after work and it is easier for us to go to the community centre. I am concerned that we and others will be discouraged from voting due

to the distance involved. Please can you reconsider and at the very least canvass the views of residents who this will affect because as I understand it, no residents have been involved or consulted.

Proposal

Due to the location of the Scout Hut it was combined with Rosedale College in 2011. No feedback has been received since then and no change is proposed.

- HB2 - Albert Hall, Albert Road - relocate to Hayes and Harlington Community Centre as used at last election.
- HB4/HB5 - combine at Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane.

Ward	Brunel
Electorate	8036
Postals	1076

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UA1	2150	Alec Rose Scout Hut, Moorfield Road		2150
UA2	1882	Walter Pomeroy Hall, Royal Lane		3220
UA3	1803	St John's Church Hall, Royal Lane	Bishopsholt School Royal Lane	2666
UA4	2243	Salem Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road	Close and re-distribute to UA3 and UA2	0

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

UA3 - the unavailability of St John's Church/Church Hall required the use of Bishopsholt School in 2014. This worked well and would be better suited to accommodating larger numbers of electors. It is therefore proposed that this change be made permanent

In addition it suggested that consideration be given to removing UA4, Salem Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road, and redistribute electors in Cherry Grove, Morello Avenue, Stella Close, West Drayton Road, White Heart Avenue, Barncroft Close, Barwick Drive, Glasshouse Close, Harlington Road, Hooper Drive and Little London Close to UA2, Walter Pomeroy Hall Royal Lane, with the balance to UA3, Bishopsholt School, Royal Lane.

In addition move electors in the following roads: Amberley Way, Concorde Close, Cornfield Close, Hillingdon Road, Ivybridge Close, Kingston Lane, Merryfields, Orchard Waye, Park Road East, The Greenway, Turnpike Lane and Whitehall Road from UA3 to UA2.

Responses Received

- Kerri Prince, Brunel Student - Due to Hillingdon Council funding a member of staff at the Union of Brunel Students, Community Engagement Coordinator, may I suggest that the creation of two polling stations on campus will enhance the aims of this position which is to engage Brunel students in the local community and to encourage them to participate in local democracy. In the 2014 local elections, one side of campus (Cleveland Road to Cowley Road - Uxbridge South ward) would travel to

the Greenway to vote (which I now hear is being removed - thus making any travelling to a polling station longer). The other side of campus (Cleveland Road to Kingston Lane - Brunel ward) would have to walk several miles uphill to Bishopshalt School. Elections normally fall within the same period as exams at Brunel, and polling stations that are far away can be a strong deterrent as students may find themselves choosing between revision or voting. As the Council is putting such a great emphasis on engaging students in the community, a polling station on both sides of campus would put across a stronger message to students that Hillingdon Council does value them as residents. The Brunel campus has plenty of buildings that can be used, and they are also accessible to members of the public. This is a fantastic opportunity for Hillingdon Council to engage a generation of Brunel students. I hope you will consider this proposal and strengthen the democratic mandate of Hillingdon Council, but aiming to increase turnout in the Brunel and Uxbridge South wards.

- Councillor Richard Mills (Ward Councillor, submitted on behalf of Brunel Ward Councillors) - We support the proposals to amend Polling Districts within Brunel Ward. Salem Baptist Church is difficult to access and we support the removal of this and subsequent distribution of these voters between UA2 and UA3 as suggested. In the 2014 elections the UA3 polling station at Bishopsholt School worked well, and whilst the number of electors within this polling district is high, this contains a number of 'Student Halls' from which turnout is extremely low.
- Union of Brunel Students: - Polling station proposal for implementing polling stations on both sides of the Brunel University campus.

  Context - In 2010 only 44% of 18-24 year olds voted in the General Election – the lowest out of any other age group. With the General Election scheduled for May 2015, this is a great opportunity to make a conscious effort to engage Brunel University students in the civic process. The Union of Brunel Students and Brunel University propose to create two polling stations on campus for the General Election. The campus is split into two wards through Cleveland Road, one falling into Uxbridge South and the other being in Brunel ward. The Students' Union will be running a voter registration campaign to accompany polling stations on campus in order to engage our students in the electoral and civic process. The date of the General Election is scheduled for May 7th, which falls into the Brunel University exam period. The proposed polling stations for both Uxbridge South and Brunel are a mile away from the campus, and we feel that students may not take that time out of their key revision period to vote. We would like to ensure that our students know that their vote and engagement is valued, and by bringing the polling stations to them during one of the busiest periods in their academic life, Hillingdon Borough Council would be promoting their commitment to engaging students.

  Polling Station Locations - Due to the campus being split into two, there is a need for one polling station on each side. Whilst considering the requirements for a polling station, the University has identified the following locations to be used as polling station:

  - Isambard Complex Social Amenities Building, accessible from Station Road.

- Sports Pavillion, Kingston Lane.

Operations - The Union of Brunel Students has been liaising with the operational team at the University, who have identified the two locations above as polling stations as they meet requirements for accessibility, size, and safety. Both polling stations are and would be accessible to the public, and both locations are secure. With the General Election count being on the Brunel campus in the Indoor Athletics Centre (IAC), it would only be a short trip for security services to transport the ballot boxes to the IAC.

- Chris Summers (Labour Party PPC for Uxbridge & South Ruislip) - I am writing to protest at some of the proposed changes to polling stations for the 2015 General Election. I believe there is a pressing need for a polling station on campus at Brunel University. The election will be held during a key exam time and I understand many of the students do not wish to take time off from revision to travel to and from the proposed polling stations in Brunel and Uxbridge South ward. I totally endorse the sentiments of the Union of Brunel Students who pointed out that in 2010 only 44% of 18-24 year olds voted in the general election. If Hillingdon Council really wants to address this low turnout they need to take measures, such as adding a polling station on the Brunel campus. We should be encouraging the democratic urge (be it in young people or old people) and not putting obstacles in its way.
- Mr Lee (Green Party) - We wish to fully support the responses received from Kerry Prince, Brunel Student and the further submission "Union of Brunel Students – Polling station proposal for implementing polling stations on both sides of Brunel University campus..." It should be noted that both these submissions refer to both Brunel Ward and also Uxbridge South, however it appears that this has only been considered in respect of Brunel Ward and not in respect of Uxbridge South. I quote no.3 from the document submitted to the last Council Meeting. "The aim of the exercise is to make voting convenient to electors, providing places that are well located within communities, avoiding road safety hazards and using any existing boundaries (i.e. open space land, railway lines etc) but with an eye to economising where possible – particularly in view of the number of electors who now choose to vote by post". With this in mind I will turn my attention to each ward in particular. (*NB - the submission relating to Uxbridge South Ward is included in that Ward's proposals)*

  BRUNEL WARD - The two submissions from Union of Brunel Students have been very well put together and make an extremely strong case to retain the number of polling stations and make one of these actually on the University Campus. The recommendation of the Returning Officer to reject this request on the grounds that "Individual Elector Registration has, in pilot areas, seen the amount of persons registered drop quite considerably. This has been particularly noticeable amongst student populations..." is in itself contrary to the aim of the exercise as quoted above. It is the clearly stated aim of the exercise to make voting convenient to electors, not force them to travel even further distances from the university campus at examination time of year. I do not have details of the actual cost implication of this change of polling station, however the whole paper proposed a reduction of 8 in the total polling station numbers producing a net cost reduction of

approximately £2,500 (see paragraph 10) However it was noted that this cost saving to the Council is only relevant for Local Elections, not for General, European or London Assembly elections. Assuming that the figure of £2,500 is the net cost savings for 8 polling stations this equates to an average of £312.50 per polling station. This is a lot less that the additional costs if say 50% of the students applied for regular postal votes because of the difficulties of getting to the polling station at exam time of year. I refer to the submission by Councillor Mills (Conservative – Brunel Ward). He states "In the 2014 elections the UA3 polling station at Bishopsholt School worked well, and whilst the number of electors within this polling district is high, this contains a number of 'Student Halls' from which turnout is extremely low." This is in itself a very good argument for the proposal to have a polling station on the University Campus to encourage the students to vote instead of making it even more difficult at exam time of year.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS - It is noted that the only Councillor representations received for Brunel and Uxbridge South are a Conservative Councillor submission arguing for a situation where it is more difficult for students to cast their vote and a Labour Councillor proposing that students should be encouraged to vote by making it easier for them. The latter position is the one that conforms with the main aim of the exercise of making voting convenient for electors. It is an established fact that nationally Conservative Party support is lower in the 18-25 year age range than over the whole of the electorate. I hope this was not a factor in the Conservative administered Council's proposals. The Council has the motto "Putting our residents first" This surely must mean making it easy to cast their vote.

Proposal

The introduction of Individual Elector Registration (IER) has, in pilot areas, seen the amount of persons registered drop quite considerably. This has been particularly noticeable amongst student populations. The publication of the most recent Register has seen the number of persons registered in this ward drop by almost 1500 and it is not, therefore recommended that additional polling stations be introduced in this ward at this stage.

- UA3 - relocate to Bishopsholt School instead of St John's Church.
- UA4 - remove Salem Baptist Church Hall, Uxbridge Road, and redistribute electors in the following roads to UA2, Walter Pomeroy Hall Royal Lane:
  Cherry Grove,
  Morello Avenue,
  Stella Close,
  West Drayton Road,
  White Heart Avenue,
  Barncroft Close,
  Barwick Drive,
  Glasshouse Close,
  Harlington Road,
  Hooper Drive and
  Little London Close,

- with the balance to UA3, Bishopsholt School, Royal Lane.
- Move electors in the following roads from UA3 to UA2, Walter Pomeroy Hall, Royal Lane:
  Amberley Way,
  Concorde Close,
  Cornfield Close,
  Hillingdon Road,
  Ivybridge Close,
  Kingston Lane,
  Merryfields,
  Orchard Waye,
  Park Road East,
  The Greenway,
  Turnpike Lane and
  Whitehall Road.

Ward	Cavendish
Electorate	8772
Postals	1185

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UB1	2611	Eastcote Community Centre Southbourne Gardens		2611
UB2	2912	Cavendish Pavilion Field End Road		2912
UB3	3249	St Swithun Wells RC School Hunters Hill		3249

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Councillor Lavery (Ward Councillor) - would be content to see no change

Proposal

No change - current arrangements are considered satisfactory

Ward	Charville
Electorate	8922
Postals	933

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HC1	3695	Charville Community Centre, Bury Avenue		3695
HC2	1132	Hewens College, Hewens Road	Hayes End Library	1132
HC3	4095	Hayes Park School, Raynton Drive		4095

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

HC2 - The refurbishment of Hayes End Library is now complete and it is recommended that the polling place be relocated back to this location to reduce the disruption caused by using the college.

Whilst there is currently an imbalance in the electorate at the three polling places there are natural geographical issues causing this.

Responses Received

- Councillor Fyfe (Ward Councillor) - I agree with the changes especially back to the Hayes End Library as per the last local elections. Grange Park Infant school is located in Charville Ward but is used for voters from Barnhill Ward.

Proposal

- HC2 - relocate to Hayes End Library

Ward	Eastcote & East Ruislip
Electorate	10029
Postals	1428

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RA1	2716	The Great Barn Bury Street		2716
RA2	2498	Coteford Infants School Fore Street		2498
RA3	1526	Eastcote Methodist Church Hall Pamela Gardens		1526
RA4	3289	St Lawrence Church Hall Bridle Road		3289

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed at present although the impact of the development on the RAF site need to be borne in mind for the future.

With the electorate size and high voting turnout, there are grounds for retaining 4 polling districts in this ward

Responses Received

None

Proposal

No change - current arrangements are considered satisfactory

Ward	Harefield
Electorate	5605
Postals	642

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RB1	1880	Harefield United Football Club		1880
RB2	2287	Park Lane Village Centre, Park Lane		2287
RB3	1438	Harefield Community Centre, Priory Avenue		1438

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

The geographical nature of the Ward has resulted in having 3 polling places close together. Comments are welcomed on a proposal to remove RB2, Park Lane Village Centre, Park Lane, and redistributing the electors between the two remaining polling areas.

RB2 covers the centre of the village and Park Lane is a natural boundary within RB2. All roads north of this would relocate to RB1, Harefield United Football Club, and all roads south would relocate to RB3, Harefield Community Centre, Priory Avenue. The two exceptions to this would be Breakspear Road North and Pond Close which would relocate to RB1.

Responses Received

None

Proposal

No change - current arrangements are considered satisfactory

Ward	Heathrow Villages
Electorate	7237
Postals	849

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HD1	1331	Harmondsworth Church Hall, High Street		1331
HD2	239	Cherry Lane School, Sipson Road		2338
HD3	1217	Cherry Lane School, Sipson Road	Combine with HD2	0
HD4	882	Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane	Close and combine with HD2	0
HD5	3568	The Barn 1st Harlington Scout Group, High Street	To become HD3	3568

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

Polling stations HD2/3, Cherry Lane School, Sipson Road and HD4, Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane are located quite close together and it is suggested that consideration be given to removing polling area HD4 which is small and relocating to HD2/3

The polling districts of HD2/HD3 currently share a location and should be combined together.

Responses Received

- Mr Tomlinson (resident) - It is important to protect our democracy by opening more polling stations instead of closures. Sipson polling station must be kept open and Cranford Cross polling station must be re-opened. Short term cost savings will lead to long term decline and abuse of our democracy.
- Miss Obot (resident) - As a resident in Sipson village I would like to agree with the letter received from the Heathrow Villages Labour Councillors and raise my concerns further regarding plans to move our local polling station. If this can be avoided at any cost I would appreciate this greatly as moving it to Cherry lane would be of great inconvenience. On behalf of myself and

my father and as a proud local of Sipson village, I would be against moving the polling station to Cherry Lane school due to ease of access for most residents and the inconvenience it would cause for the majority of Sipson village residents.

- Jane Taylor (Chair of Harmondsworth and Sipson Residents' Association) - It is of great concern to the residents of Sipson that there are proposals for our village to lose its Polling Station which is located at HD4 Sipson Baptist Church. The Council anticipate Sipson residents will be happy and able to access the Polling Station at Cherry Lane School. Hillingdon Council are fully aware that the Heathrow Villages are constantly fighting to retain services as well as gain others which are automatically offered in other parts of the borough. It is important for Sipson to remain a viable community so we are not seen as an easy target by Heathrow Airports Ltd to be built on for airport expansion. Sipson residents find it incomprehensible that you wish to remove our democratic right to vote at an accessible Polling Station. At the moment, Sipson residents have the same two options to vote as other people living in the borough of Hillingdon – postal or walking to the ballot box. By removing the Polling Station in the north of the village the only realistic option for most residents will be to organise a postal vote because Cherry Lane will require a car or bus journey which for many people in the village is not practicable. I see from your website that these proposals have come from the Returning Officer who views Sipson and Cherry Lane to be close to one another; this would not be the perception of a voter living in the south of the village.
- Councillors Khatra, Money and Nelson (Ward Councillors) - The returning officer commented that Polling stations HD2/3, Cherry Lane School , Sipson Road and HD4, Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane are located close together and the officer is suggesting that consideration be given to removing polling station HD4 which is small and should be relocated to HD2/3. The officer proposes that Polling districts of HD2/HD3 currently share a location and should be combined together. We, the three Ward Councillors of Heathrow Villages along with the residents the HD4 polling district (see attached petition) strongly disagree with this statement by the returning officer. On paper the two polling stations are 1.4 miles apart when driving, however in practise residents living in the area for e.g. on Blunts Ave will be 2.3 miles from the proposed Polling Station, this distance is absolutely absurd as it means that the polling station will now no longer be walking distance. Residents are concerned that their only option will be to drive to the newly proposed polling station. Public transport from Blunts Ave will include the following steps; First there will be a 1.2 mile walk to the Sipson Way bus stop, the resident will then have to wait for the 222 bus which can be anything up to 8 minutes, the journey will take 18 minutes to Maxwell Road and then a further 10 minute walk to the polling station - this whole journey will then have to be repeated on the way to back to their home - therefore in practise the removal of the HD4 polling station will not assist the residents in any way. Currently 901 residents are registered to vote in the HD4 polling station. Not all persons will obviously be using public transport to travel to the new polling station, nevertheless residents who are elderly and those with disabilities may not be able to use public transport without any assistance. Heathrow villages

is also a unique place because the majority of the residents work in or around the airport, as such most residents in Sipson are shift workers with the majority of persons doing early, late or night shifts. This is also a reason why it is absolutely crucial that the Sipson Christian Fellowship polling station is saved, casting your vote should be a very simple and easy task - not an activity that is time consuming or made costly by public transport. Whilst some persons are happy to go for a postal vote there are many residents who want to vote for themselves, this obviously includes the elderly and those with disabilities etc. In Heathrow Villages there was a 32.2% voter turnout which is a relatively average number when compared with other wards throughout the borough and even the country. There has overall been a low turnout in the local elections and moving the polling stations further away can only contribute to this. There is no positive reason for this polling station to be moved further away. Residents should be encouraged to vote and this can only deter them.

- Councillors Khatra, Money and Nelson (Ward Councillors) - Reinstatement of Polling station on Oxford Avenue. We, the three Ward Councillors of Heathrow Villages along with the residents of the Cranford Cross Catchment area (see attached petition) would also recommend that the temporary Polling station that was historically erected on Oxford Avenue be reinstated as a matter of urgency. The persons living in Cranford Cross catchment area used to walk a very short distance to vote and now they have to travel by either car or public transport to the HD5 polling station in Harlington. This journey is completely unnecessary and there was no reason to take the polling station away. Again, this makes the journey time consuming, not very user-friendly and costly - casting your vote should be a simple and straight-forward process, this certainly is not the case at the moment. The number of polling place electorates in the HD5 station is 3618, this is a very large number of potential voters. Although HD5, Scouts Hut is a suitable polling station for Harlington and its local residents who can vote by walking, it is not suitable for this high number as it is a small station with very limited parking. Many residents on the day were complaining on the lack of car parking space and the fact that it was so busy. There is approximately 8 car park spaces with the surrounding areas having controlled residents parking. This increased traffic creates problems for walkers and the local residents residing in the flats and houses next to the HD5 Harlington Scouts Hut Polling station. If the polling station on Oxford Avenue is reinstated it will distribute the voters. Residents in Cranford Cross were also complaining that their right to vote was taken away when the temporary Polling station was taken away. Many residents stated to us that if the Polling Station was walking distance than they would have voted - reinstating the Polling station on Cranford Cross will simply encourage more residents to vote and this can only be a benefit. Heathrow Villages also has a large population of persons who work shifts in the airport doing either early, late or night shifts. As such walking to the polling stations in the Heathrow Villages is an absolute necessity.
- Petition; "We, the residents of HD4 *strongly oppose* the merging of polling districts HD4 which would result in an inaccessible Polling place for all HD4 electors" - containing 135 signatures (representing 11.3% of electors

in HD4.)

