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Date : 3 February 2014



Graham Musson
Chairman of Bearley Parish Council
c/o Old School House
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Bearley
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0SQ

Paul Lankester
Chief Executive

Dear Graham

Local Service Villages Methodology

Thank you for your letter to Paul Lankester dated 28 January, to which I respond on his behalf.

The main point to make is that there is an error in the Information Sheet. While it shows the score for Bearley being increased from 3 to 4, it is not correct that the village should become a category 3 Local Service Village as a result. It is clear from the Information Sheet that other villages that score 4 points are in category 4. I do apologise for the concern this has caused.

In response to specific points you raise, from the outset the approach has been not to make the methodology too detailed (scientific), taking the view that a more complex analysis would be equally prone to dissection. Most of the LSVs currently with 100-250 houses are in category 4 and are intended to provide 10-25 additional dwellings - broadly a 10% increase; while each of the LSVs in category 1 currently has over 800 dwellings and is intended to provide 75-100 dwellings - also broadly a 10% increase. There are clearly exceptions to the rule, eg. Alderminster is a relatively small village but is in category 3 due to its frequent bus service.

Until the latest proposed revisions to the methodology, Bearley had been given 2 points for the bus service that runs through the village. However, a fresh assessment of the frequency of this service has shown that it should score only 1 point. In the latest round of assessment, consideration has been given to the availability of public transport within a reasonable distance from settlements. On that basis, Bearley has been given 1 point for the frequent bus service along the Birmingham Road. In fact, based on its frequency alone it would score 2 points but it has been reduced to 1 point to reflect distance from the village.

I hope this clarification is helpful. Again, I do sincerely apologise for the misleading information supplied about the categorisation of Bearley and for the time that has no doubt been taken up in preparing your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Nisbet'.

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