

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Attachments:

Follow Up Flag:

Flag Status:

Lisa,

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on this review. I will confine my comments to the Heysham South ward.

Heysham South is currently served by two polling stations the Free Methodist Church, Emmaus Road (behind Heysham health centre) and the Wesley Methodist Church, Middleton Road. The two stations are geographically close but separated by Middleton Way (the busy A589). The current arrangements are not all 'voter friendly'. For example, people living on the new(ish) Moss gate Park estate have to walk past the polling station at the Free Methodist Church, cross the main road to vote at the Wesley Methodist Church on Middleton Road.

I suggest that a ward of the size and spread of Heysham South merits more than two polling stations to provide locations that are closer/more accessible from residents homes. The polling stations/district should:

(a) factor in the A589, which effectively divides the ward. Crossing this busy road can be a barrier to aged/disabled voters therefore my proposal avoids the need to cross it.

(b) encourage voting by using polling stations closer to voters homes.

These two aims are in accord with the two main points set out in your email below.

I do not suggest creating additional polling stations but that existing polling stations used by the Heysham Central ward should also accommodate some polling districts in Heysham South. This will require sub dividing the two current Heysham South polling districts to create new ones to make use of the Heysham Central polling stations that I propose are brought into service for Heysham South. To achieve this I proposed that HESC and HESD are created.

The detailed street allocation to polling district proposals are in the attached Word file.

As always, happy to discuss.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Heysham South A (HESA)

Polling station: Free Methodist Church, Emmaus Road, Heysham.

Alan Grove
Eagle Close
Eagle Walk
Banks Crescent
Barry Grove
Bradford Grove
Brambling Drive
Brooklands Drive
Chaffinch Close
Curlew Grove
Douglas Avenue
Douglas Drive
Drovers Walk
Dunlin Avenue
Edgcott Close
Evesham Close
Farriers Fold
Fellside View
Fieldfare Close
Fulmar Crescent
Goldcrest Close
Goldfinch Close
Greenfinch Way
Greenshank Close
Hazel Bank
Heron Mews
Hessam Heights
Heysham Mossgate Road
Heysham Road Nos: 417 - 469
Highdale
Jenny Nook
Kingfisher Drive
Lapwing Close
Laureston Avenue
Lister Grove
Longmeadow Lane
Mallard Close
Meldon Road Nos 66-132 & 83-141
Middleton Road Nos: 62-82
Middleton Road – Belle Aire Park
Mossgate Park
Mossgate Walk

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Nightingale Close
Plover Drive
Redshank Drive
Redwing Close
Ridge Grove
Robin Crescent
Saxon Heights
Seymour Avenue
Seymour Grove
Silverdale Avenue
Skylark Close
Swallow Court
Swift Gardens
Tern Grove
The Drive
The Spinney
Thistle Break
Tomlinson Road
Viking Way
Yealand Avenue
Yewdale Avenue

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Heysham South B (HESB)

Polling station: Wesley Methodist Church, Middleton Road, Heysham.

Ailsa Walk
Arran Close
Barrows Lane
Berwick Way
Brentlea Avenue
Brier Drive
Combermere Grove
Combermere Road
Curwen Avenue
Cyprus Road
Delamere Avenue
Dunbar Drive
Glen View Avenue
Glen View Crescent
Glen View Drive
Heath Grove
Heathfoot Avenue
Heathfoot Drive
Heysham Hall Drive
Heysham Hall Grove
Heysham Park
Keswick Grove
Kingsmuir Close
Kintyre Way
Lea Lane
Melville Road
Middleton Road Nos: 1-47 & 2-58
Montrose Crescent
Moon Bay Wharf
Peel Avenue
Penhale Close
Penhale Court
Penhale Gardens
Penrod Way
Ripon Place
School Road
Smithy Lane
St James Court
St Mildreds Way
Sycamore Gardens
Sylvan Place
The Headlands
Trumacar Lane

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Warren Grove
Warren Road
Warton Avenue
Wemyss Close

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Heysham South C (HESC)

Polling station: Mossgate School, Kingsway, Heysham

Abingdon Grove
Applegarth Road
Bay View Drive
Buckden Place
Burford Drive
Charlbury Grove
Chedworth Avenue
Dalesview Crescent
Drayton Road
Eastlands
Eldon Grove
(Fieldsend
Gilstead Avenue
Haverthwaite Avenue
Heysham Road Nos: 385-411
Hillmount Avenue
Hillsea Avenue
Hurstleigh Drive
Jevington Way
Kingsway
Meldon Grange
Meldon Road Nos: 2-64 & 1-27
Moreton Green
Mortimer Grove
Oxcliffe Road
Peplow Road
Rosedale Avenue
(Sugham Lane
Tarnbrook Road
Threshfield Avenue
Walker Grove
Willowfield Road