- Petition; "We the residents of Acorn Grove, Bath Road, Craneswater, Cranford Lane, Eton Road, Langley Crescent, Malvern Road, Oxford Avenue, Pendell Avenue, Saunton Avenue, Strathearn Avenue, Winchester Road and Windsor Park Road *strongly demand that there should be the* ***reinstatement of the Cranford Cross polling station*** *that has historically been placed on Oxford Avenue. This will give us ease of access to vote. With a very low voter turnout, this can only encourage more residents to vote."* - containing 52 signatures (representing 4.1% of the voters in the roads listed.)
- Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party, London Borough of Hillingdon Labour Group - Heathrow Villages Ward has a total electorate of 9,362 and is currently divided into five polling districts. The proposals are to combine polling districts HD2 and HD3 into a single polling district as they share a single polling place and to also combine polling district HD4 with HD2 and HD3 the result being that there will be three polling districts for the future. On the grounds that HD2 and HD3 share a single polling place we concur with the proposal to combine these two polling districts but are strongly opposed to the proposal to add HD4. Whilst HD4 is, compared to most, a small polling district we recognise that, due to its geography, the polling district is very separate from any of the adjoining polling districts and, if combined, would cause considerable difficulty and hardship to the electors living there. Electors on the extreme southern edge of the present HD4 would be nearly 2 .5 miles from the proposed new polling place and would be only able to access the polling place by car or public transport whereas they currently have relatively easy access within walking distance. Any elector, without a car, would have to use public transport which would result in an 18 minute journey in addition to a considerable 18 – 25 minute walk only to be repeated once the vote has been cast. Such a proposal is completely unreasonable and not convenient. We very strongly propose that on the grounds of equal and reasonable access, to vote, for all that HD4 be left alone and that the Polling Place for this Polling District continue to be at the Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane. Additionally, we believe that an additional polling district and polling place be re-instated for the Cranford Cross area of Polling District HD5. Just by looking at the polling district map it can be seen how isolated this area is from the polling place at The Barn, 1st Harlington Scout Group, High Street, Harlington. Cranford Cross used to have its own polling place in previous years and we strongly propose that it be re-instated. At the elections in May 2014 many electors, from the Cranford Cross area, found it difficult and inconvenient to get to the polling place at the scout hut and either had to travel by bus or by car only to find it difficult to park their car. It should be our aim to endeavour to place polling places near to the electorate that can be accessed with ease without the need to involve either a car or public transport and the re-instatement of this polling district would achieve that. The electorate of Cranford Cross strongly support our proposal that the following roads be removed from polling district HDS and that a new

polling district be created:
Acorn Grove
Bath Road
Craneswater
Cranford Lane (part)
Eton Road
Langley Crescent
Malvern Road
Oxford Road
Pendell Avenue
Saunton Avenue
Strathearn Avenue
Winchester Road
Windsor Park Road

Total 1227 electors

Ward Structure

HD1	1339
HD2	2405
HD4	901
HD5	2391
HD6	1227

We recognise that unfortunately there is not any suitable community building within this area and therefore recommend the use of a mobile polling station sited in the usual location in Oxford Avenue.

- John McDonnell MP - I am writing in response to the council's polling station review. I regret that the council has not adequately advertised or publicised this review. I have not met many constituents who had been notified of this review and were aware it was taking place until I informed them. Inevitably if local residents are not made aware of the review there will be a low rate of participation in the consultation exercise and the decisions eventually taken by the council will be based upon inadequate local knowledge and information. However I have now consulted a number of my constituents and they share my strong concerns about a number of the proposals set out in the review. In four areas in my constituency the proposals will seriously undermine the ability of my constituents to access a polling station and exercise their democratic right to vote. This will impact upon overall turnout at elections which has significantly fallen over the last 30 years. In the Heathrow Villages the failure to have a polling station at Cranford Cross significantly disadvantages my constituents living on this relatively isolated estate. This has caused considerable concern from my constituents who live in this area and who have real difficulties in travelling the distance to Harlington village to vote. Similarly adding HD4 to HD2 and HD3 fails to recognise the distance this area has from the proposed polling station and the impact this would have on deterring people from voting. Overall I do not believe that any reasonable person could judge that the proposals set out in the review document are rational or sensible in achieving the objective of facilitating the opportunity

of my constituents to vote. Indeed I consider that the opposite is the case. The proposals in these four wards serve as an active deterrent to voting. It appears that they are driven by other factors, possibly to reduce expenditure, than sound judgement aimed at maximising democratic participation. I urge that in these four wards the council now brings forward proposals to address effectively this democratic deficit.

- Mrs Wilson (resident) - I understand the council have proposed the closing of Sipson Baptist Church as a Polling Station with a move to Harlington. How on earth are the less able Sipson residents going to get to Harlington it is one mile walk down Sipson Lane or two buses. Will you be running courtesy buses and provide parking in Harlington which is controlled parking. I feel that again we have not been consulted, residents have to put up with all the activity the Airport generates noise and dust, yet this part of the borough generates an awful lot of money for Hillingdon. Why can't you spare some of these for the Sipson residents or perhaps you can get Heathrow Airports Limited to sponsor using the Sipson Baptist Church.
- Mr Kadri (resident) - I'm writing ref' to the polling station at Sipson Christian Fellowship that will be closed. Please note this not acceptable and I totally agree with the MP John McDonnell that the proposal is to make it hard for me to vote due to travelling distance. Please can you keep this station open for the local people in order to exercise their democratic right to vote and you the councillors please in the future ensure you are communicating with your resident and please do not ignore us?
- Mr & Mrs Hackers (residents) - It has come to my notice that there will no longer be a polling station in Sipson at the (Sipson Christian Fellowship) in Sipson Lane. This will greatly inconvenience many people that live in Sipson causing many people not to bother to vote. Many people will not bother to go to Harlington to vote. It is difficult enough to get people to vote as it is, this will only give them another reason not to bother. We have a democratic right to vote. Please don't make it more difficult or impossible to exercise this right by removing our polling station.
- Mrs Everett (resident) - I understand that there is a possibility that the Council is considering the future viability of the polling station at Cranford Cross. I think that the loss of a polling station at Cranford Cross would seriously disadvantage many local constituents. Many of these people are quite elderly and find it difficult enough to travel by bus, as they would need to do in order to vote at Harlington. They would need to cross the road from the H98 bus stop at Harlington, and even though this is possible by using a crossing point, this area is heavily congested at times, and this could prove sufficient to deter those with physical disabilities from exercising their democratic right to vote. In my opinion, it is important that there should be a polling station within easy walking distance. I think also that the Council failed to publicise the review adequately, which must mean that many local residents would not have realised the need to respond before it was too late.
- Mr Ives (resident) - I am writing in relation to the proposed closure of the polling station at Cranford Cross. I would just like to highlight that this would be inconvenient to my wife and myself when attempting to vote, as we have a very young daughter and want to avoid travelling an unnecessary distance to Harlington.

Proposal
• HD2/3 Cherry Lane School, Sipson Road - combine into single station • HD4 Sipson Christian Fellowship, Sipson Lane - close and combine with HD2 Note - the Cranford Cross Polling Station referred to in comments above was removed during the review in 2011. No comments have been received during subsequent elections.

Ward	Hillingdon East
Electorate	8988
Postals	1102

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Eelectorate
UC1	2919	Royal British Legion Uxbridge Road		2919
UC2	2193	Ryefield Nursery School Ryefield Avenue		2193
UC3	3876	Oak Farm School Nursery Unit Windsor Avenue		3876

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Councillor Bridges (Ward Councillor) - concerned that residents living in roads such as Heath Road, De Sails and Paget are walking a long way to vote at UC1, Royal British Legion. Suggest consideration be given to allowing residents in these areas to vote at Hayes End Library (located in Charville ward)
- Mrs Evans, Oak Farm Residents' Association - residents in the area are satisfied with the places allocated for them to cast their votes.
- Councillor Jackson (Ward Councillor) - Whilst polling in Hillingdon East ran smoothly and was well managed, I have concerns that some voters were not near enough to a convenient polling station to bother to go out to vote. Roads and areas like Pole Hill Rd (the bungalow end) Mellow Lane west, Hewens Rd, De Salis and Paget were a long way from the British Legion, if this was their allotted station. Hewens Academy or Hayes End library would be more convenient polling station.

Proposal

Where possible seek to avoid polling places located outside of the Ward. Therefore, no changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Ward	Ickenham
Electorate	8109
Postals	1111

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RC1	2807	United Reform Church Hall Swakeleys Road		2807
RC2	3677	Ickenham Village Hall Swakeleys Road		3677
RC3	1625	Ickenham Guide Hut Community Close		1625

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements

Responses Received

- Cllr Hensley (Ward Councillor) - would endorse the Returning Officer's comments

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Ward	Manor
Electorate	8538
Postals	1032

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UD1	2602	Sacred Heart School Herlwyn Avenue		2602
UD2	3015	Ruislip Manor Library Victoria Road		3015
UD3	2921	St Pauls Church Hall Tiverton Road		2921

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

None

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Ward	Northwood Hills
Electorate	8769
Postals	1434

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RE1	2458	Hillside School, Northwood Way		3451
RE2	2894	Haydon School, Wiltshire Lane		2894
RE3	1816	Harlyn Primary Nursery School, Tolcarne Drive		2424
RE4	1601	Northwood Library, Potter Street	Close and relocate to RE1 and RE3	0

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

Consideration be given to removing RE4, Northwood Library, Potter Street, and redistributing these electors between RE1, Hillside School, Northwood Way and RE3, Harlyn Primary Nursery School, Tolcarne Drive, using Pinner Road as the natural boundary (Pinner Road electors going to RE3 along with those roads south of Pinner Road, all roads north of Pinner Road relocating to RE1)

Responses Received

- Petition; "We, the undersigned electors in this area call upon the Electoral Commission and the Council, London Borough of Hillingdon, to reaffirm the polling place at either Northwood Hills Library or Northwood School, Potter Street to enable our residents to vote in future elections unhindered by barriers or long distance travel to a polling station." - containing 74 signatures (representing 0.78% of electors in the ward).
- Mr D. Bishop (resident) - Northwood Hills library belongs to Hillingdon Council and there is no cost saving i.e. hire costs, in discontinuing using it as a polling station, alternatives could be Northwood School in Potter Street or St Edmunds Church, Pinner Road. Hillside School has no parking facilities and Northwood Way is very congested with commuter cars and parents vehicles blocking access. The polling station is very small and cramped, making it difficult to accommodate any additional voters. The geographical shape of Northwood Hills Ward with the Metropolitan Underground railway from East to West creating a natural

barrier and Joel Street & Northwood Way creating a natural divide North to South, means there is no need to stick rigidly to a three polling place rule per Ward, more than other wards we require four polling places. With voter turnout declining progressively, there should be measures in place to facilitate easier voting places, not making it more difficult by reducing polling places and making them increasingly inconvenient and inaccessible. Eastcote & East Ruislip Ward have retained four polling places, they have only 960 more voters, there are no barriers or dividing lines and two polling stations (Pamela Gardens-Methodist Church & St Lawrence church Bridle Road) are only 200 metres apart, so why not close one of them?

Proposal

NB - with reference to the comparison with Eastcote and East Ruislip ward (above), that ward has 1260 more voters.

- Relocate RE4 as described above.

Ward	Northwood
Electorate	8178
Postals	1351

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RD1	3099	Holy Trinity Church Hall Gateway Close		3099
RD2	1970	Northwood Methodists Church Hall Oaklands Gate		1970
RD3	3109	St Matthews RC Church Hall Hallowell Road		3109

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

None

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory

Ward	Pinkwell
Electorate	9659
Postals	1082

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HE1	5030	Cranford Park Academy, Phelps Way		5030
HE2	4629	Harlington Community School, Pinkwell Lane		4629

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party, London Borough of Hillingdon Labour Group - The Pinkwell Ward has a total electorate of 9,728. It is currently divided into two polling districts. HE1 has 5,067 electors and would normally be regarded as a very large polling district. In fact the Polling District is made up of a very compact residential area very conveniently surrounding the Cranford Park Academy, current polling place. We have never received any complaint about the polling place being inaccessible and the majority of electors easily walk to vote without any difficulty or inconvenience. The second polling district, HE2, has fewer electors, 4,661 but covers a much larger area and electors do not enjoy the same ease of access when going to vote. During the 2014 local elections the Labour Party campaigners received many complaints from electors living in the South West part of the ward about the Polling Place (Harlington Community School) being placed on the extreme opposite edge of the district and to it not being very accessible or convenient. In 2010 the ward had an additional Polling District much closer to them and no complaints were received. We support the electors in their request for a more convenient polling place to be provided and propose that the following roads be deleted from Polling District HE2 to create a new Polling District HE3:
  Bourne Avenue
  Burnham Gardens
  Carnarvon Drive
  Conway Drive
  Clevedon Gardens

Denbigh Drive
Glamis Crescent
Guinness Close
Marlow Gardens
Nine Acres Close
Pembroke Way
Pinkwell Lane (end part from Carnarvon Drive)
Skipton Drive
Snowden Crescent
Stormount Drive

Ward structure

HE1	5047
HE2	2779
HE3	1882

We also propose that the Polling Place be situated in the Sandgate Football Club building which is very convenient for all electors within the new proposed Polling District. Additionally it should be noted that the Football Club has substantial off road car parking available.

- Petition; "We, the residents of Bourne Avenue, Burnham Gardens, Carnarvon Drive, Conway Drive, Clevedon Gardens, Denbigh Drive, Glamis Crescent, Guiness Close, Marlow Gardens, Nine Acres Close, Pembroke Way, Pinkwell Lane (end part from Carnarvon Drive), Skipton Drive, Snowdon Crescent and Stormount Drive, strongly ask that we have a more convenient polling place and therefore a new polling district consisting of the roads above as in the past." - containing 50 signatures (representing 2.2% of electors in the roads listed.)
- John McDonnell MP - I am writing in response to the council's polling station review. I regret that the council has not adequately advertised or publicised this review. I have not met many constituents who had been notified of this review and were aware it was taking place until I informed them. Inevitably if local residents are not made aware of the review there will be a low rate of participation in the consultation exercise and the decisions eventually taken by the council will be based upon inadequate local knowledge and information. However I have now consulted a number of my constituents and they share my strong concerns about a number of the proposals set out in the review. In four areas in my constituency the proposals will seriously undermine the ability of my constituents to access a polling station and exercise their democratic right to vote. This will impact upon overall turnout at elections which has significantly fallen over the last 30 years. In Pinkwell Ward I have received expressions of concern from constituents living in the Westerly part of the Bourne Avenue estate at the lack of a polling station in their area. This causes considerable inconvenience and is not conducive to encouraging voter participation. Overall I do not believe that any reasonable person could judge that the proposals set out in the review document are rational or sensible in achieving the objective of facilitating the opportunity of my constituents to

vote. Indeed I consider that the opposite is the case. The proposals in these four wards serve as an active deterrent to voting. It appears that they are driven by other factors, possibly to reduce expenditure, than sound judgement aimed at maximising democratic participation. I urge that in these four wards the council now brings forward proposals to address effectively this democratic deficit.

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Note - The Sandgate FC HQ has been considered and is unsuitable for a polling station. Officers will continue to look for suitable venues.

Ward	South Ruislip
Electorate	8595
Postals	1094

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UE1	2505	South Ruislip Christian Fellowship		3537
UE2	1957	South Ruislip Youth Centre	South Ruislip Library	2591
UE3	1666	Ruislip Gardens Primary School, Stafford Road	Close and relocate to UE1	0
UE4	2467	Deane Park Hall, Long Drive	To become UE3	2467

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

UE2 - In 2014 the South Ruislip Library was successfully used as a replacement for South Ruislip Youth Centre. It is recommended that this change be made permanent.

Consideration be given to relocating electors from UE3, Ruislip Gardens Primary School to UE1, South Ruislip Christian Fellowship.

Consideration should then be given to relocating some existing electors from UE1, South Ruislip Christian Fellowship to UE2 South Ruislip Library to better balance the number of electors in each location. This would involve electors in the following roads: Bourne Avenue, Cedar Avenue, Field Way, Great Central Avenue, Manor Gardens, Primrose Gardens, Priors Gardens and South Park Way.

Responses Received

- Councillor Kelly (Ward Councillor) - agree with proposal concerning UE2. Oppose proposal to discontinue use of UE3, Ruislip Gardens School. There is already a low turnout and, if people have to travel along the very congested West End Rd, negotiate two sets of traffic lights etc. to place their votes, a lot more people won't bother to vote. The next nearest venue is some considerable way off and would mean voters having to travel along the very congested West End Road for the next nearest one. That is a car drive away - not in walking distance. This would put many voters off bothering to turn out. If polling stations must be reduced it would make

more sense geographically to close the one at Deane Park Community Centre and use just the library for the whole of that area.

- Councillor Kauffman (Ward Councillor) - concur with comments of Councillor Kelly. I feel to take Ruislip Gardens School out of the frame would be detrimental to the voting population of Ruislip Gardens, Charmichael Close and West End Road.
- Councillor Duducu (Ward Councillor) - concur with comments of Councillor Kelly. Cutting out Ruislip Gardens pretty much guarantees that these thousand+ residents will have to travel by car to a polling station (if they can be bothered or have access to a vehicle). With the result that the residents will feel marginalised. The other polling station will need adequate parking for a greater number of cars. Or it stays open and all these problems go away. The need to travel by car will physically reduce the amount of people who can vote during rush hour too. If numbers were low for the local elections at the polling station, it was due to building work going on at the school and the regular entrance was closed.
- Mrs Sweeney (resident) - On behalf of the members of Ruislip Residents Association I would like to petition against your intention to withdraw Ruislip Gardens School as our local polling station. There are many elderly residents that will be unable to travel to the proposed new polling station in South Ruislip. We feel that there would also be a decline in numbers of residents voting if they had further to travel to vote. Please reconsider your view to closing our local polling station venue.
- Mrs Edwards (resident) - I have heard that you are proposing to stop using Ruislip Gardens Primary School as a polling station. I think this is a good idea as it seems silly to shut a whole school just to use one room. It is inconvenient for working parents and disruptive to learning. However, I think that Dean Close is too far unless you are considering providing transport for elderly and disabled residents and suggest that you use the scout hut at New Pond Parade, shops.
- Mrs Lindores (resident) - I am astounded at the suggestion that you want to change the site of the polling station at Ruislip Gardens to Dean Ave. There are a lot of old people on this estate and will not or cannot go that far. What is wrong with Ruislip Gardens school? It has been used for years for voting and works well. So why change it for changing sake. You need a polling station here for everyone not place it in South Ruislip. This is Ruislip Gardens and we should have our own. Please think about it and realise it is a stupid, unfair to the elderly and disabled and you will get people who won't go all that way to vote. Voting figures are down anyway and this will make the matter worse. So reconsider and realise it is a stupid idea. I would like to know who comes up with these barmy ideas. Whoever it was should realise they are not thinking straight or thinking fairly.
- James Rawlinson (resident) - As a member of the Ruislip Gardens Residents Association I was dismayed to hear that consideration is being given to closing the polling station at Ruislip Gardens Primary School and moving it to the other side of the ward at Deane Avenue. I would like to lodge my most sincere objections to this suggestion. Deane Avenue is not within walking distance of Ruislip Gardens. In order to get there most will have to drive and many simply won't bother to go that far out of their way

to exercise their right to vote. Those driving will have to sit in the lengthy traffic queues to the A40 and find when they get there that it's a residents parking permit zone so will have to run the risk of getting a ticket. The HS2 plans include the likely closing of West End Rd near Ruislip Gardens tube station so traffic in the immediate area and especially around Station Approach (which Deane Avenue is off) is likely to be severely congested for a number of years while this project is undertaken. Moving the polling station into the roads most likely to take the brunt of any diverted traffic means it is even less likely residents in this area will go out of their way to vote. I take my voting very seriously and do make effort to walk to the local school. However, as a shift worker I may well find that I simply do not have the time to sit in long queues of traffic to do this. This suggestion seems likely to undermine local democracy and deter residents in this area of the ward from making their vote. It is important that we keep this polling station in Ruislip Gardens where voters of all ages can easily make their vote and I strongly encourage you to reconsider this suggestion. Moving the polling station to an area which sees traffic jams and which is in a residents' parking area which we are outside of, means very few will see this as a progressive step and it will discourage voting. Please keep the polling station at the Primary School!

