

## APPENDIX 7

### **Comments made on behalf of the Uttlesford Access Group**

If the non accessible hall managers/committees are offering their halls for hire and gain, then they need to seek funds from anyone and everyone to improve all access issues where possible.

### **Cate Scott, Vice- Chair of the Uttlesford Area Access Group**

Apologies Sue for the delay in responding to the Polling Station query - I regret I have too little local knowledge about many of the problem locations so cannot really make practical comments about where alternatives might be found.

Clearly if the current contenders are historic buildings with no realistic potential, then alternative arrangements have to be created.

In principle there should of course be no inconvenience imposed on local residents/voters - Cate's suggestion clearly has some potential as would the provision of mobile, accessible polling stations - similar to the units used as mobile police stations (a deal might be done with the Police service for polling days, albeit these are doubtless limited in number?)

### **Peter Lainson, Chair of the Uttlesford Area Access Group**

It would appear that much work has been done in the intervening period in some of these locations, assisting those voters with mobility impairments in their right to vote in person. It seems clear that the authority is not in a position to provide funding and that the most efficient way that we can assist is by encouraging the village hall committees to work either with Jane Elsom the Grants Officer at UDC, or Margaret Shanks at the Council for Voluntary Services Uttlesford. Their specialist knowledge in finding funding will at least assist provide an easier route for those groups who would not know who to approach.

The mobile Police Service vehicle would certainly be an option as they do provide access for disabled users and I believe that there is an WC 'on board' but quite how you would be able to hire it, I am unsure.

### **Sue Locke, Secretary of the Uttlesford Area Access Group**