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Proposal for Heysham South ward

Heysham South D (HESD)

Polling station: Heysham Library, Heysham Road, Heysham

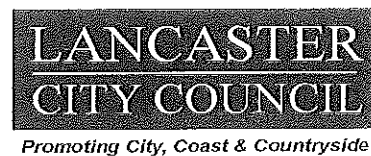
Brentlea Crescent

Heysham Road Nos: 418-458

Wesley Drive



Contact: Election Office
Telephone: (01524) 582905
Fax: (01524) 582161
Minicom: (01524) 582175
Email: elections@lancaster.gov.uk
Our ref:
Your ref:



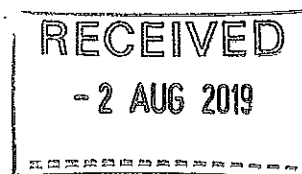
2

Lisa,
We are pleased to continue making
Rathey Court available for use as a Polling
Station. We have disabled
access.
Regards,

ELECTION OFFICE

Town Hall
Dalton Square
LANCASTER LA1 1PJ

DX63531 Lancaster



Dear Sir or Madam

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW 2019

To comply with the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 and Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every council in England and Wales must undertake a review of all the polling districts and polling places in its area between 01 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. The last review took place in 2014.

All elected representatives are being consulted and other interested bodies are welcome to be involved. The Council would like to invite you to consider the current polling districts and polling places and send in any observation you have so that these can be taken into consideration.

A **POLLING DISTRICT** is defined as the geographical area created by sub-dividing a constituency/ward.

A **POLLING PLACE** is defined as a designated area (this can be a designated building) for a polling district in which polling stations are located.

A **POLLING STATION** is defined as the room in which polling takes place.
The two main points to consider are that

- Electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
- As far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled. When designating a polling place, regard must be given to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

Please note, a polling district review does not include a review of parish boundaries, or the number of Councillors in any authority.

I am unable to supply printed maps, but you can access online mapping via the City

Vines, Lisa

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:
Attachments:

Hi Lisa

Off the top of my head, I'd like to raise the issue of the distance that a number of voters are asked to travel to get to polling stations in south Lancaster.

Some years ago the City Council decided it couldn't use the Barton Road Community Centre as a polling station and so voters have to go to Moorside Primary is a significant distance, particularly as some of those voters pass the polling station at Masonic Hall.

Please could the polling station at the Barton Road Community Centre be re-established.

I'll also think about this more.

Best

Vines, Lisa

4
and
5

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for inviting to consider the Polling District review.

The Council considered the review at its meeting held on 1st August and asked me to forward the following comments to you:

- (1) That the City Council be requested to change the Polling Station for the Lowlands Road Ward of the Town Council from the Trimpell Club to Lancaster Road School on the basis that this would be a more convenient place for electors of the Lowlands Road Ward to attend to register their vote given the geographic position of Lancaster Road School to the ward compared to Trimpell Club, and on the basis that whilst the Lowlands Road Ward of the Town Council was in the Westgate Ward of the City Council, the Trimpell Club was not situated in the Westgate Ward.
- (2) That the City Council be requested to review the disabled access arrangements at all polling stations to ensure that adequate and appropriate disabled access was provided at all Polling Stations and to ensure that the review of Polling Places ensured minimum disruption to schools.
- (3) That in respect of the St. Christopher's Way Polling Station the disabled access arrangements be reviewed, as during the elections held on 2nd May 2019, it had been observed that the ramp provided was too narrow and thus inadequate for 3 wheel push walking trolleys.



Vines, Lisa

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

My views relate to my local polling station at Ellel Village Hall, Main Road, Galgate, Lancaster, LancsLA2 ONH. This covers
ELLB Ellel (North Ward)
ELLC Ellel (North Ward)
ELLD Ellel (South Ward)

I have previously been both a polling clerk and presiding officer (both single and double stations) in polling stations in Kent so am aware of the mechanics of running such events. Ellel Village Hall is an ideal location for Galgate residents as has plenty of parking and is totally accessible to all. There does have to be a cancellation of local groups or movement to other rooms for local groups who meet there on those days/evenings when there are elections.