- Bryan Skipp (resident) - I thoroughly object to the proposed closure of the Ruislip Gardens voting station, as I and a lot of voters I suspect, will probably not bother to vote.
- Jeremy Wasden (Honorary Secretary South Ruislip Residents Association) - We would like to register an objection to the proposed cessation of Ruislip Gardens Primary School as a polling office. Whilst we are keen to minimise any disruption to education we believe polling stations need to be within walking distance of the electorate to maximise electoral participation, where possible. The movement of the polling station is a movement of 1.3 miles which Google calculates will take the average walker 25 minutes (fifty minutes round trip). Due to heavy traffic the very busy West End Road is far from the most pleasant road in our borough to walk along. Sure, many can drive but where possible obstacles to voting should be minimised, especially for the elderly. Whilst we are a non political organisation we are keen that residents have every opportunity and encouragement to engage in the democratic process. We are concerned that this proposed closure is a barrier to local residents voting in future.
- Mrs D O'Neill (resident) - As a long term resident on the Ruislip Garden estate, and member of the local Residents Association, I have heard that there are plans to move the Polling Station from Ruislip Gardens Primary School. I would like to make my objection known. The School provides a convenient location for the local residents and is accessible for all ages. A change in location would mean a great deal of disruption and hardship to access the proposed new venue. Indeed it would mean great inconvenience and transportation for a large number of residents and would put an increase on the local traffic. I, for one, working within walking distance of the school would not want to come home and get in a car to access a different location and would make me question the whole idea of voting which is currently not the intended outcome. I would urge you to

reconsider and take local residents viewpoint into account.
Chris Summers (Labour Party PPC for Uxbridge & South Ruislip) - I am writing to protest at some of the proposed changes to polling stations for the 2015 General Election. I wish to protest vigorously at the plans to stop using Ruislip Gardens Primary School in Stafford Road as a polling station and make people travel to South Ruislip Christian Fellowship in Deane Avenue. This is not only a considerable distance but if people are travelling by car (which they often are on polling day, e.g. en route to or from work) there is nowhere to park. It is also extremely unfair to those people with mobility issues. I know one 89 year old lady in Acorn Grove and another elderly lady in Stafford Road who simply will not be able to make it to Deane Avenue. I know it is often said that "they can get a postal vote" but in this case (and many cases) elderly people often do not trust postal voting or simply would like to vote in the traditional way. We should be encouraging the democratic urge (be it in young people or old people) and not putting obstacles in its way.

Proposals

- UE1 South Ruislip Christian Fellowship - electors in the following roads to be relocated to UE2, South Ruislip Youth Centre:
  Bourne Avenue,
  Cedar Avenue,
  Great Central Avenue,
  Manor Gardens,
  Primrose Gardens,
  Priors Gardens and
  South Park Way
- UE2 South Ruislip Youth Centre - relocate to South Ruislip Library
- UE3 Ruislip Gardens Primary School, Stafford Road - in keeping with the principle of having three Polling Places per Ward, close and relocate to UE1.

Ward	Townfield
Electorate	9781
Postals	1050

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HF1	2864	Hayes Town Chapel, St Marys Road		2864
HF2	3953	Minet School, Avondale Drive		3953
HF3	2964	Townfield Community Centre, Townfield Square		2964

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Councillor Allen (Ward Councillor) - I do not feel the number of Polling stations in Townfield are either adequate or in appropriate places to serve the needs of the residents. At the last election many residents complained that they had to walk some distance to vote and were perplexed as to why they could not visit one closer to their homes. Whilst some are happy to go for a Postal vote there are many who want the opportunity to go and vote for themselves including the elderly and those with disabilities etc. The distance now is much greater than it ever was. For many years those living in Austin Road voted at the Catholic Hall in Botwell Lane a short distance away which suited them. They now have to walk to Minet School. Those living on the Village Garden Estate voted at either the Brotherhood Hall (now flats) or the Salvation Army Hall or the other Church on Coldharbour Lane which again was close but now not used. They all now have to go to Minet School. Parking at the last offerings have not been good which has created problems for walkers, car drivers and the residents living in the area yet none of this appears to have been taken into consideration. It is hardly any wonder that turn out is getting lower.

  My suggestion would be to allow those living in Austin Road and other roads in that area Little Road, Chalfont Road etc to again vote at the Catholic Hall as they did previously. Those on the Village Garden Estate to again vote at Salvation Army Hall which is closer to them. Alternatively the other Church on Coldharbour lane top of Avondale Drive which again is closer. This would enable more to walk to polling Station and put less cars

on the road. The roads on the village garden estate are not all open roads leading to Minet School and unless residents walk through footpaths which some are loath to do they have to make their way up to Coldharbour Lane and take a longer journey making the distance further which in turn brings about more car usage on roads that are already heavily congested.

- Hayes and Harlington Constituency Labour Party, London Borough of Hillingdon Labour Group - The Townfield Ward has a total electorate of 8,920 divided into 3 polling districts. It is proposed that no changes should be made. Whilst we accept that in the main HF2 and HF3 are adequately served within the current arrangements we are concerned that the electors living in the roads to the extreme south of polling district HF3 are remote and are disconnected to the rest of the polling district. Additionally, but equally important access to the polling place from this area is not easy and somewhat inconvenient. Additionally, within HF2, electors living in those roads within the recognised village garden estate are extremely disconnected from the rest of the polling district and access to the polling place at Minet Infant School is not easy and is also some distance away. Accepting that the Minet Infant School is almost certainly the best location for a polling place, in this polling district, it does have severe limitations especially regarding adequate car parking. Minet Infant School does not have any car parking on site as this is provided within the grounds of the Minet Junior School and as that school is open for education purposes car parking cannot be made available due to safeguarding reasons. There is very little on-street car parking available in this area and as this is the largest polling district in the ward the restrictions do create some difficulties and complaints. We believe that in the interests of providing a manageable series of polling places within the Townfield Ward an additional polling district should be created to include the roads at the extreme southern edge of HF3 and those roads within the village garden estate of HF2. We strongly propose that the following roads be deleted from polling district HF3:

  Austin Road
  Chalfont Road
  Little Road
  Silverdale Road
  Station Road

  Total 577 electors

  and that the following roads be deleted from HF2:

  Coldharbour Lane (from Broadway Parade – 130)
  Crossway
  East Walk
  Fairdale Gardens
  Hunters Grove
  Minet Drive (evens)
  Mount Road
  Silverdale Gardens

West Walk

Total 1332 electors

Combined total 1909 electors

And that both sets of deleted roads be joined to form a new polling district HF4

Ward structure

HF1	2875
HF2	2072
HF3	2388
HF4	1909

We also propose that the Polling Place be situated in the Salvation Army Church, Coldharbour Lane which is very convenient for all electors within the new proposed Polling District. Due to the nearness of the proposed polling place to all electors within the new proposed polling district we believe that most e lectors would choose to walk to vote.

- John McDonnell MP - I am writing in response to the council's polling station review. I regret that the council has not adequately advertised or publicised this review. I have not met many constituents who had been notified of this review and were aware it was taking place until I informed them. Inevitably if local residents are not made aware of the review there will be a low rate of participation in the consultation exercise and the decisions eventually taken by the council will be based upon inadequate local knowledge and information. However I have now consulted a number of my constituents and they share my strong concerns about a number of the proposals set out in the review. In four areas in my constituency the proposals will seriously undermine the ability of my constituents to access a polling station and exercise their democratic right to vote. This will impact upon overall turnout at elections which has significantly fallen over the last 30 years. In Townfield Ward there is clearly a need for an additional polling station in closer proximity to the large centre of population on the Austin Road estate and the environs of Coldharbour Lane. In the past the former Brotherhood Hal was used effectively. The Salvation Army Hall is the obvious choice of central location for a new polling station. Overall I do not believe that any reasonable person could judge that the proposals set out in the review document are rational or sensible in achieving the objective of facilitating the opportunity of my constituents to vote. Indeed I consider that the opposite is the case. The proposals in these four wards serve as an active deterrent to voting. It appears that they are driven by other factors, possibly to reduce expenditure, than sound judgement aimed at maximising democratic participation. I urge that in these four wards the council now brings forward proposals to address effectively this democratic deficit.

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory and accord with the principle of having no more than three Polling Places per Ward.

Ward	Uxbridge North
Electorate	9611
Postals	1517

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UF1	3476	Hermitage Primary School, Belmont Road	Christ Church Redford Way	3476
UF2	2200	Battle of Britain Club, Hillingdon Road		2200
UF3	2323	Guide Hut 118, Sweetcroft Lane		2323
UF4	1612	St Bernadette's School, Long Lane		1612

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

The development of the former RAF site would suggest the need to retain 4 polling areas at this stage.

UF1 - the Christ Church in Redford Way was used successfully in 2014 due to the unavailability of the Hermitage Primary School, and it is recommended that this change be made permanent.

Responses Received

- Councillor Graham (Ward Councillor) - happy with status quo but aware that RAF site development may require review in future.

Proposal

- UF1 - relocate to Christ Church, Redford Way.

Ward	Uxbridge South
Electorate	7988
Postals	879

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UG1	1876	Uxbridge Centre, The Greenway	Close and redistribute to UG2 & UG4	0
UG2	1926	Whitehall Infants School, Cowley Road		2594
UG3	2008	Waterloo Church, Waterloo Road		2008
UG4	2178	Cowley Meeting Hall	To become UG1	3386

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

It is suggested that consideration be given to removing UG1, Uxbridge Centre, The Greenway, and redistributing the electors between UG2, Whitehall Infants School, Cowley Road and UG4, Cowley Meeting Hall, using the boundary of High Street and Cowley Road in UG1 to move either south to UG4 or north to UG2.

Responses Received

- Kerri Prince, Brunel Student - Due to Hillingdon Council funding a member of staff at the Union of Brunel Students, Community Engagement Coordinator, may I suggest that the creation of two polling stations on campus will enhance the aims of this position which is to engage Brunel students in the local community and to encourage them to participate in local democracy. In the 2014 local elections, one side of campus (Cleveland Road to Cowley Road - Uxbridge South ward) would travel to the Greenway to vote (which I now hear is being removed - thus making any travelling to a polling station longer). The other side of campus (Cleveland Road to Kingston Lane - Brunel ward) would have to walk several miles uphill to Bishopshalt School. Elections normally fall within the same period as exams at Brunel, and polling stations that are far away can be a strong deterrent as students may find themselves choosing between revision or voting. As the Council is putting such a great emphasis on engaging students in the community, a polling station on both sides of campus would put across a stronger message to students that Hillingdon Council does value them as residents. The Brunel campus has plenty of buildings that can be used, and they are also accessible to members of the

public. This is a fantastic opportunity for Hillingdon Council to engage a generation of Brunel students. I hope you will consider this proposal and strengthen the democratic mandate of Hillingdon Council, but aiming to increase turnout in the Brunel and Uxbridge South wards.

- Resident response - the Uxbridge Community Centre is an ideal place and I have ever had any complaints about it. As a wheelchair user the polling station could not be better and is very good in every way.
- Resident response - the Uxbridge Community Centre is an ideal hall in every way. It is large enough for many people waiting to vote without having to queue outside. There is also a sitting area inside, not near the booths, and convenient toilet facilities. There is also a staff kitchen area and a large car park with a disabled bay available. All in all, an ideal building for use as a polling station. Large enough and central enough for a large residential area to be covered.
- Councillor Burles (Ward Councillor) - I would like to formally register my objection to the plans to not use the polling station at The Uxbridge Community Centre which covers the UG1 polling district. This is the largest district in the ward and the new distances that you are asking people to travel to their new polling stations will put many people, especially the elderly, off voting. We need to encourage people to vote, not put them off. The Community Centre is central to UG1 district and has good facilities especially for those with disabilities and other needs. It also covers a large number of the student population and making it harder for them to vote makes no sense. We should be adding a polling station on the campus in order to encourage them to vote.
- Chris Summers (Labour Party PPC for Uxbridge & South Ruislip) - I am writing to protest at some of the proposed changes to polling stations for the 2015 General Election. I believe there is a pressing need for a polling station on campus at Brunel University. The election will be held during a key exam time and I understand many of the students do not wish to take time off from revision to travel to and from the proposed polling stations in Brunel and Uxbridge South ward. I totally endorse the sentiments of the Union of Brunel Students who pointed out that in 2010 only 44% of 18-24 year olds voted in the general election. If Hillingdon Council really wants to address this low turnout they need to take measures, such as adding a polling station on the Brunel campus. We should be encouraging the democratic urge (be it in young people or old people) and not putting obstacles in its way.
- Mr Lee (Green Party) - We wish to fully support the responses received from Kerry Prince, Brunel Student and the further submission “Union of Brunel Students – Polling station proposal for implementing polling stations on both sides of Brunel University campus...” It should be noted that both these submissions refer to both Brunel Ward and also Uxbridge South, however it appears that this has only been considered in respect of Brunel Ward and not in respect of Uxbridge South. I quote no 3 from the document submitted to the last Council Meeting. “The aim of the exercise is to make voting convenient to electors, providing places that are well located within communities, avoiding road safety hazards and using any existing boundaries (i.e. open space land, railway lines etc) but with an eye to economising where possible – particularly in view of the number of electors

who now choose to vote by post." With this in mind I will turn my attention to each ward in particular. *(NB - The submission relating to Brunel Ward has been included in that Ward's proposals)*

UXBRIDGE SOUTH - As stated above the submissions from Kerry Prince, Brunel Student and the further submission "Union of Brunel Students – Polling station proposal for...." should have been included in the Responses Received for Uxbridge South. Councillor Burles (Labour – Uxbridge South) sets out very clearly the need to have a convenient polling station. I quote from his submission "We need to encourage people to vote, not put them off. It also covers a large number of the student population and making it harder for them to vote makes no sense. We should be adding a polling station on the campus in order to encourage them to vote." In fact the proposal of Union of Brunel Students being a polling station accessible to the public will answer both of these questions. The statement by the Returning Officer that the Individual elector Registration has, in pilot areas seen the amount of persons registered drop quite considerably. This has been particularly noticeable amongst student populations" is again contrary to the aim of the exercise as quoted. It is the clearly stated aim of the exercise to make voting convenient to electors, not force them to travel even further distances from the university campus at examination time of year. I refer you to the paragraph on the financial implications included above (*in the submission relating to Brunel Ward)*.

ADDITION OBSERVATIONS - It is noted that the only Councillor representations received for Brunel and Uxbridge South are a Conservative Councillor submission arguing for a situation where it is more difficult for students to cast their vote and a Labour Councillor proposing that students should be encouraged to vote by making it easier for them. The latter position is the one that conforms with the main aim of the exercise of making voting convenient for electors. It is an established fact that nationally Conservative Party support is lower in the 18-25 year age range than over the whole of the electorate. I hope this was not a factor in the Conservative administered Council's proposals. The Council has the motto "Putting our residents first" This surely must mean making it easy to cast their vote.

- Mrs Nash (resident) - The Uxbridge Centre is well placed to serve the local community with good transport links from the town centre and good accessibility. This station should remain open in preference to Whitehall Infant School - it is very disruptive for pupils and parents to have a school closed for a whole day when there is another voting venue available within walking distance of this site.

Proposal

The introduction of Individual Elector Registration (IER) has, in pilot areas, seen the amount of persons registered drop quite considerably. This has been particularly noticeable amongst student populations. The publication of the most recent Register has seen the number of persons registered in this ward drop by approx' 1800 and it is not, therefore recommended that four polling stations be retained in this ward at this stage.

- UG1, Uxbridge Centre, The Greenway - remove and redistribute the electors between UG2, Whitehall Infants School, Cowley Road and UG4, Cowley Meeting Hall, using the boundary of High Street and Cowley Road in UG1 to move either south to UG4 or north to UG2.

Ward	West Drayton
Electorate	10275
Postals	1166

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HG1	2540	2nd West Drayton Scout Hall, Rowan Road	Meadows Community Centre, Wise Lane	1638
HG2	2287	St Catherine's Church Hall, Money Lane		3189
HG3	2796	West Drayton Primary School, Kingston Lane		2796
HG4	2652	Bell Farm Christian Centre		2652

Returning Officer Comments

Indications are that the electorate in West Drayton continues to grow due to new developments, so it is not proposed to amend this Ward at this stage.

Responses Received

- Mr M Taylor (resident) - It would appear ludicrous that someone living in Wren Drive, West Drayton should have to walk to the Scout Hut on the Wise Lane estate when there's a Polling Station in Money Lane. You have to walk past this station and then walk another mile to get to the one you've selected us to go to. Even the people at the station in Money Lane couldn't believe it as you can see my house from the door.
- Councillor Gilham (Ward Councillor) - HG1 2nd West Drayton Scout Hall, Rowan Road - poor access, no parking facilities and the condition of the building itself means the scout hut is not suitable. West Drayton Community Centre is located some 300 metres away and has ample parking, step free wide access to its much larger hall with toilet facilities in the foyer away from those voting.
- Councillor Gilham (Ward Councillor) #2 - suggest reassigning certain roads from HG1 to HG2 St Catherine's Church Hall, Money Lane. In order to comply with the principles underpinning the review, certain roads should be reallocated to HG2 which is a larger site with off street parking and can therefore accommodate more voters at a more logical Polling Station.
- Councillor Simmonds - there have been comments from electors about the choice of polling places being rather odd around the Green area, with voters a short distance from St Catherine's church forced to go some

distance away to vote elsewhere. Whilst this does not affect the nature of the polling stations it does suggest that consideration needs to be given to the distribution of electors.

Proposals

- The size of the electorate and the development at the former RAF site suggest that four polling stations should be retained for this Ward.
- HG1, 2nd West Drayton Scout Hall, Rowan Road - relocate to the Meadows Community Centre, Wise Lane.
- HG1 and HG2 - relocate the electors in the following roads from HG1 to HG2, St Catherine's Church Hall, Money Lane:
  - Avenue Close
  - Brooklyn Way
  - Catherines Close
  - Church Close
  - Church Rd
  - Copse Close
  - Frays Close
  - Mill Close
  - Mill Rd
  - Money Lane
  - Pippins close
  - St Martin's Rd
  - St Martin's Close
  - The Common
  - The Green
  - Wren Drive
- HG1 and HG2 - relocate the electors in the following roads from HG2 to HG1:
  - Rowlheys Place
  - Stainby Close

Ward	West Ruislip
Electorate	8695
Postals	1096

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
RF1	3372	Ladygate Bowls Club, Ladygate Lane		3372
RF2	3657	Ruislip Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road		3188
RF3	1666	St Giles Church Hall, High Road		2135

Returning Officer Comments

The imbalance in elector numbers is caused by the geographical nature of ward. No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

- Cllr Corthorne (Ward Councillor) - concern about RF3, St Giles Hall, which is located outside the ward, which may affect turnout. Suggest exploring possible alternatives in new development at Ickenham Park.
- Peter Smallwood (resident) - RF1 Ladygate Lane Bowls Club is an excellent site for a polling station. It is accessible by car and has ample parking. The polling station is also within walking distance of most electors. It is popular site with local resident and should remain as our polling station. In any further consideration this should not be moved.

Proposal

Officers have explored the possibility of an alternative location for RF3 at the Air Training Corps HQ, Ickenham Road. Pending final agreement, then electors in the following roads would move from RF2 to RF3 with resultant figures as shown above:

Barnwood Close,
Beaufort Road,
Blenheim Crescent,
Cordingley Road,
Harwell Close,
Ickenham Close,
Ickenham Road (part) and
Lysander Close

Ward	Yeading
Electorate	8944
Postals	1011

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
HH1	2747	Brookside School, Perth Avenue		2747
HH2	3045	Yeading Community Centre, Ditchfield Road		3045
HH3	3202	Brookside Pavilion, Brookside Road		3202

Returning Officer Comments

No changes are proposed to the current arrangements.

Responses Received

None

Proposal

No changes - the current arrangements are considered satisfactory

Ward	**Yiewsley**
Electorate	8788
Postals	978

PD	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Proposed Changes to Polling Place	Proposed Electorate
UH1	918	6th Hillingdon Scout Group, Daleham Drive		918
UH2	3895	Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall, Colham Avenue	Yiewsley Library, High Street	3895
UH3	3975	Colham Manor Primary School, Violet Avenue		3975

Returning Officer Comments

Comments are invited on the following:

Consider the removal of UH1, 6th Hillingdon Scout Group Daleham Drive and relocating electors to UH3, Colham Manor Primary School, Violet Avenue, with a small number of roads relocated to UH2, Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall, Colham Avenue, from UH3. These would be Ash Grove, Chestnut Avenue, Elm Grove, Kingston Avenue, Lime Avenue, Willow Avenue

Responses Received

- Mr M Hanif Islam, resident - I'm a resident of Wraysbury Drive, Yiewsley and this year it was a real struggle for me and my family to vote as the polling station was twice as far as before. Previously the polling station was on the High Street which was an 11 minute walk. Now it's at the end of Fairfield Rd which is 20 minutes walk. Our estate is one of a number of new developments near the borough boundary and consideration should be given to the increasing numbers of voting residents at this end when distributing polling stations. Many of my neighbours indicated they would not be able to vote as the location was too inconvenient for their families, especially elderly people. A few chose postal votes but obtaining forms etc is not a process everyone understands or feels comfortable about. Please consider a polling station closer to me.
- Councillor Wallana (Ward Councillor) - A large part of community in Wraysbury in Yiewsley Ward would like to have the polling station moved from Yiewsley Baptist church to Yiewsley library.
- Councillor Simmonds - the busy multi-lane road at Harlington Corner which residents down the Harlington Road section of the Ward would have to cross to access the alternative polling place is a major concern. By car it is an extremely roundabout journey and by foot or public transport it is quite inaccessible, so retaining the

Daleham Drive polling station is very important for turnout.

