

Key services and Facilities in Mendip Villages - April 2017

Introduction

Core Policy 1 of the Local Plan Part 1 identifies a hierarchy of settlements in Mendip including the five main towns and a group of 16 Primary and 13 Secondary Villages. The definition of Primary and Secondary Villages is linked to access to a number of key services and facilities.

The Local Plan makes a commitment to monitor the changes in key services and facilities. Paragraph 4.13 of the adopted Local Plan Part 1 states: *“The Council is mindful that there is the potential for the availability of services and facilities within rural communities to change over time which may act to undermine their inherent sustainability. Regular monitoring of services and facilities, particularly the key community facilities, will be reported in the Authority’s Monitoring Report. Where communities gain or lose key facilities their status within the settlement classification in Core Policy 1 will be reviewed enabling a more appropriate application of policy.”*

This update shows the key facilities present as of April 2017, as well as details of any changes which have taken place since the Local Plan was adopted in 2014. It covers the adopted Primary and Secondary Villages, as well as other villages in the countryside with a population of over 200 (based on figures in the Rural Settlement Role and Function Paper Update, October 2012).

Defining Primary and Secondary Villages

Primary Villages:

These villages offer key community facilities, including the best available public transport services, making them the best placed to accommodate most new rural development. These are the villages with all of the following key facilities:

- a primary school;
- a meeting place (either a pub or a village hall);
- a shop able to meet a range of daily needs; and
- a ‘journey to work’ weekday bus service which allows residents to arrive in an employment centre - one of the 5 Mendip towns or other major centre outside the district - by 9am and return home after 5pm.

Secondary Villages:

These villages have the same ‘journey to work’ bus service as the Primary Villages but only 2 of the remaining key facilities.

Key Village Facilities (as of April 2017)

The following tables set out the key facilities in the Primary, Secondary and Other Villages as of April 2017.

Table 1: Key Facilities in Primary Villages (April 2017)

	BUS		SHOP	COMMUNITY FACILITY		PRIMARY SCHOOL
	Arrives by 9am	Returns after 5pm		Pub	Village hall	
Baltonsborough	•	•	•	•	•	•
Beckington	•	•	•	•	•	•
Butleigh	•	•	•	•		•
Chewton Mendip	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chilcompton	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coleford	•	•	•	•	*	•
Croscombe	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ditcheat	•	•	•	•	•	•
Draycott	•	•	•	•	•	•
Evercreech	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mells	•	•	•	•	•	•
Norton St Philip	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nunney	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rode	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stoke St Michael	•	•	•	•	•	•
Westbury sub Mendip	•	•	•	•	•	•

* No village hall but two meeting places

Table 2: Key Facilities in Secondary Villages (April 2017)

	BUS		SHOP	COMMUNITY FACILITY		PRIMARY SCHOOL
	Arrives by 9am	Returns after 5pm		Pub	Village hall	
Binegar/Gurney Slade	•	•	•	•	•	
Coxley	•	•			•	•
Doulting	•	•		•	•	•
Faulkland	•	•			•	
Holcombe	•	•		•	•	
Kilmersdon	•	•		•	•	•
The Lydfords	•	•	•	•	•	
Meare/Westhay	•	•		•	•	•
Oakhill	•	•		•	•	•
Walton	•	•		•	•	•
West Pennard	•	•		•	•	•
Wookey	•	•		•		•
Wookey Hole	•	•		•	•	

Note: The Lydfords includes Lydford on Fosse, West Lydford and East Lydford
The pub in Faulkland is currently closed (July 2017)

Table 3: Key Facilities in Other Villages in the Countryside (April 2017)

	BUS		SHOP	COMMUNITY FACILITY		PRIMARY SCHOOL
	Arrives by 9am	Returns after 5pm		Pub	Village hall	
Batcombe				•	•	
Bleadney and Henton					•	
Buckland Dinham	•	•		•	•	
Cranmore	•	•		•	•	
Easton	•	•			•	
Godney				•	•	
Leigh on Mendip	•	•		•	•	•
North Wootton				•	•	
Pilton	•	•		•	•	
Priddy				•	•	•
Rodney Stoke	•	•		•		
South Horrington	•	•				
Ston Easton					•	
Stratton on the Fosse				•	•	
Trudoxhill				•	•	
Wanstrow				•	•	
Witham Friary				•	•	

Changes in Key Village Facilities (since 2014)

Primary Villages:

There has been no change in the key facilities of any of the Primary Villages.

Secondary Villages:

- Coxley - There is no longer a pub but it continues to meet the criteria of a Secondary Village as it has a village hall.
- Faulkland, Holcombe and Wookey Hole – These settlements do not currently have a shop so do not meet the criteria of a Secondary Village. This would be a material consideration which could be taken into account in any residential application or local plan allocation (see below). The pub in Faulkland is currently closed (July 2017)

Other Villages:

- Leigh on Mendip - The village currently has a journey to work bus service, a pub, a village hall and a primary school. The settlement would therefore meet the criteria of a Secondary Village. This would be a material consideration which could be taken into account in any residential application or local plan allocation (see below).

Policy Approach to Changes in Key Village Facilities

Since 2014 a number of villages have lost shops or pubs. There have also been a number of reviews and consultations on council supported/commercial bus services by providers. Despite these changes, however, there is a need for the Local Plan to provide certainty and avoid the frequent review of the status of individual settlements. The Council intends to undertake a formal review of villages in the settlement hierarchy as part of the broader review of the Local Plan Part I (currently scheduled to start in 2018). The criteria defining Primary and Secondary Villages may also be reconsidered at this time. In the interim, a change in key facilities may be taken into account as a

'material consideration' when determining individual planning applications or site allocations in the Local Plan Part II.