I am also aware that currently boundaries and stations are divided to provide equal numbers for each polling station. However on this frnt I am also aware that there is far from full turnout at any election with large periods of time where very few voters come in with the busiest times being eraly evening and certainly very few coming in towards the end of the time period.

Having voted a couple of times now at Ellel Village Hall early evening there was no-one in the hall when I went to vote yet there are three wards and sets of staff waiting to deal with the voters. I would therefore suggest that the boundaries are increased and number of polling stations decreased. Even when I was presiding officer for the referendum in Kent where turnout for this event was a lot higher than for other types of election the queues were manageable and quickly dealt with.

The proposed changes that may be brought in to check voter's identities before they can be allowed to vote may slow the voting process down, but having proper planning and an additional team member before they reach the desk to explain the changes would hopefully prevent delays at the desk.

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

I am writing to express satisfaction with the current polling stations for Scotforth West, which is the church hall belonging to Scotforth St Paul's Church.

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

In respect of the Bulk Ward polling provision I know you are well aware from the statistics you have and the reports from polling station staff, that the east side of the ward is very poorly served for polling stations and the Gregson polling station is very busy. This is clearly an opportunity to deal with this matter, which we had a meeting about during a previous review.

Since then there has been an amount of new build on High Wood, which continues, and The Residence and Quernmore Park have been built out; with minimal public transport and a challenging walk to The Gregson polling station, compared to living in neighbouring wards there are considerable disincentives to getting to vote in person.

At General Elections, the residents of all the new housing in both John O'Gaunt and Bulk vote at the Grammar school. This would be one possible answer to the problems we experience in the district and county elections.

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

polling review

I suggest that all of Marsh Ward polling should take place at St Thomas More Centre as this is a convenient place for all the ward electors to reach, being closer for almost all than the Friends Meeting House polling station currently used by half the ward (MARA).

Regarding Lancaster Methodist Church as a polling station, it would be helpful if the steeply sloping pavement in Kensington Road could be reconditioned, replacing the ancient and potentially slippery flags with a non-slip surface.



Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Hi

I've been meaning to ask why LA1. 4PJ is all the way over at Moorside School. Isn't there a nearer station eg Hala or the hall opposite Boot and Shoe?

Thanks



Vines, Lisa

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Good evening Elections Office,

With ref to the Polling District Review 2019, please note that Claughton Village Hall, currently in use as a Polling Station, is likely to be permanently closed due to deterioration of the fabric of the building.

I am advised that the closure is likely to take place within the next few months and it will no longer be suitable for use as a Polling Station. However, to allow for forward planning, it is probable that the building could be kept in use until the year end.

Please contact me for further information should this be required.

With thanks,

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Following your letter, I wish to request that the room to be used as a polling station at Great Wood School is rotated between three rooms. All three have access to the front of the school and are adjacent. As school stays open and we use a maintain an entrance for polling closed off from children, I wish to reduce the impact on one class who have to vacate their room and find alternative space each time the school is used as a polling station.

During the last election I showed the two proposed alternative rooms and their access points to the election officials who were here in order to avoid the need for a separate visit. I don't recall their names although that will be in your records. Both said that the two alternative rooms were suitable as polling stations. I don't believe any change would need to be made to the information for voters – they would just be directed to whichever adjacent room is being used.

Please confirm that this small change is agreeable.

Vines, Lisa

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Hi

I propose that the polling station for Scotforth East (SCEA) be at the Barton Road Community Centre. Until a few years ago, this centre was used as the polling station. Relative to the polling station at Moorside School, it is easier to access: it is closer to where the residents live and has a car park. Residents had got used to voting at the centre, and a significant number have turned up at the centre to vote since the polling station was moved. Although there was uncertainty about the future of the Building at Barton Road a few years ago because of Lancashire County Council's decisions on Capital Asset transfers, nothing has happened on this front, and the Community Centre has continued from strength to strength at the site.

In addition, some of the roads in Scotforth East are much closer to Rowley Court than either the Barton Road Community Centre, Hala Centre or Moorside School (e.g Scotforth Road, Whinfell Drive). Rowley Court is used as a polling station for Scotforth West and Scotforth Rural, and could be considered for some parts of Scotforth East.