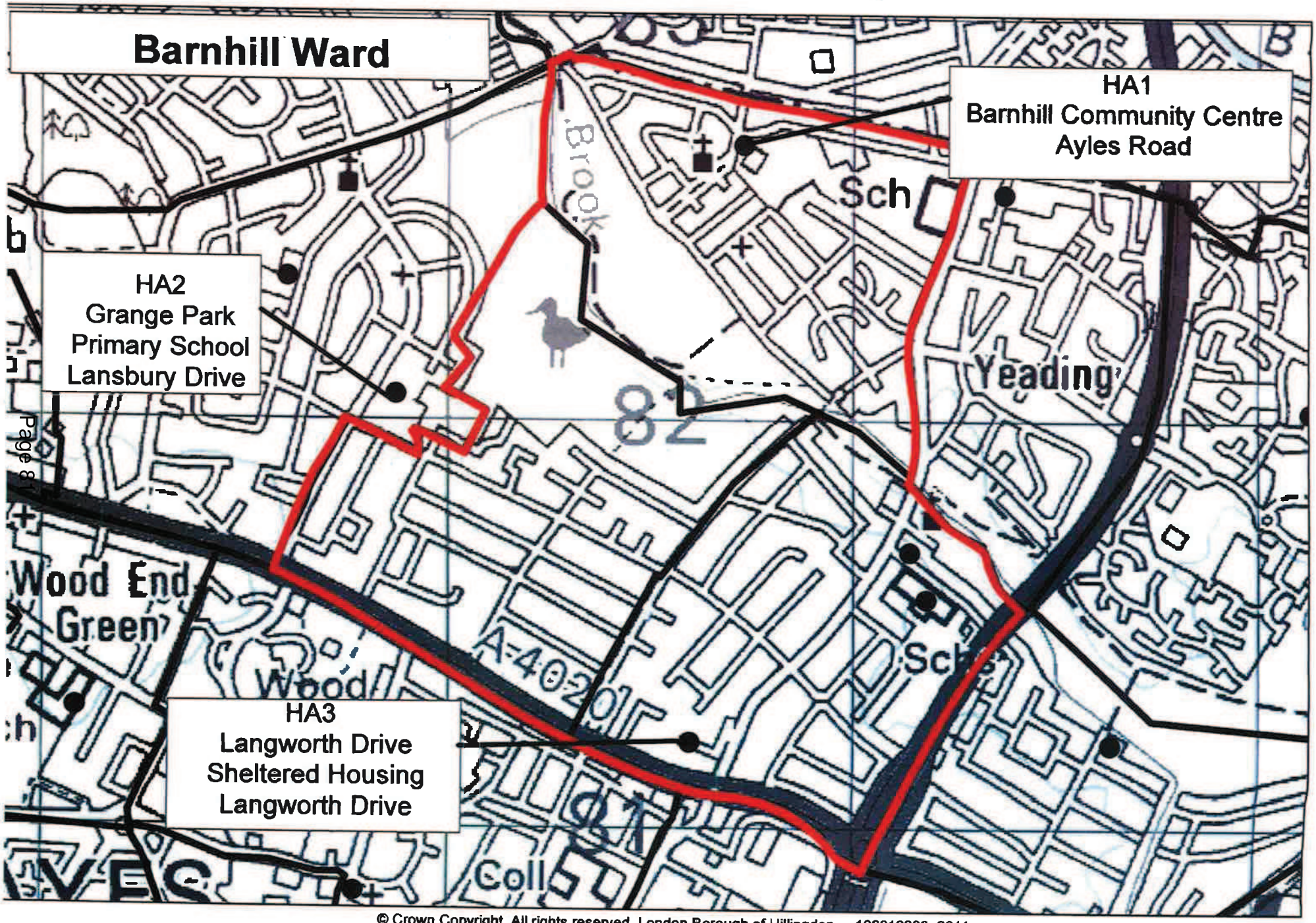
- Councillor Edwards (Ward Councillor) - support the retention of the polling station for UH1 (Daleham Drive Scout hut) as this serves well a geographically isolated section of the ward - turnout at this location at the last election was over 40%, significantly greater than the borough average. Removal of this polling station would make it harder for those residents to vote and would be against the strategic objective of improving engagement in the democratic process.

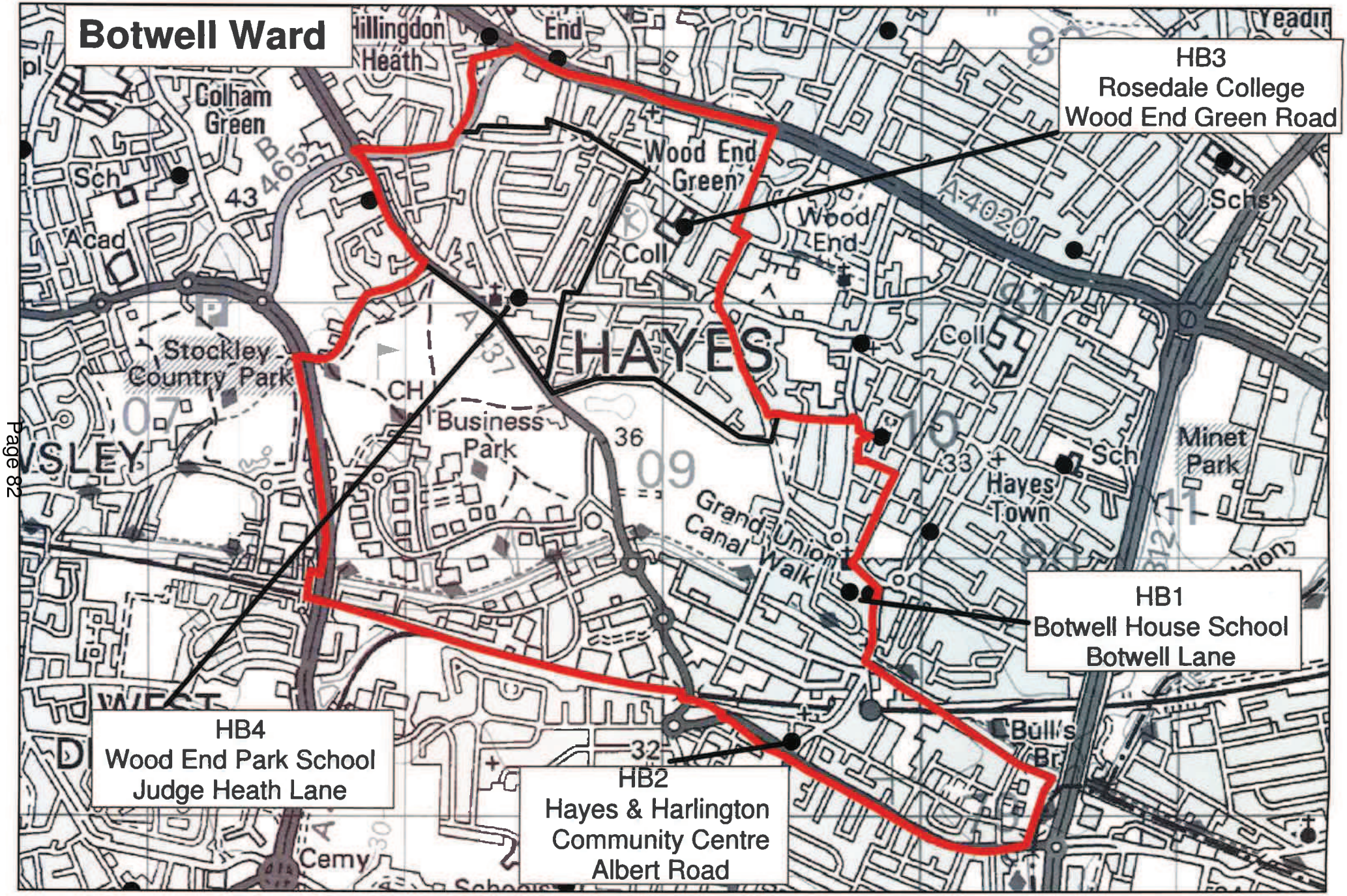
  Also support the relocation of the polling station for UH2 from the Cornerstone Centre to the Library. This will make the polling station more accessible to the large number of residents at the extreme north west of the ward from where representation has been made about this issue.

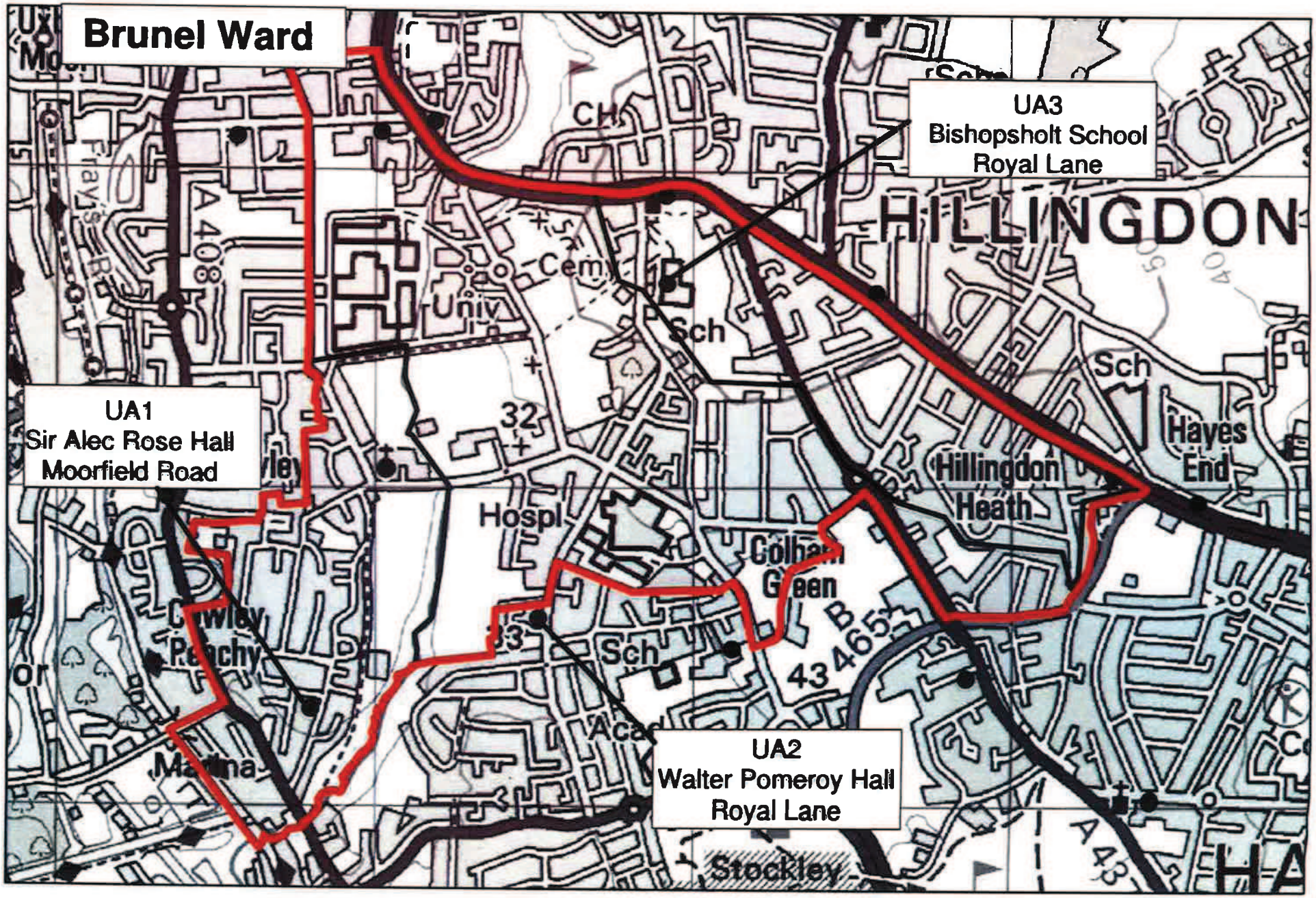
  The allocation of voters to the three polling stations should be determined by accessibility and not an administrative desire to 'balance numbers'. The polling station for UH3 (Violet Avenue) has proven to be sufficient for that electorate at the last local election and there is no evidence of lack of capacity at that location. Consequently voters should only be moved from UH3 to UH1 should that redistribution clearly enhance their ability to vote and to do otherwise would be detrimental to the democratic process. On this basis there is no grounds for reallocating residents from the roads listed to UH1 as in every case they would have further to walk/drive and at worst this would be more than three times the present distance. Therefore strongly disagree with the proposed reallocation of residents from UH3 to UH1.

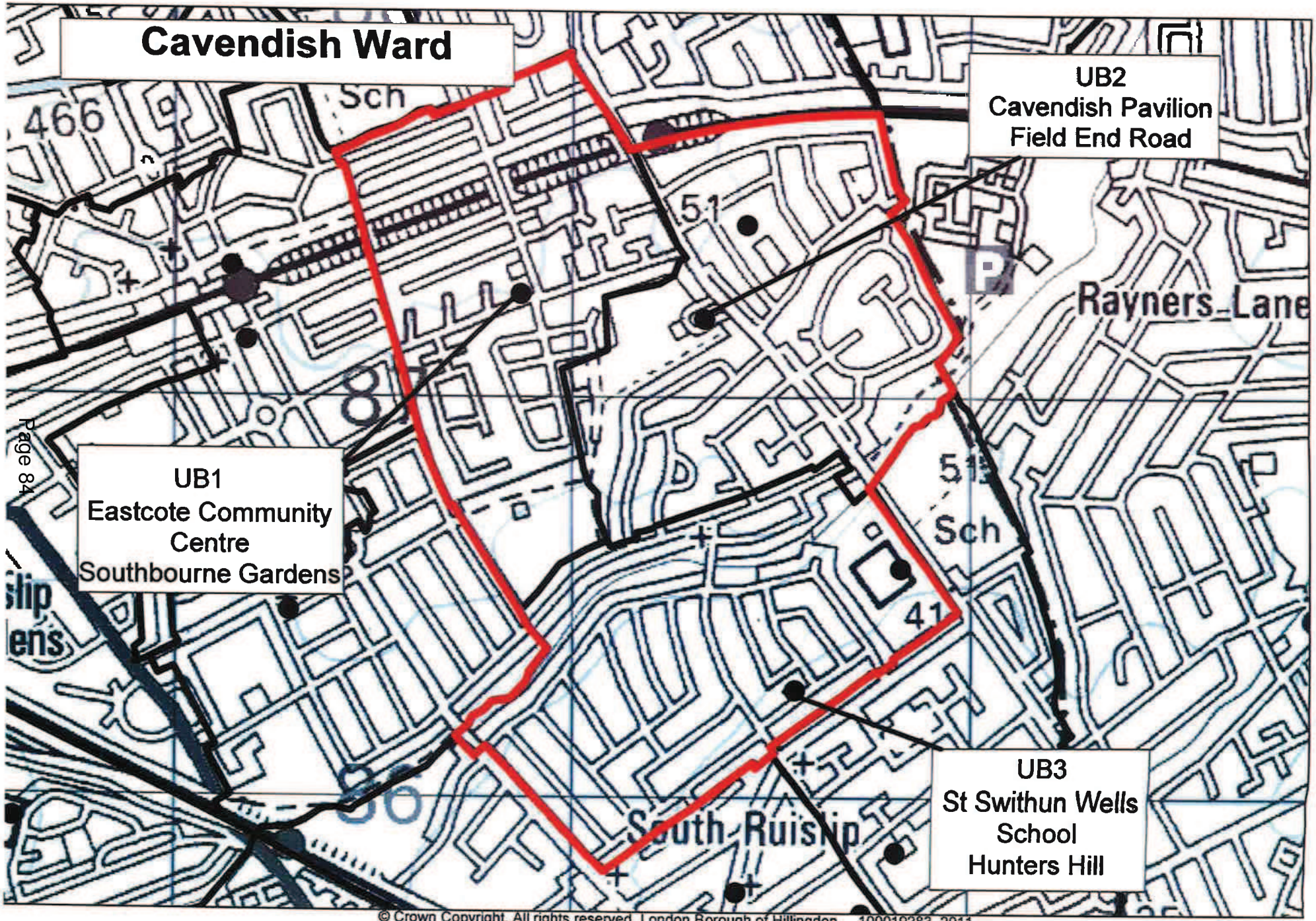
Proposals

- UH2 Yiewsley Baptist Church Hall, Colham Avenue - relocate to Yiewsley Library, High Street.








Cavendish Ward
UB2
Cavendish Pavilion
Field End Road
UB1
Eastcote Community
Centre
Southbourne Gardens
UB3
St Swithun Wells
School
Hunters Hill
Rayners Lane
South Ruislip
Sch
466
51
41
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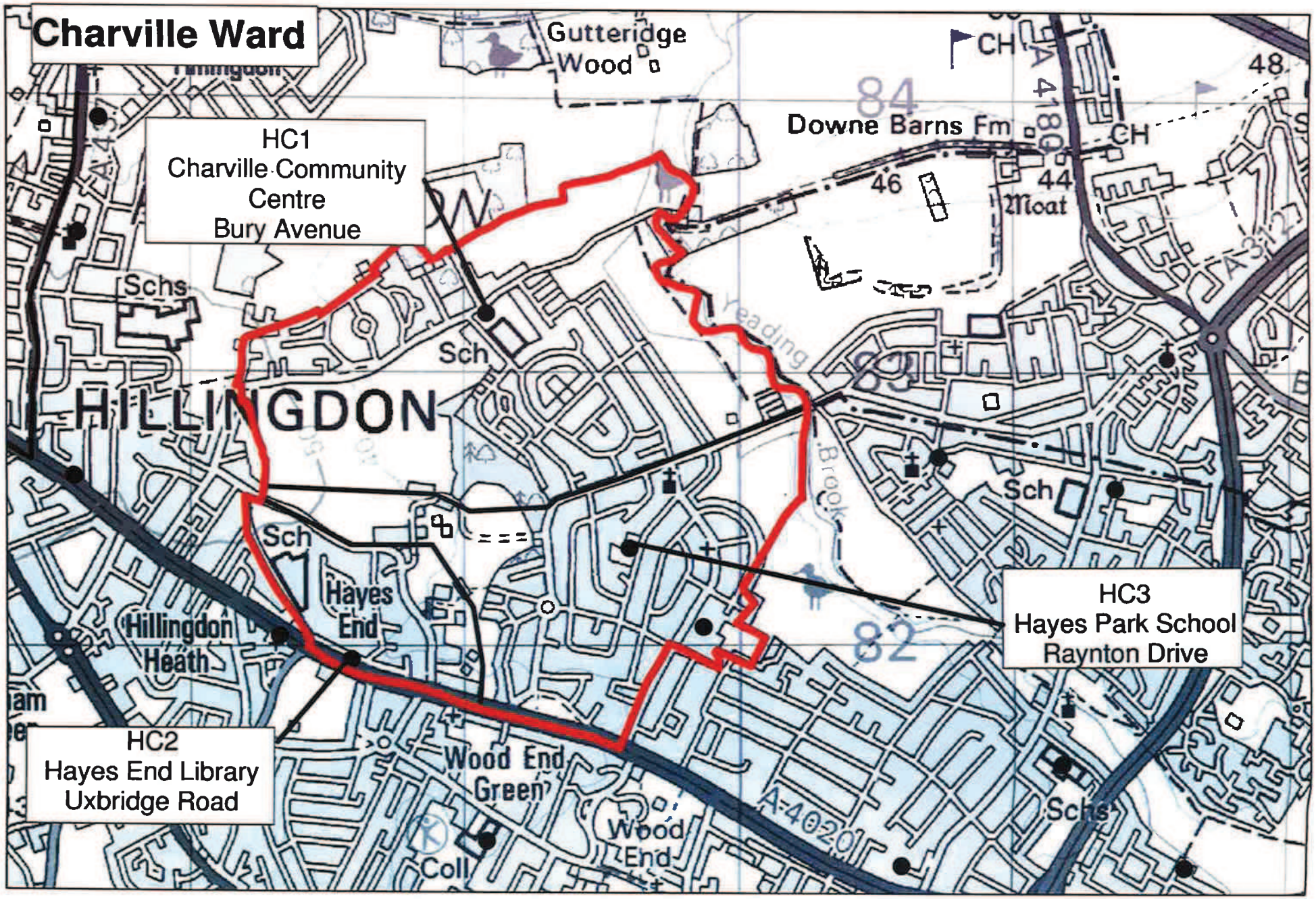

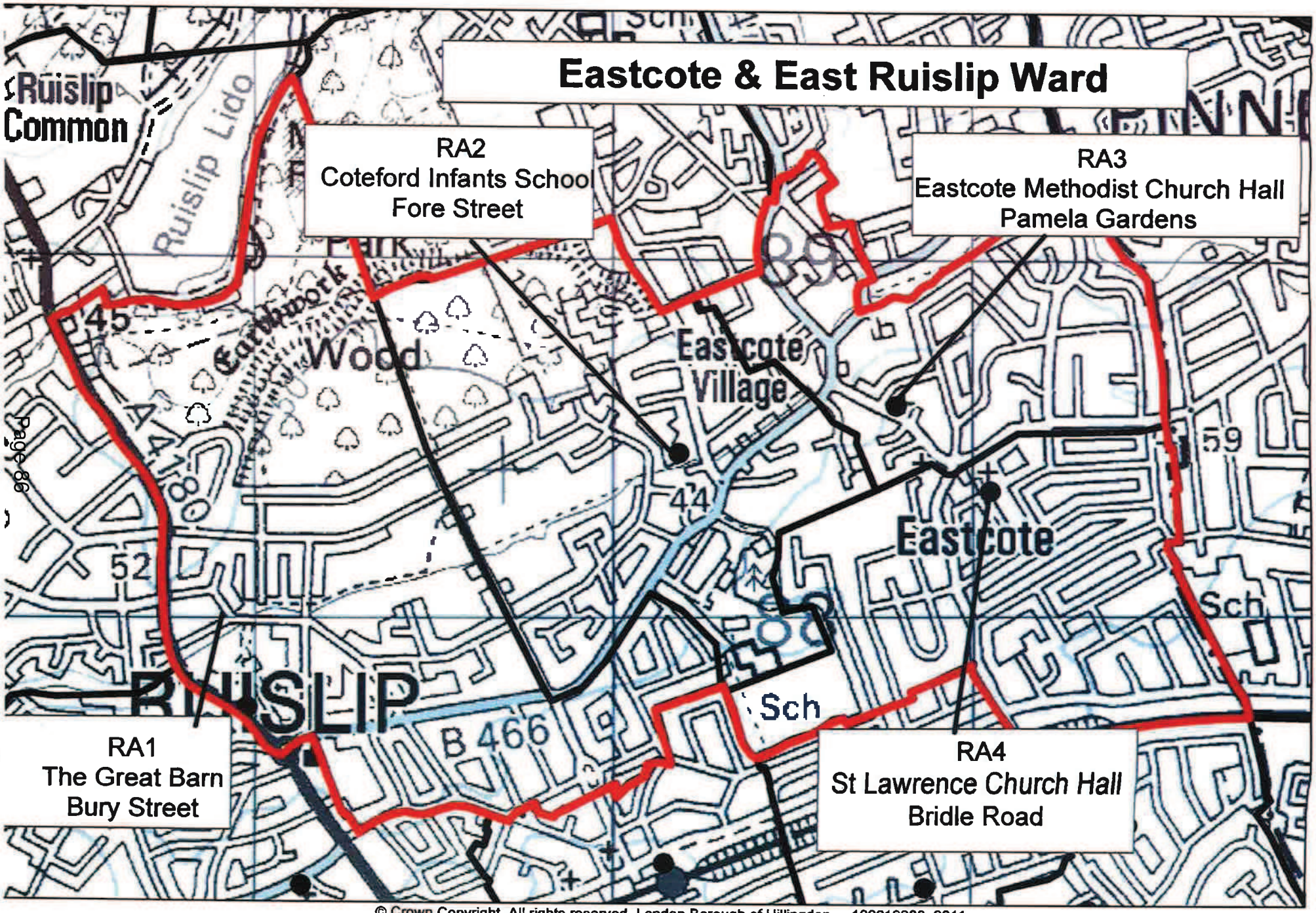

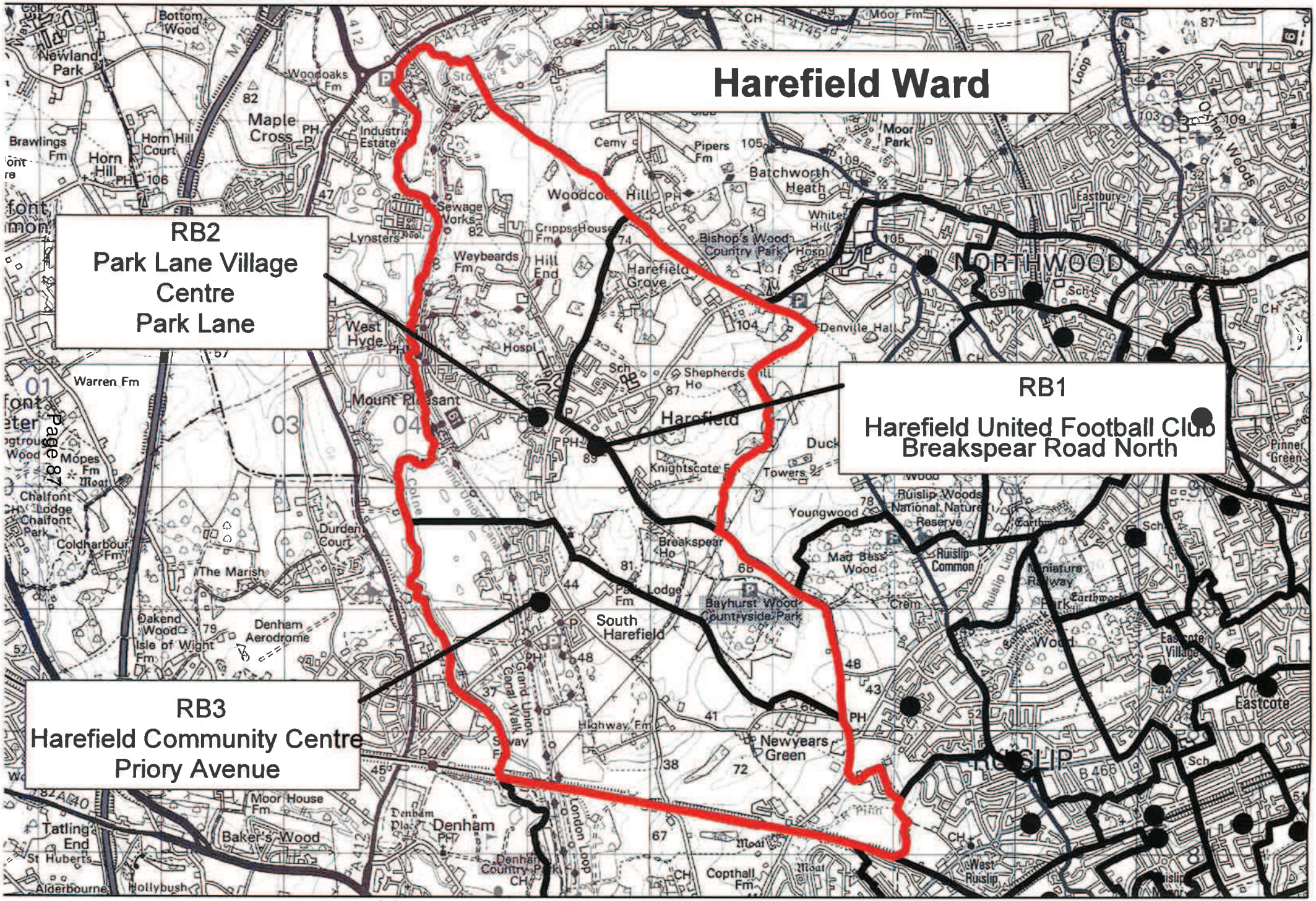

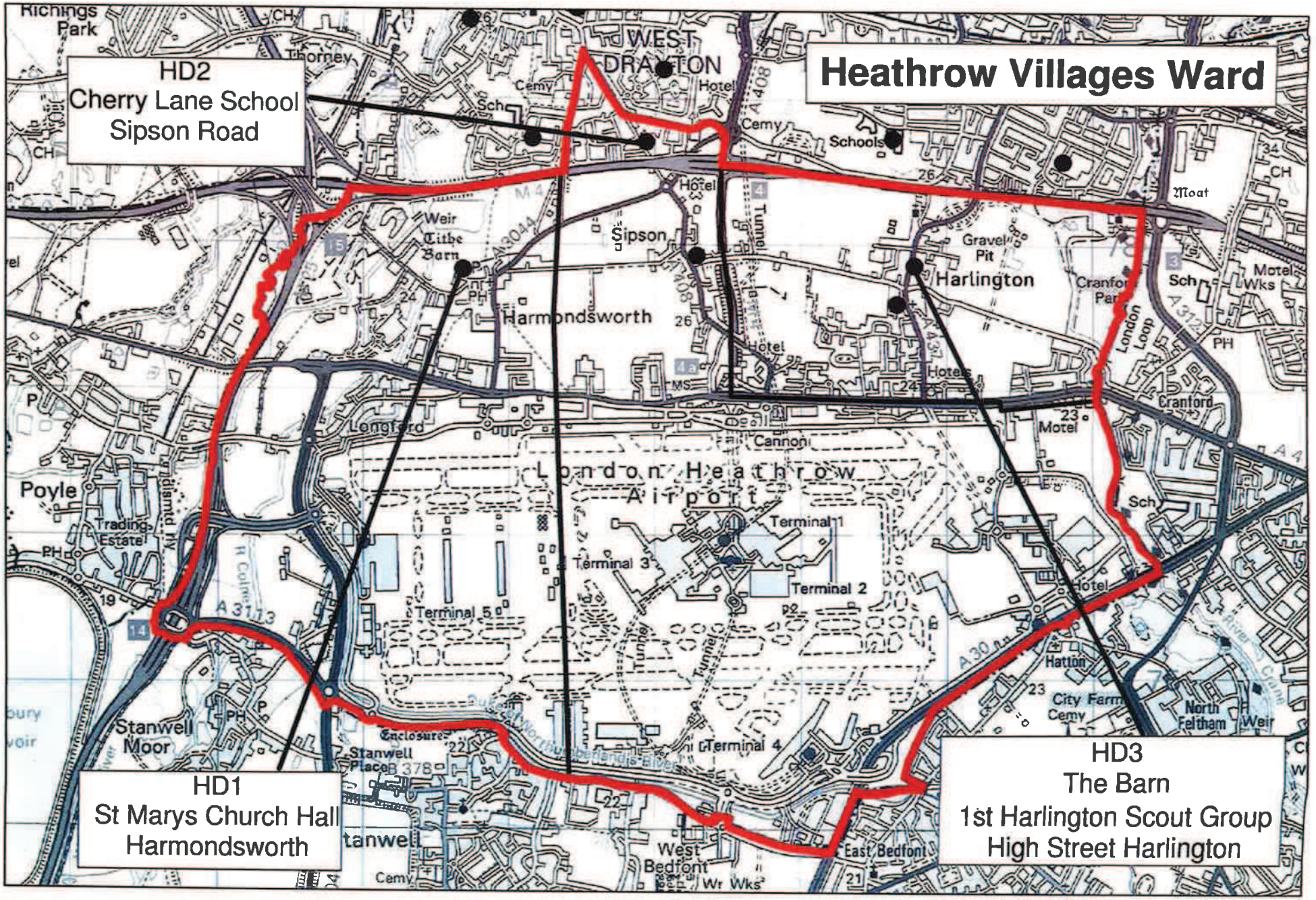

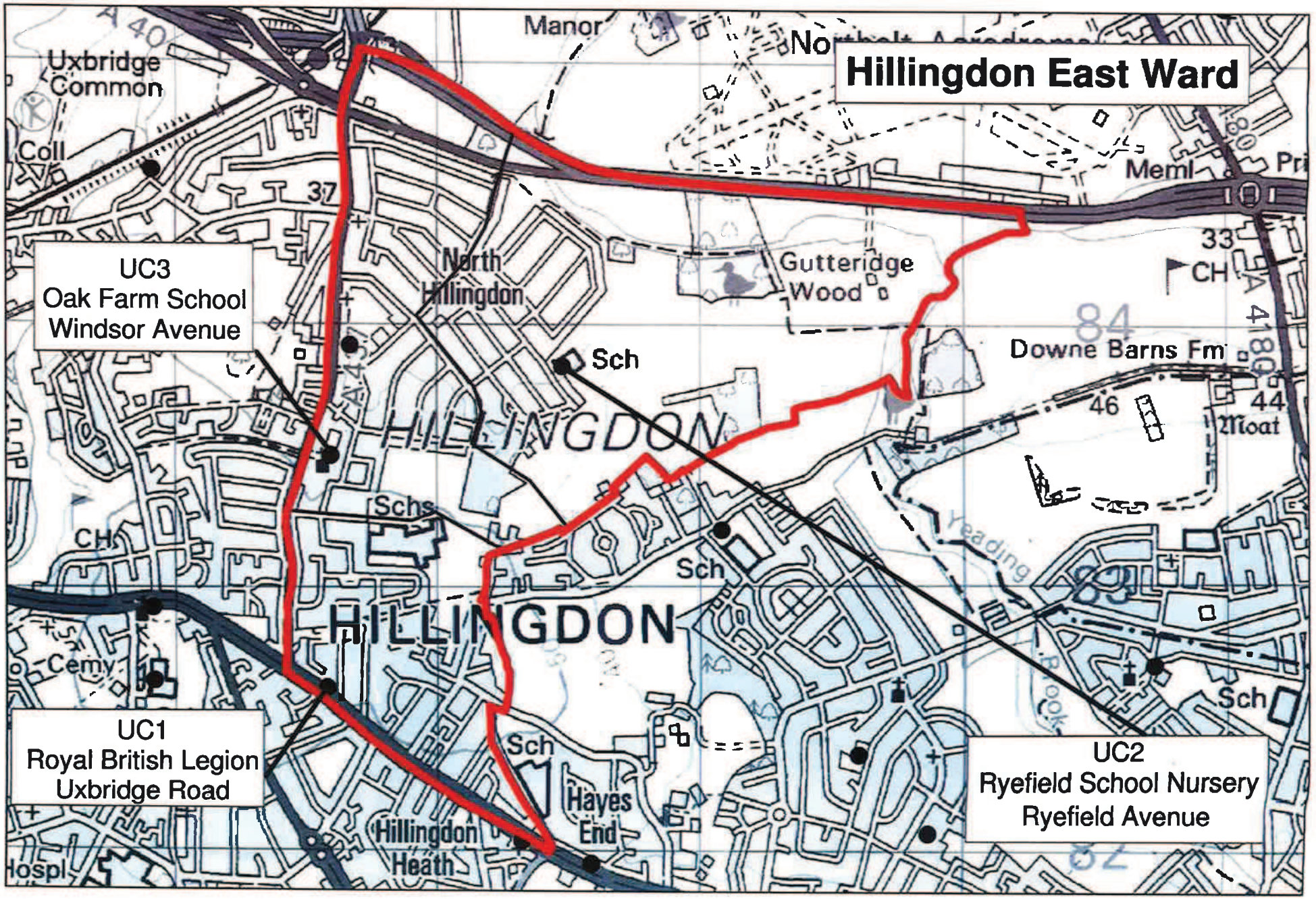

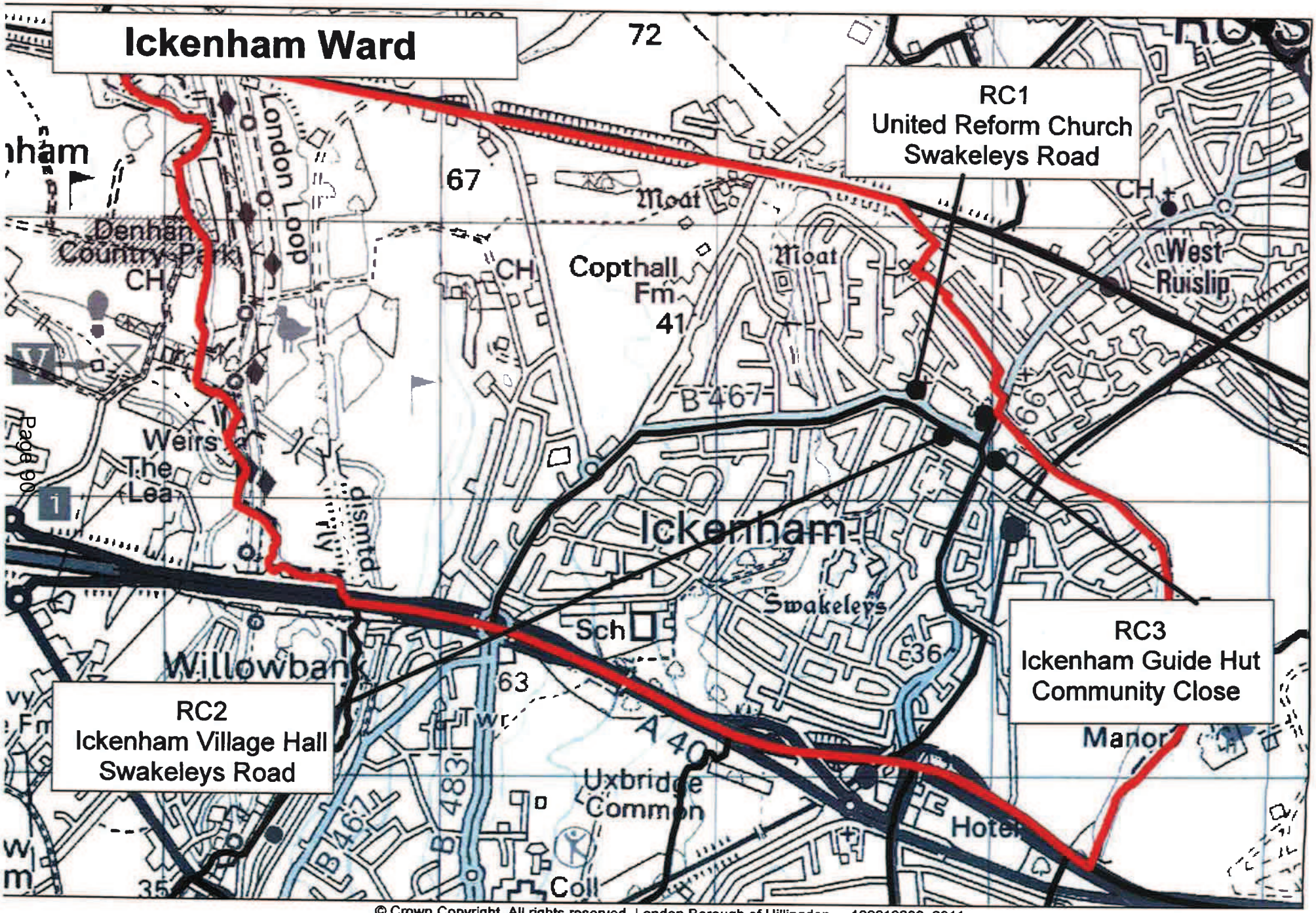

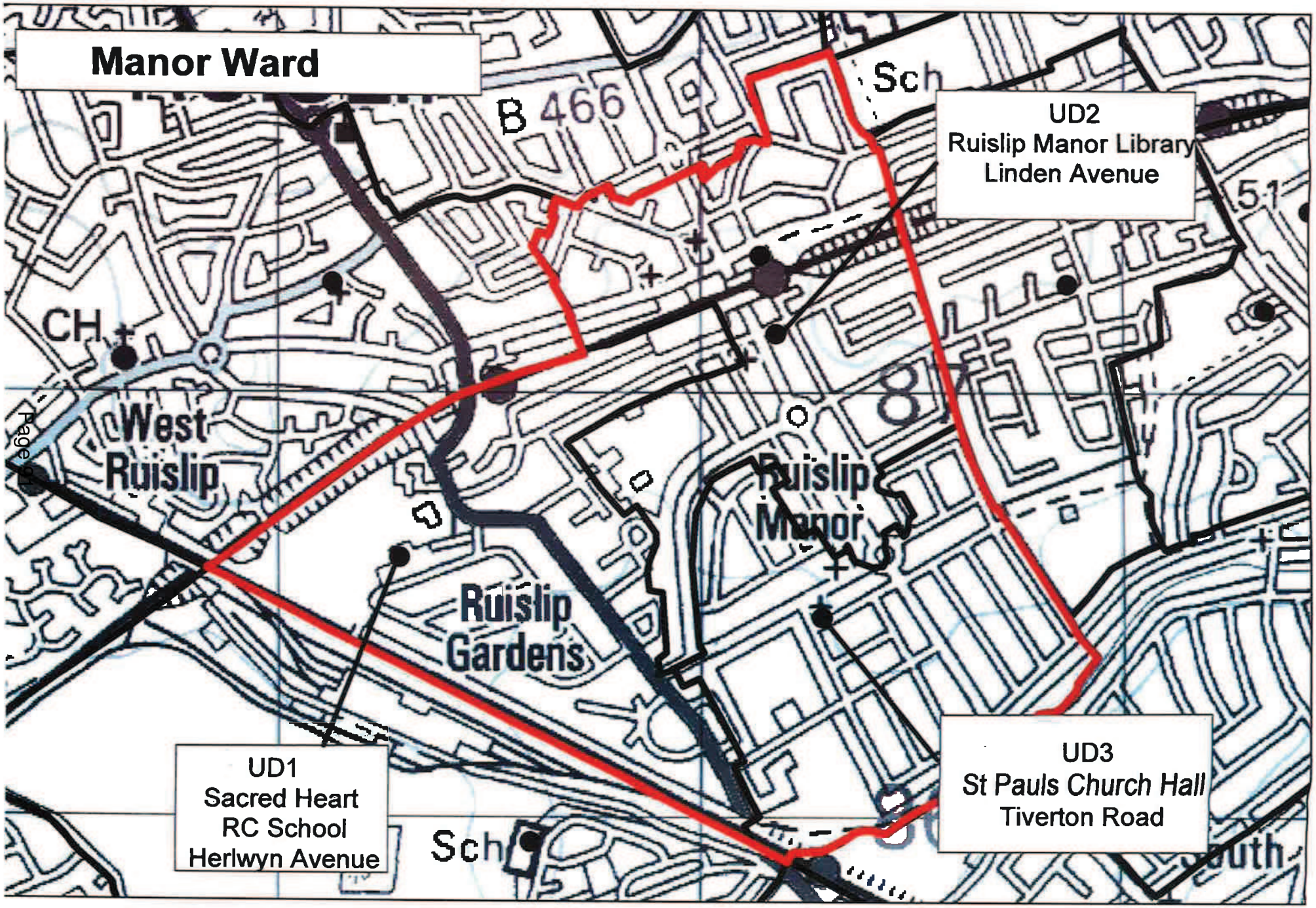

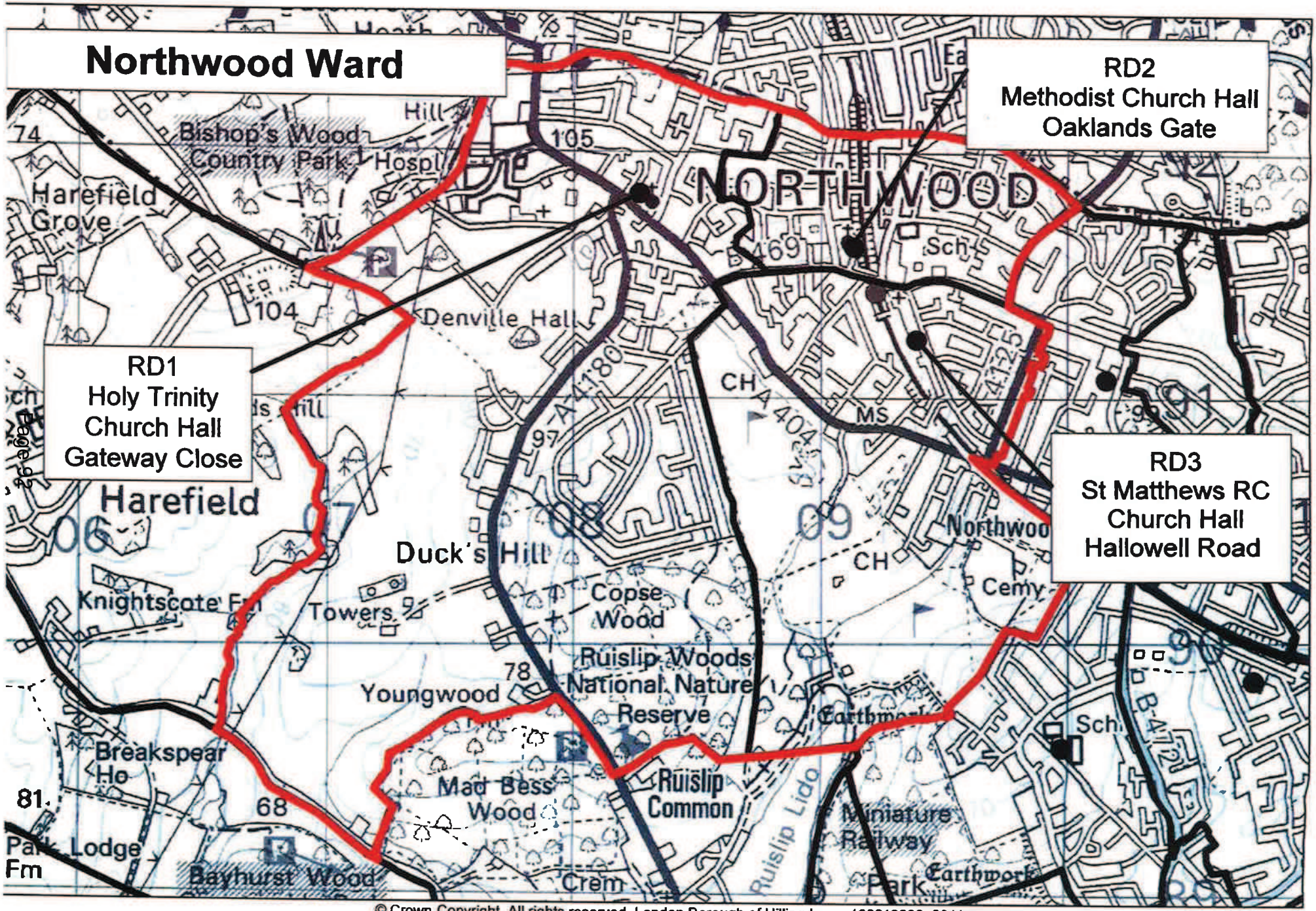