Regards

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Hi,

You asked for info on polling stations:

- At Brookhouse Methodist Church, there are good facilities with space for people & privacy at busy times
- It's also very accessible, being in the middle of the village near the P Office & shop, with a spacious car park for people from outlying areas, & a flat walk into the polling station on a good tarmac surface for people - like my wife - who are disabled

(Hope you will be keeping it!

kind regards

Vines, Lisa

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Hi,

Further to your recent letter,

Our only comment would be whether we can cease being a polling station given it results in a school closure. We now have over 600 children so the impact on both parents and the children's learning is significant, can an alternative venue be sought?

Would welcome a discussion with yourselves.

Regards

Vines, Lisa

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

In reply to your letter sent to re Polling District Reveiw 2019. On behalf of the Fraser Hall Management Committee I have been asked to advise you that we are happy for the Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge to continue to act as a Polling Station as in previous years and feel it is adequate for our surrounding area, and trust this is sufficient information for your review.

To whom it may concern,

Lancaster City Council Polling Review 2019

1. I found your Ward and Polling Station map very helpful, although:
 - (a) the polling districts for John O'Gaunt ward, Skerton West ward and Overton ward were not displayed when polling districts were overlaid onto the map; and
 - (b) the polling districts for Scotforth West ward on the map are out of date, as they do not show SCWF.
2. I believe it would be helpful to voters and administrators if the council adopted the principle, so far as this is possible, of "*one polling district, one polling place*". I accept this would not be sensible in sparsely populated rural areas, where longstanding practice has been for more than one parish to poll at the same place, but in urban wards, especially non-parished areas, there does not seem to be any good reason not to run a separate polling place for each polling district.
3. In the City of Lancaster there are now many polling places which serve two or more polling districts. There are even several examples of polling places serving two or more *wards*. This confuses voters - as a party activist, I've seen increasing numbers of voters turning up to the wrong polling place in recent years.

I presume the main reason for this is to save money; unfortunately, the end result is that voting is made less convenient. Several thousand electors now have a longer journey to go and vote than they used to, and this is having an inevitable effect on turnout. If a polling place serves two wards then it's either:

(a) inconvenient for most voters within one of those wards to go and vote; or

(b) inconvenient for significant numbers of voters in both of those wards to go and vote.

The clearest example where voting has been made less convenient is the polling place for SCEA, which was moved - without going through a full Polling Places Review - from the Barton Road Community Centre to Moorside School in 2017. This has caused frustration to SCEA voters as they now have to travel from their home in Scotforth East, past one or two other polling places - one of which, at St Paul's Hala Centre, lies in Scotforth East - to reach their new polling place, which lies at the opposite side of Scotforth East from their home. I accept that for a time in 2016-17, the future of the Barton Road Community Centre was in doubt, but this threat seems to have now lifted, so there seems to be no good reason not to return there.

4. *"Just get a postal vote!"* is not a suitable solution to these problems. Electors have a right to vote in person, and for as long as they have that right, local authorities should do their utmost to make it convenient for all electors to vote in person.

5. Here are some specific suggestions, all of which relate to the part of our district lying within the Lancaster & Fleetwood parliamentary constituency:

(a) BLKC is oversized and the Gregson Centre is inconveniently placed for residents living on the Moor Hospital development. Perhaps you could consider splitting away part of BLKC - the part to the East of Christ Church School and Central Lancaster High School - to create a new polling district BLKD. One possible polling place might be *"The Residence"*, the centrepiece of the Moor Hospital development. There are issues of security for residents of *"The Residence"*, of course, but this seems a natural location.

(b) The polling place for MARA is a long way from where most MARA electors live; if possible, a more convenient polling place for MARA residents should be found. Furthermore, the recent residential growth along New Quay Road means that MARB is now oversized. Perhaps you could consider moving the boundary between MARA and MARB to a line passing just north of Milking Stile Lane and continuing out to the Lune, retaining St Thomas More Centre as the polling place for the enlarged MARA, and identifying a new polling place - maybe the Cricket Club? - for the reduced MARB.

(c) White Cross would make a more convenient polling place for SCWE. It lies in the middle of the polling district.

(d) As mentioned above, the polling place for SCEA should be moved back to the Barton Road Community Centre.

(e) The polling place for the Scotforth Rural polling districts, UNIC and UNID, is a long distance from where UNIC and UNID voters live, along a congested main road. Although there are no obvious locations for polling places within UNIC or UNID, it may be more convenient for those residents to travel onto the Lancaster University campus and vote at the Chaplaincy Centre, the current polling place for UNIA. The University could be approached to permit short-stay parking in the vicinity of the polling station during polling hours. ✓

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

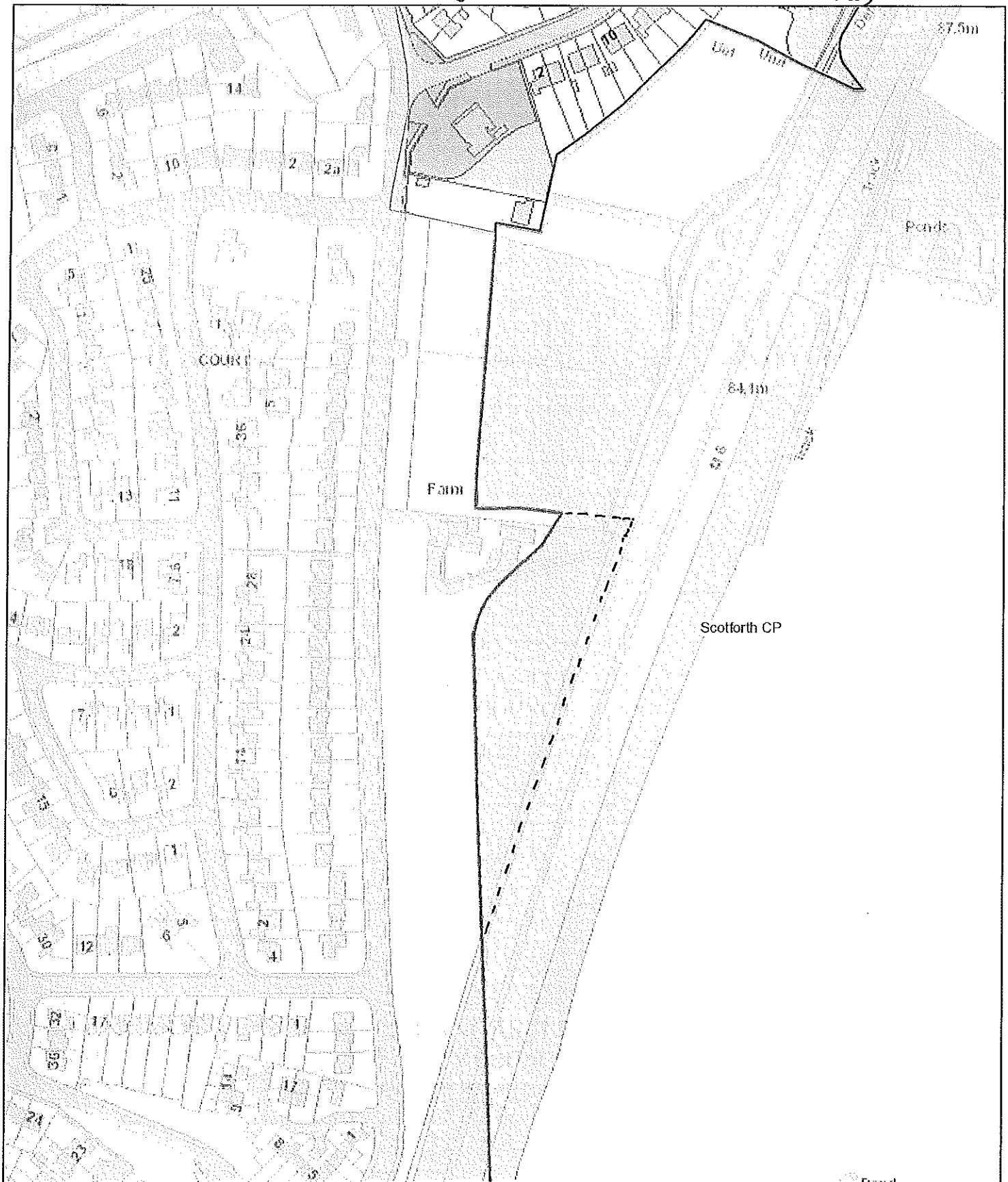
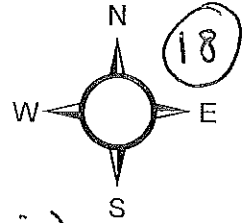
SCEB/UNIC anomaly

Hala Centre/Rowley Court

Current polling district boundary. (amendment shown as dotted line)

LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside



0 40 80 160 Meters

Date: 17/09/2019