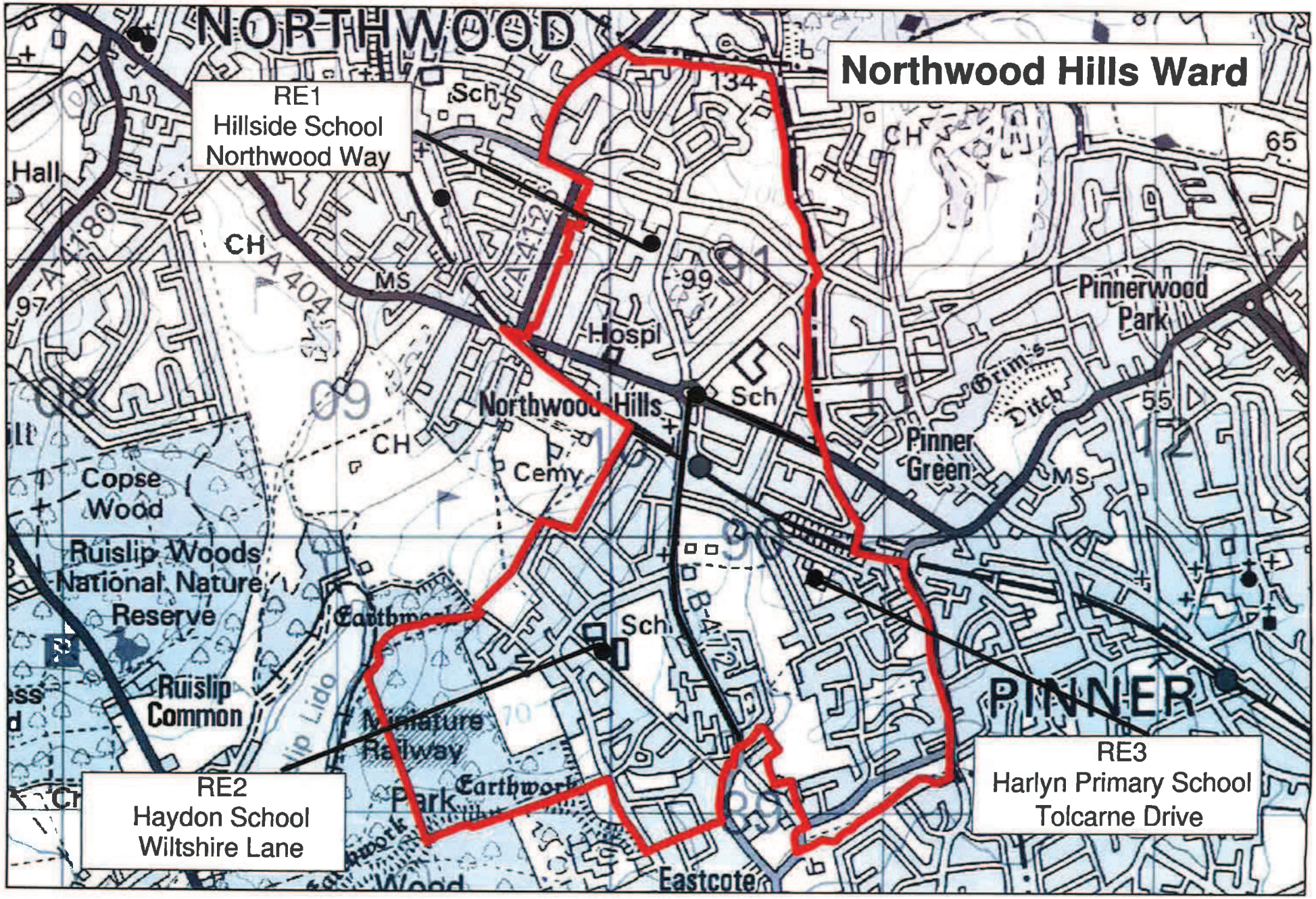

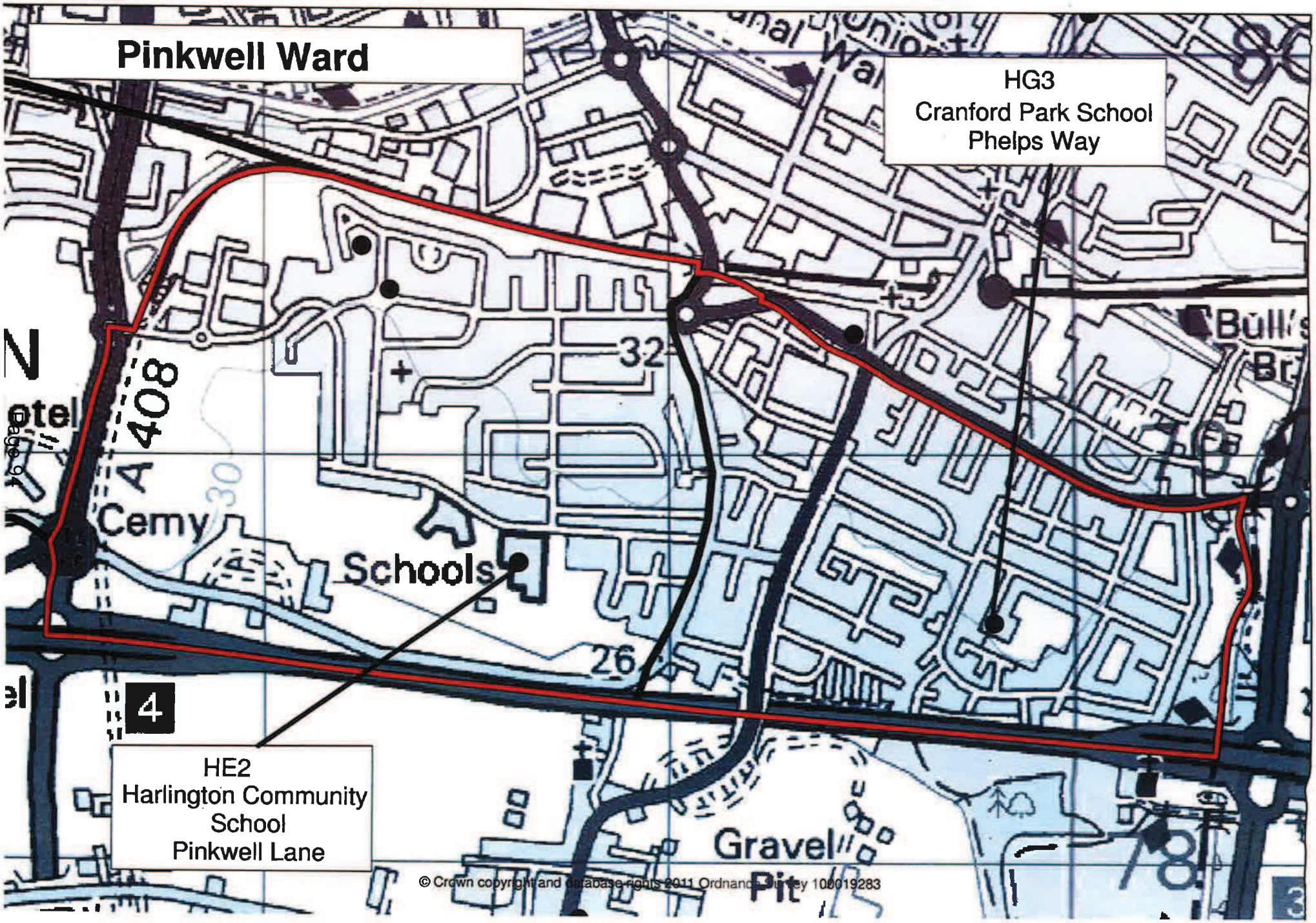
Pinkwell Ward
HG3
Cranford Park School
Phelps Way
HE2
Harlington Community
School
Pinkwell Lane
A 408
Cemy
Schools
Gravel
Pit
32
26
30
4
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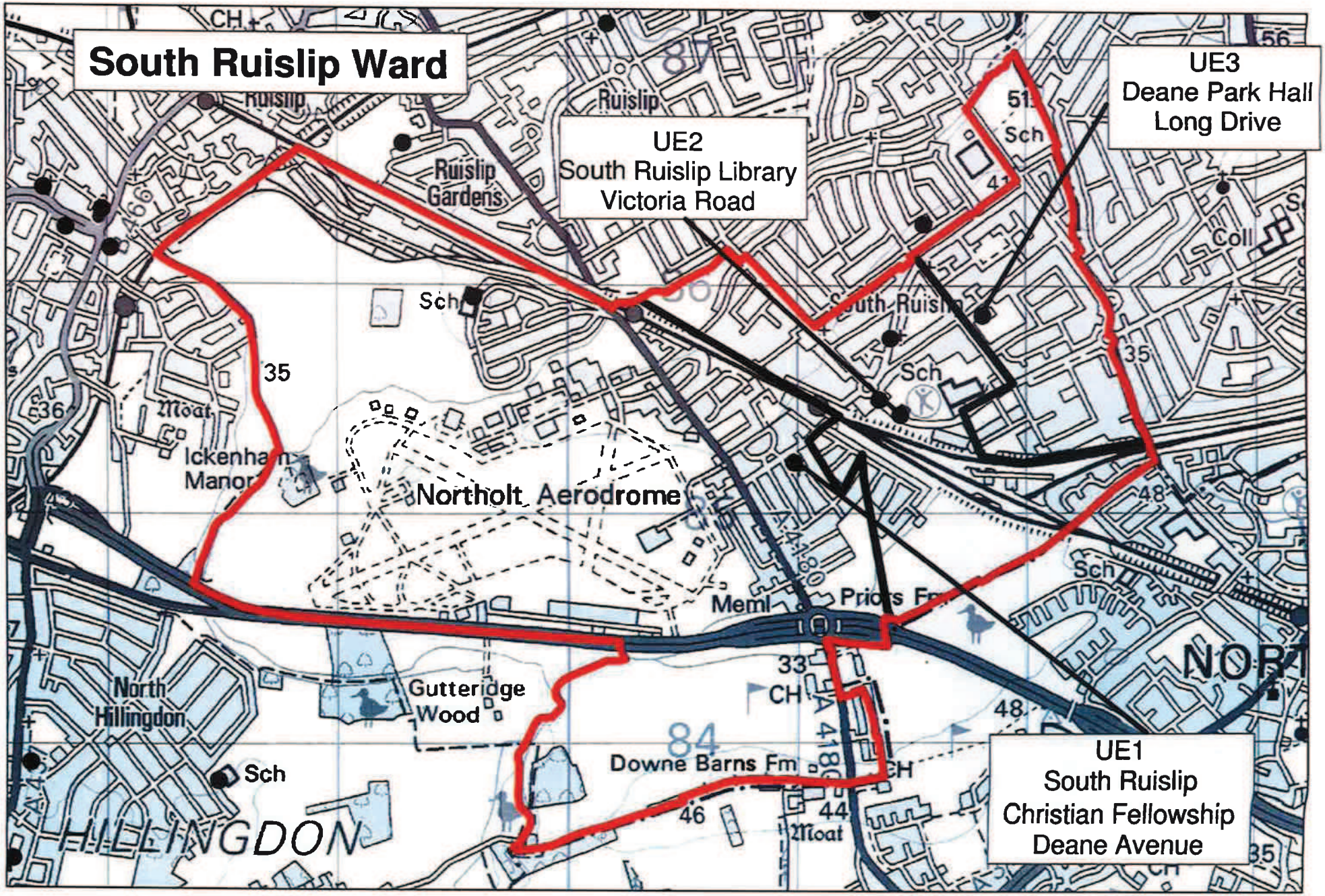

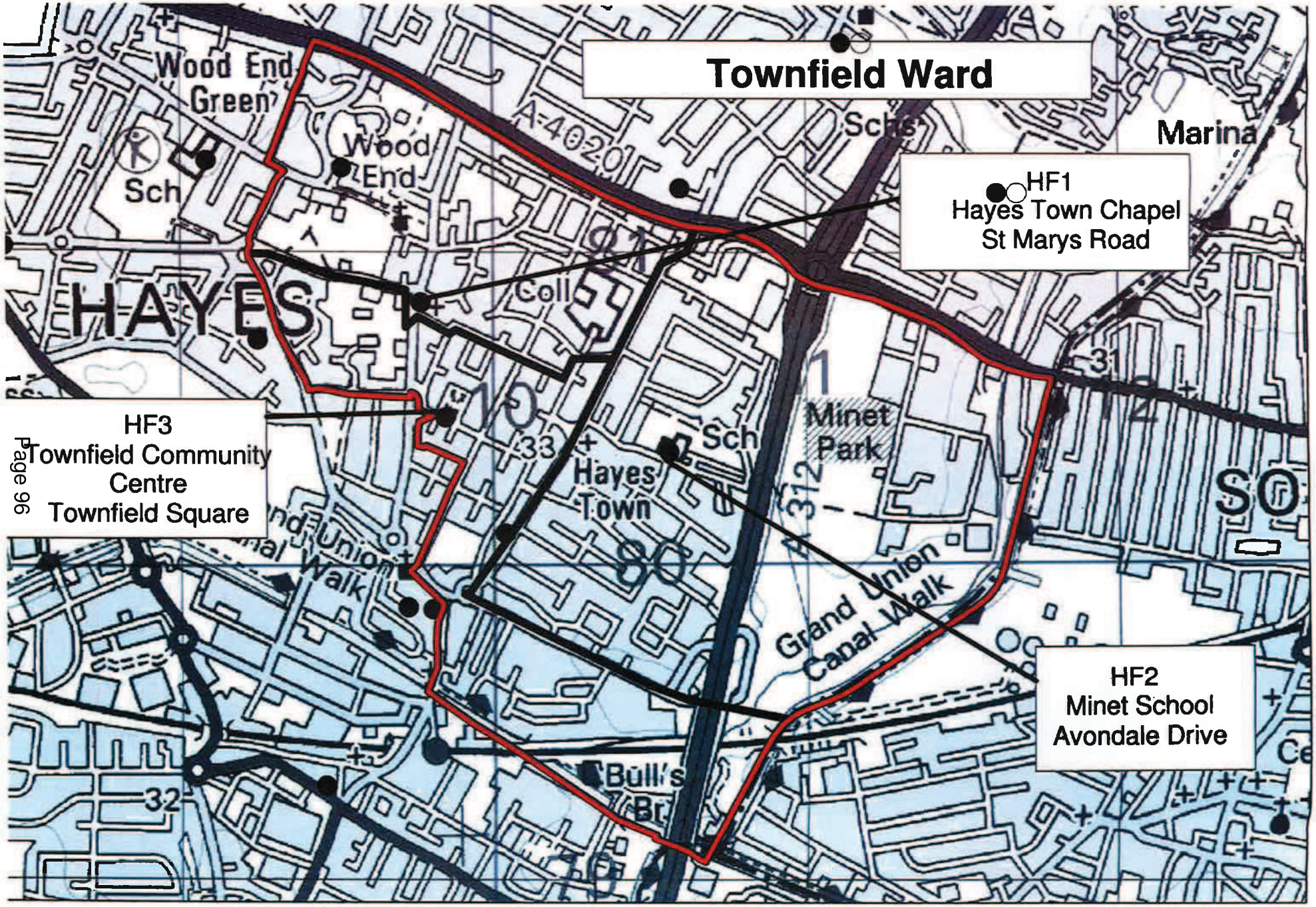

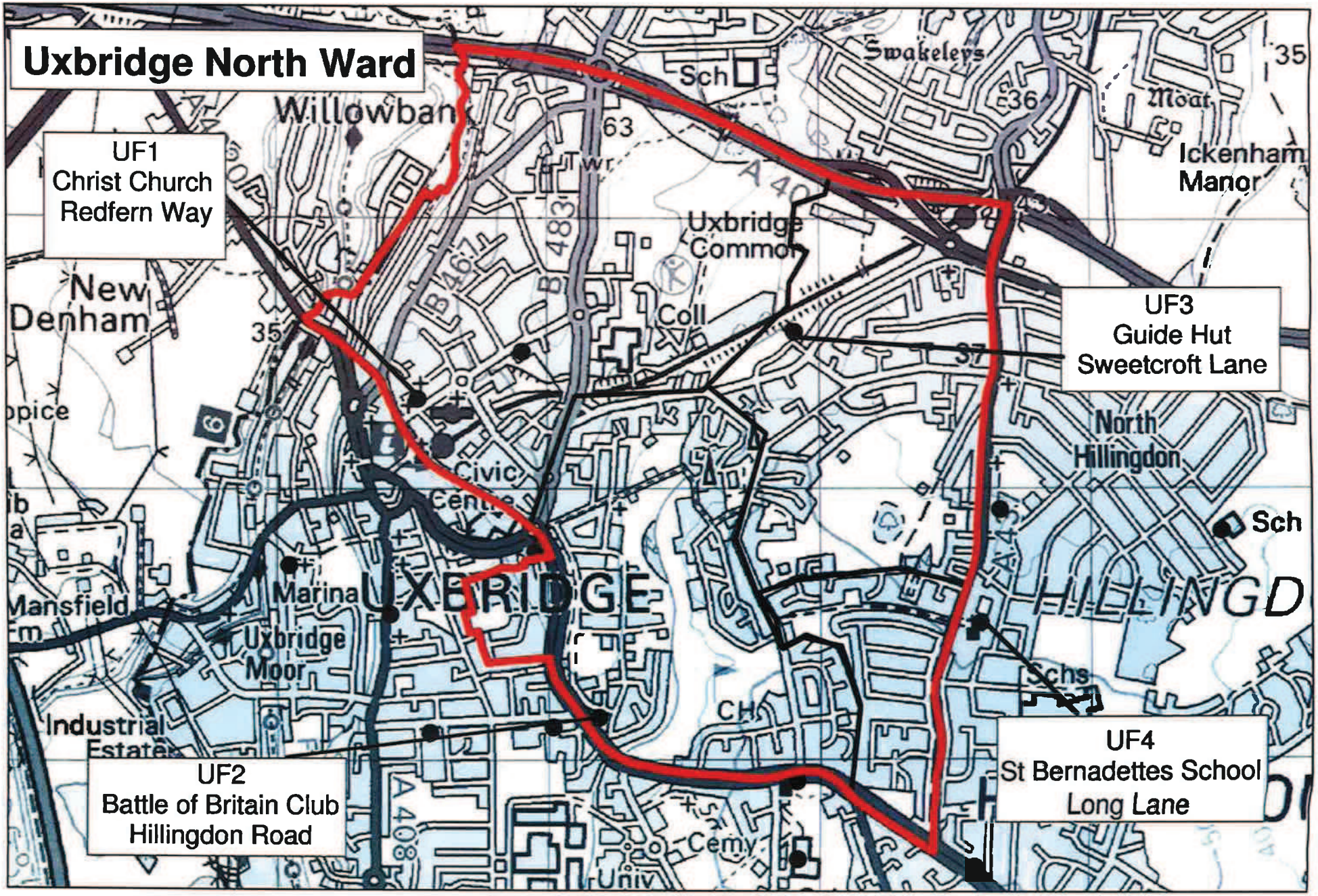

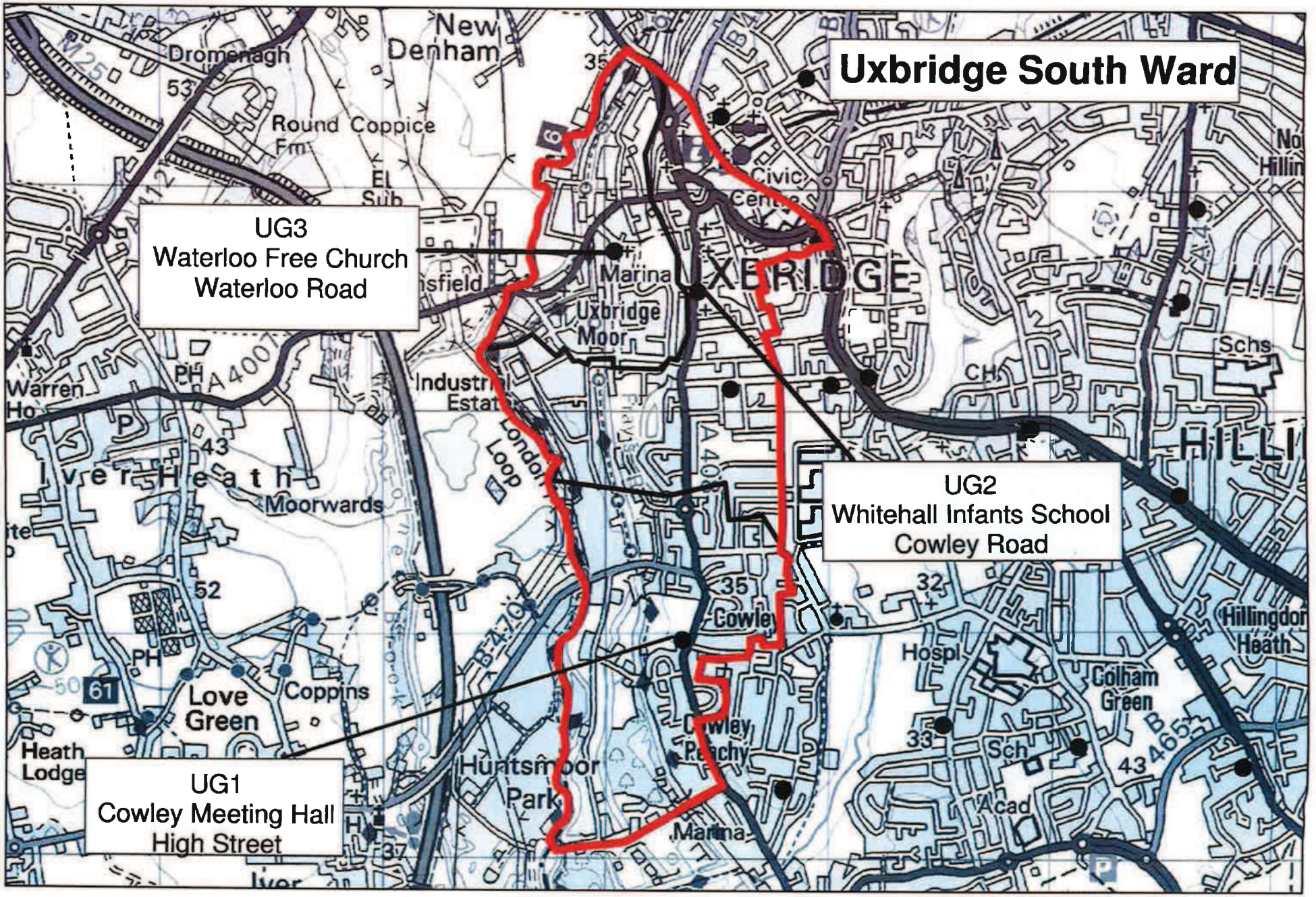

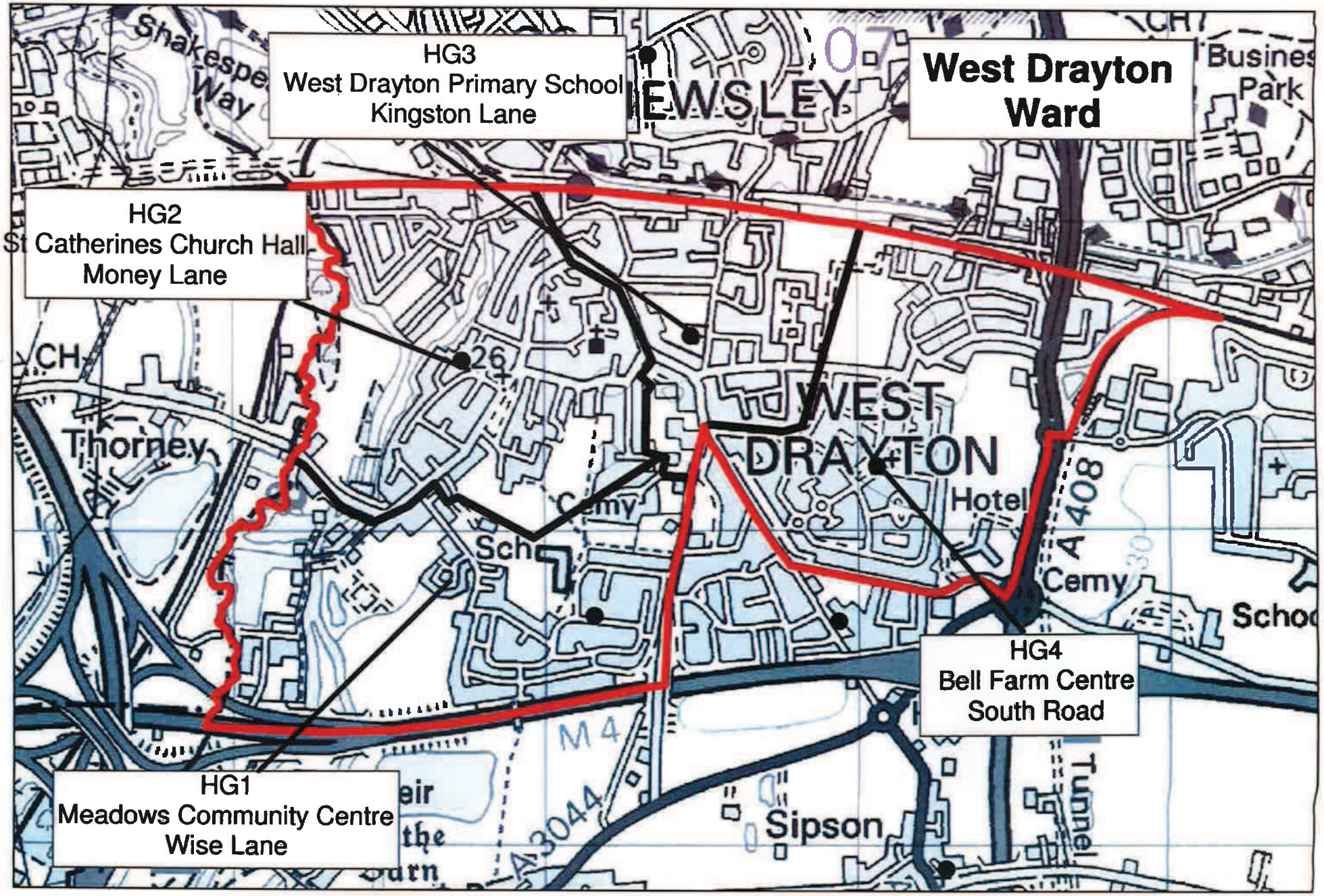

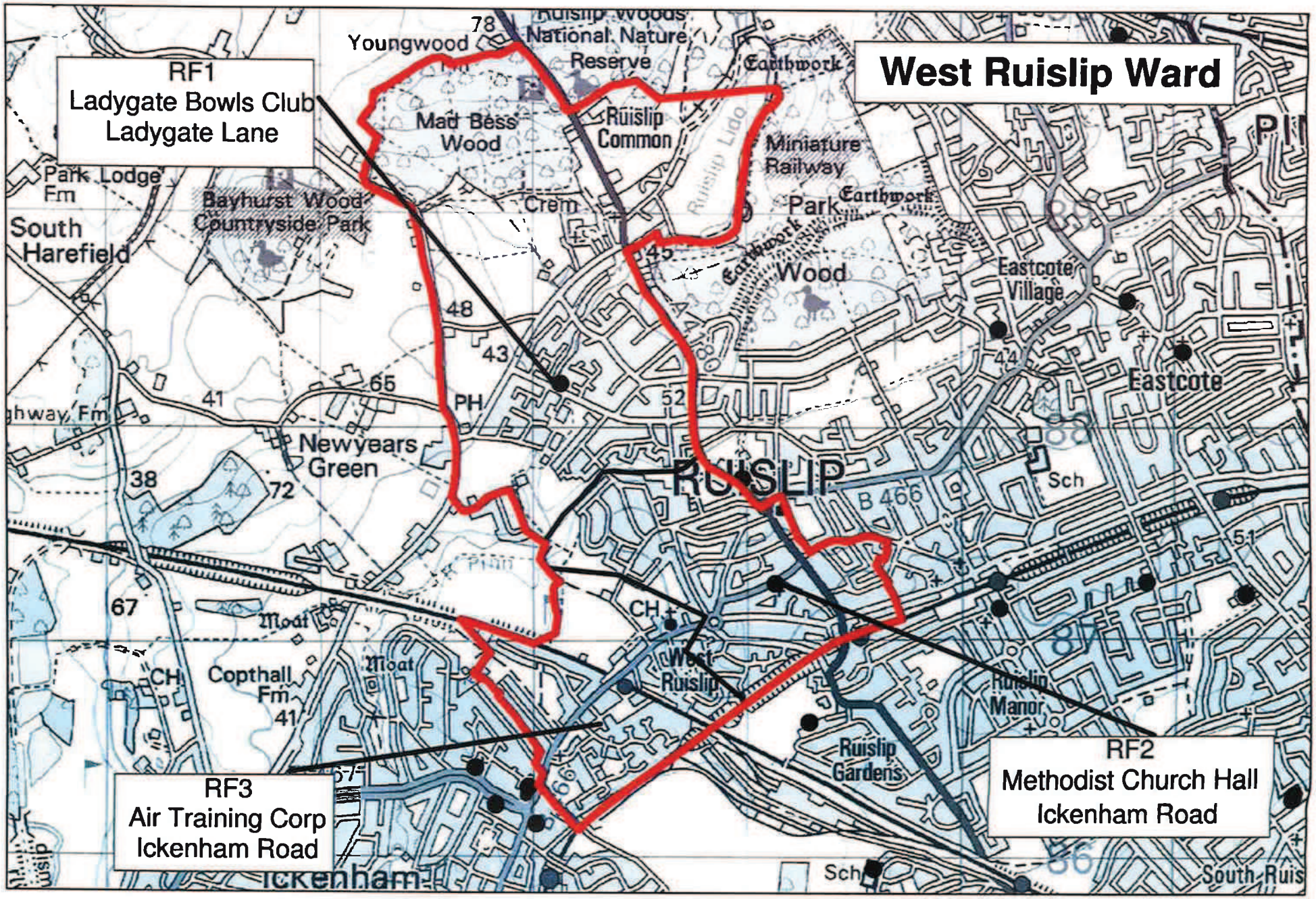

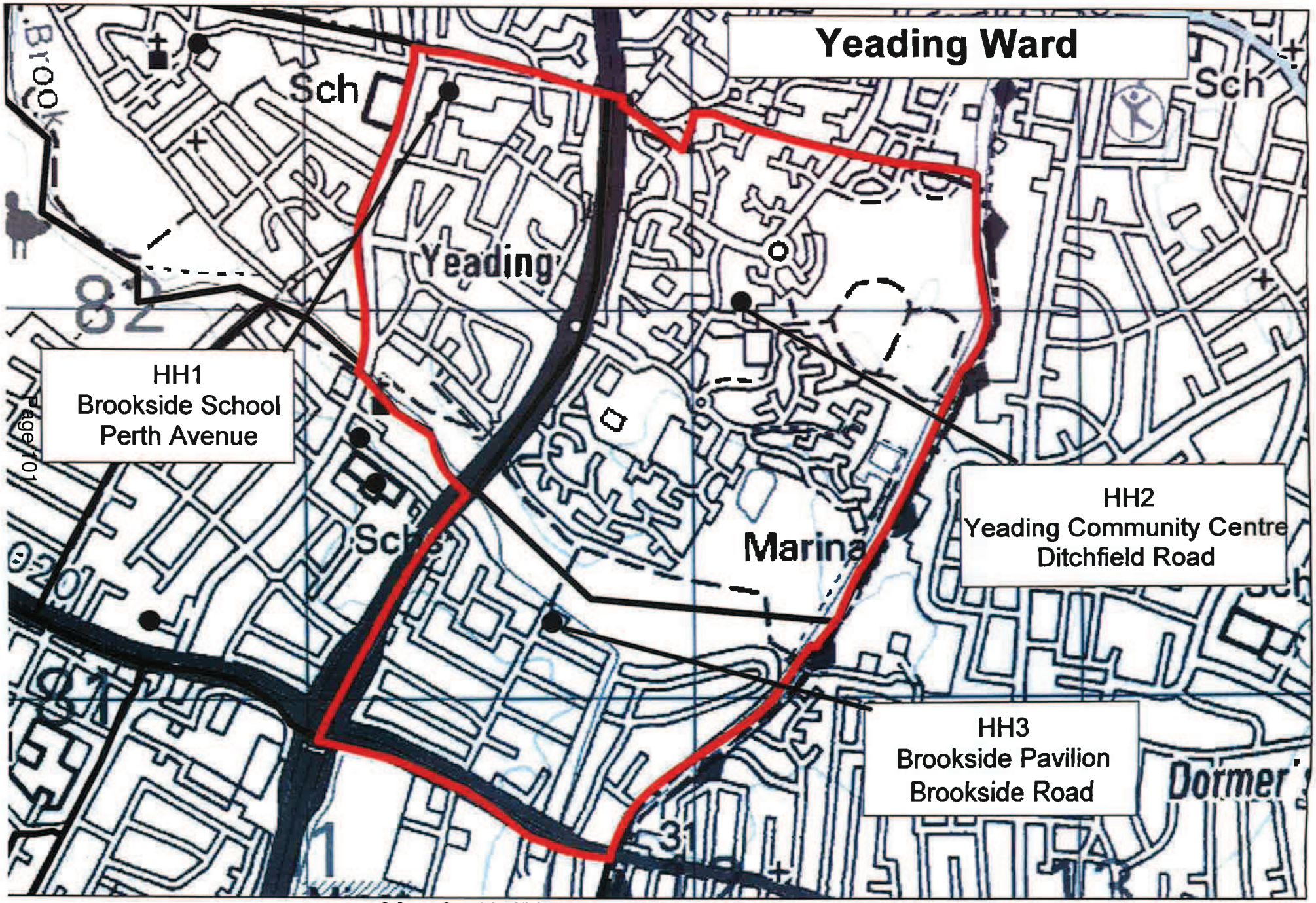

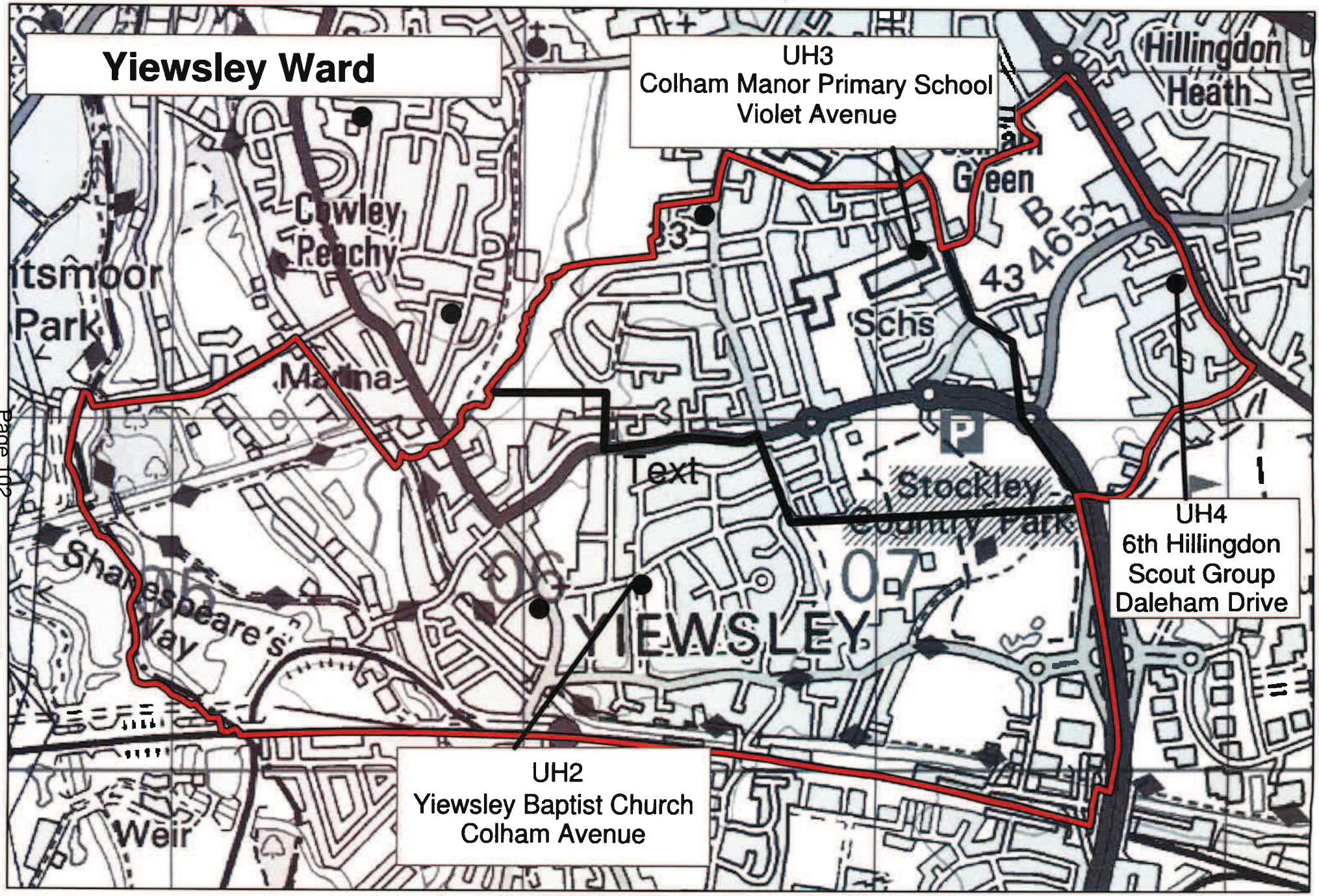

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2015/16 and BUSINESS RATES FORECAST 2015/16

Reporting Officer: Corporate Director of Finance

SUMMARY

This report sets out the proposed Council Tax Base and Business Rates Forecast for 2015/16 in accordance with the legislation for approval by the Council. The Council is required to calculate both its Council Tax Base as at 30 November 2014 by 31 January 2015 and the Business Rates forecast by 31 January 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That:

a) the report of the Corporate Director of Finance for the calculation of the Council Tax Base and the Business Rates Forecast be approved;

b) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by the London Borough of Hillingdon as its Council tax Base for 2015/16 shall be 91,200.

c) the Corporate Director of Finance be authorised to submit the 2014/15 NNDR1 return to the Department of Communities & Local Government (CLG) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) in line with the business rates forecast contained within this report.

d) the continuation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2015/16, originally approved by Council on 17 January 2013 be approved.

COUNCIL TAX BASE

The calculation of the Council Tax Base is prescribed under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 and represents the equivalent number of Band D Properties within the Borough. The calculation of the Council Tax Base is based upon the following formula:

((H-Q+E+J)-Z) x (F divided by G)

Where:

H is the number of chargeable dwellings for the band on the relevant day less the number of exempt dwellings on that day;

Q is a factor to take account of the discounts to which the amount of council tax payable was subject on the relevant day;

E is a factor to take account of premiums, if any, to which the council tax payable, was subject on the relevant day;

J is the amount of any adjustment in respect of changes in the number of chargeable dwelling or premiums calculated by the authority;

Z is the total amount that the authority estimates will be applied as a result of the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme expressed as an equivalent number of chargeable dwellings in that band;

F is the number appropriate to that band which is used in determining the Band D equivalent (i.e. Band A =6, Band B = 7, Band C =8, Band D = 9, Band E = 11. Band F = 13, Band G = 15 and Band H = 18;

G is the number applicable to Band D i.e. 9.

Table 1 sets out a summary of the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 including the estimated collection rate and allowance made for contributions in lieu of Council Tax in respect of Forces Barracks and Married Quarters. The detailed calculation is set out in Appendix A to this report.

Table 1 Total Number of Band D equivalent properties.	
Band	**Number of properties**
A	310
B	2,273
C	14,325
D	35,728
E	19,283
F	12,516
G	7,071
H	780
Total	**92,286**
Equivalent number adjusted for the estimated collection rate (98%)	-1,846
Plus the contribution in Lieu of Council Tax in respect of Forces Barracks and Married Quarters	760
Council Tax Base for 2014/15	**91,200**

Estimated Collection Rate

It is a requirement of the Council Tax legislation for the Council to make an estimate of its collection rate in determining the Council Tax Base. The estimated collection rate is reviewed each year taking account of actual collection trends both in year and over a period of time. For 2015/16 the collection rate remains the same as 2014/15 at 98%. Actual collection rates will be regularly monitored throughout the year for Council Tax.

Changes in Council Tax Base since 2014/15

In calculating the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 the authority has to estimate the various changes that will occur during the financial year. Including the estimate of awards to be made for Council Tax Reduction Scheme there is an estimated increase of 1,952 in the number Band D equivalent properties for 2015/16 compared with 2014/15. This movement includes a marginal 4% reduction of 530 Band D equivalent properties in the

cost of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, reflecting a reduction in households meeting eligibility criteria.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme was approved by Council 17 January 2013 for an initial two year period until March 2015 to award localised council tax support for those residents who the council considers to be in financial need. A review of the scheme has been undertaken which did not reveal any key issues requiring change and it is therefore proposed to maintain the current scheme, subject to slight drafting amendment for the financial year 2015/16. These amendments have been fully consulted upon. With the roll out of Universal Credit over the next year, substantial changes will be required to the scheme for 2016/17.

During 2015/16, a total of £17,909k is forecast to be provided for CTR to 19,523 households. The CTR scheme covers up to 80% of a claimants council tax liability, the remaining 20% is payable by the claimants for the majority of working age adults.

Impact on 2015/16 General Fund Budget

The factors with the most significant impact upon the Council Tax Base are the increase in the number of properties in the valuation list and the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The actual impact upon the General Fund budget for 2015/16 of the new Council Tax base is an increase of 1,952 Band D equivalents properties generating £2,172k in additional funding for the General Fund in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15. This position remains consistent with the draft budget approved by Cabinet on 18 December 2014.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

It is noted that this report falls within the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Any member who is two or more months in arrears with his/her Council Tax must declare the fact and not vote on the recommendations in this report.

BUSINESS RATES INCOME FORECAST

The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a mechanism whereby Councils will retain a proportion of business rates as a revenue funding stream and as a result, the business rates income forecast for 2015/16 has a direct impact upon the Council's finances and is therefore submitted to Council for approval alongside the Council Tax Base.

The Business Rates Income forecast for 2015/16 has been derived from the rateable values shown on the Council's local rating list as at 30 November, adjusted for expected growth in the base to 31 March 2015. Following allowance for the current levels of both mandatory and discretionary reliefs, the Council anticipates a gross yield of £376,107k.

As a number of new reliefs have been introduced by Government since the introduction of the Business Rate Retention System, for which the Council and other preceptors receive government funding in lieu of forgone income. An additional £2,850k income is

projected with regard to the doubling of small business rate relief and support for small businesses.

This gross yield has been adjusted to provide £1,881k for losses in collection, representing a collection rate of 99.5% and £2,000k against appeals currently outstanding with the Valuation Office. The Council will retain £598k to cover the costs of administration and collection, resulting in forecast a net yield of £374,467k from business rates within the borough in 2014/15.

The Local Government Act 2012 permits the retention of 50% of revenues nationally within the local government sector. As a London Borough, 20% of income is passported to the GLA while 30%, £112,340k, is notionally retained by Hillingdon however, this sum is then adjusted downwards by the £60,287k tariff to reflect historic levels of central government funding.

The remaining £46,251k of income is separated into the £42,858k baseline level of funding, as determined by central government and £9,195k growth, which is subject to a levy of 50%. After taking account of this levy, the Council retains £47,858k of business rate income, including £4,597k of growth.

The Council is required to submit a certified NNDR1 return, containing a more detailed analysis of this business rates forecast, to both DCLG and GLA by 31 January 2014. A recommendation to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance to submit this return is included in this report.

Impact on 2015/16 General Fund Budget

The £47,858k income retained by the Council will be reflected in the budget presented to Cabinet for approval in February 2014, an increase of £2,283k from 2013/14. £1,480k of this increase represents the retained growth arising from the new developments in the borough and is available to support local services. The remaining £803k represents the 2% uplift in business rates, the proceeds of which are retained by central government through a topslice on the Council's Revenue Support Grant. This position remains consistent with the draft budget approved by Cabinet on 18 December 2014.

Financial Implications

The forecasts outlined in this report for both Council Tax and NNDR revenues in 2015/16 were included within the draft budget published for public consultation in December 2014. Income collected during 2015/16 will be closely monitored and any variation from the projections outlined above captured through the Medium Term Financial Forecast process.

Legal Implications

The Borough Solicitor reports that the legal implications are contained in the body of the report.

Background Papers: None

Calculation of the Council Tax Base 2015/16

Appendix A

CALCULATION OF 'H' (The number of chargeable dwellings on valuation list)	**Band A**	**Band B**	**Band C**	**Band D**	**Band E**	**Band F**	**Band G**	**Band H**	**Total**
Number of properties in the valuation list as at 01/12/14 (effective date) (Document C(1))	886	5,715	23,381	45,153	18,232	9,672	4,965	422	**108,426**
Less exempt Properties	(40)	(268)	(486)	(918)	(457)	(279)	(457)	(8)	**(2,913)**
LESS Properties re Disabled Persons relief - Drop a Band	0	(6)	(53)	(223)	(137)	(93)	(43)	(21)	**(576)**
PLUS Properties re Disabled Persons relief - Drop a Band	6	53	223	137	93	43	21	0	**576**
PLUS Value of 'H'	852	5,494	23,065	44,149	17,731	9,343	4,486	393	**105,513**
CALCULATION OF 'Q' (the value of discounts allowed)									
Number of properties entitled to single occupancy discount	(446)	(3,419)	(10,425)	(10,849)	(3,991)	(1,831)	(614)	(17)	**(31,592)**
Line above converted into common factor (i.e. actual number x 25%)	(112)	(855)	(2,606)	(2,712)	(998)	(458)	(154)	(4)	**(7,899)**
Number of properties entitled to a 50% discount as all residents disregarded	(2)	(13)	(15)	(16)	(18)	(16)	(25)	(12)	**(117)**
Line above converted into common factor (i.e. actual number x 50%)	(1)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(8)	(13)	(6)	**(59)**
Number of properties treated as a second home (i.e. unoccupied and furnished)	(48)	(80)	(231)	(252)	(99)	(56)	(32)	(7)	**(805)**
Line above converted into common factor (i.e. actual number x 25%)	(12)	(20)	(58)	(63)	(25)	(14)	(8)	(2)	**(202)**
Zero Discount	0	0	0	(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	**(9)**
Number of properties treated as short term empty	7	58	118	148	46	20	13	1	**411**
Line above converted into common factor (i.e. actual number x 0%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
PCLC 00 (long term empties)	22	57	134	157	78	42	37	14	**541**
LESS Value of 'Q'	(125)	(882)	(2,672)	(2,783)	(1,032)	(480)	(175)	(12)	**(8,161)**
CALCULATION of 'E' (Any premiums payable on empty properties)									
Calculation of Premiums applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
PLUS Value of 'E'	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

Calculation of the Council Tax Base 2015/16

Appendix A

CALCULATION OF 'J' (Expected adjustments to number of properties on valuation list)									
New properties added to valuation list since relevant date	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Properties completed but not yet shown on valuation list	32	12	31	29	2	4	5	4	**119**
Properties known to be on valuation list but to be taken out of list as demolished	0	1	2	7	0	2	3	0	**15**
Assumed increase in no of properties over year	0	3	451	1	35	7	6	8	**511**
Estimated change to discounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Estimated changes to exemptions	(4)	(27)	(49)	(92)	(46)	(28)	(46)	(1)	**(291)**
10.00%									
PLUS Value of J	28	(11)	435	(55)	(9)	(15)	(32)	11	**354**
Value of (H-Q+E+J)	**755**	**4,601**	**20,828**	**41,311**	**16,690**	**8,848**	**4,279**	**392**	**114,028**
CALCULATION of 'Z' (Band adjustment due to Council Tax Reduction(CTR) Scheme)									
Equivalent Band reduction based upon estimated monetary values of Council Tax Support Grant	**(290)**	**(1,679)**	**(4,713)**	**(5,583)**	**(913)**	**(183)**	**(37)**	**(2)**	**(13,400)**
Expected in year changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total CTR Discount =Z	(290)	(1,679)	(4,713)	(5,583)	(913)	(183)	(37)	(2)	**(13,400)**
Value of H-Q+E+J-Z	**465**	**2,922**	**16,115**	**35,728**	**15,777**	**8,665**	**4,242**	**390**	**127,428**
Convert to band D equivalent properties (F/G) where G = 9 and F = number shown in column.	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18	
Band D Equivalent properties by Band Value of ((H-Q+E+J)-Z)*(F/G)	**310**	**2,273**	**14,325**	**35,728**	**19,283**	**12,516**	**7,071**	**780**	**92,286**
Collection rate allowance 2015/16	**98.00%**								**(1,846)**
Estimated Collectable Band D Properties									**90,440**
Ministry of Defence properties				760					**760**
COUNCIL TAX BASE 2015/16									**91,200**

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

8.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR WALLANA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

Would the Cabinet Member please give an update on the progress with supported housing and the arrangements for the safeguarding of these residents?

8.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR RILEY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CENTRAL SERVICES – COUNCILLOR SEAMAN-DIGBY

How many successful prosecutions have Legal Services brought in the Magistrates and Crown Court over the last 12 months and what are the range of offences which these prosecutions cover?

8.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR OSWELL TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CENTRAL SERVICES – COUNCILLOR SEAMAN-DIGBY

How much time and what facilities are provided to the Trade Unions by Hillingdon Council?

8.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MORSE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES – COUNCILLOR BIANCO

Could you please provide a breakdown of monthly payments and annual total paid to Capita under the ITO (Information Technology Outsourcing), since the contract was signed?

8.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURLES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES – COUNCILLOR BIANCO

Could the Cabinet Member please confirm the potential cost to the Pension Fund of the statutory redundancies planned for 2015-2018?

8.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BIRAH TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT

Could the Leader of the Council please provide full details of all London Borough of Hillingdon contractors who have been fined or had penalties imposed on them for poor or inadequate performance since 1st April 2010?

8.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LAKHMANA TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT

Following the Leader's statement at the September 2014 Council meeting regarding the introduction of filming of Council meetings, can the Leader please advise of the timescale for the introduction of the Council's own recordings of its meetings?

8.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR SIMMONDS

Much to the surprise of West Drayton residents, the new 5 Form of Entry Junior School which was given planning permission by this Council and is currently under construction within 50 metres of Laurel Lane School has suddenly morphed into a 3 Form of Entry Church of England Primary School without sufficient classrooms and with no nursery. Please explain in detail how this major and costly mistake has taken place?

8.9 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GARDNER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

Considering the huge amount of families in the Borough, living in private rented accommodation, which is both grossly over-priced and sub-standard, would the Cabinet Member consider very seriously licensing private landlords and inspecting their premises on a regular basis before any of our families are accommodated in them?

8.10 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CURLING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many ex-council homes have been bought back by the council under the buy-back scheme?

8.11 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR EGINTON TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR PUDDIFOOT

Do you consider that the Cabinet fully reflects the gender and ethnic make up of the residents in Hillingdon?

8.12 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ALLEN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

Could the Cabinet Member please inform Members at what rate tenants are charged when they move into the Council properties that have been turned into short term lets - are they charged B&B rates, same rent as other Council tenants, private sector rents or another rent?

8.13 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR EAST TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING - COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many residents have taken up Personal Budgets?

8.14 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DENYS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CENTRAL SERVICES – COUNCILLOR SEAMAN-DIGBY

At the Full Council in February 2013 the Conservative Administration pledged to bring all staff up to the pay levels of the London Living Wage with effect from January this year, where the next Local Government pay award failed to have this effect. Could the Cabinet Member clarify the current position for us?

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MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

That this Council recognises that well-run pubs play an invaluable role at the heart of our local communities, providing safe, regulated and sociable environments in which people can interact. In recent years Hillingdon has seen a number of long well established local pubs go out of business and then get turned into some other use, anything from a block of flats to a supermarket.

The new National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act 2011 establish new responsibilities and tools for local councils to promote and protect local pubs. However, the flexibility for a pub to be converted into a wide range of uses without planning permission still means local communities are often denied any say in what's happening in their neighbourhoods and are unable to protect valued local pubs.

Council also notes that similar motions to this have gained all-party support in many local Councils across the country as well as at the Greater London Authority.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to investigate the possibility of protecting community pubs in Hillingdon by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished. This should include a community policy provision within the Hillingdon Local Plan and specific planning guidance and viability testing that can be used when considering planning applications involving pubs.

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