Settlement Hierarchy (Core village)

JLP Section 08.03

Object

Legally Compliant Y

Not Sound N

Duty To co-operate Y

Sproughton Parish Council contest that the scoring system used to assess the relative sustainability of villages does not consider the relevance of a service/infrastructure. Sproughton has been judged by this system to score as a Core Village however a Core Village is one that provides a level of support for surrounding lesser villages. The scoring system does not consider if that is possible.

In the case of our Village Pub the Wild Man that scores significantly under this process it was abandoned by the licensee at the end of 2019 as being unviable and has been shut ever since. We have no idea if it will open again as a pub or if its long historic association with the village as a pub has reached its end. Removing the Pub from our score would count Sproughton as a Hinterland Village.

In the case of our Village shop this is a non-profit making charity run shop subsidised by the Parish Council and run by volunteers. Due to its limited buying power it would be unviable without its volunteers or the Parish Council Support. It is unable to offer competitive prices as per the supermarkets and primarily provides a service for pedestrian customers from the village unable or unwilling to travel a few minutes down the road to Supermarkets in Ipswich. If this is not considered to be a retail service that provides a service for surrounding villages then our score would drop our allocation down to that of a Hinterland Village.

We also have issues with our Primary School counting as a service for surrounding villages as some Sproughton parents have to take their children outside our Parish for schooling because its capacity is inadequate. If our primary school is inadequate for our village we fail to see how it can be counted as a Core Village provision supporting surrounding villages. In which case we contest it should not count and again Sproughton would be counted as a Hinterland Village.

In fact Sproughton only needs to lose one scoring point in any scoring category to revert to a Hinterland Village. We admit we are a big Hinterland Village because in the later part of the 20th Century Sproughton absorbed a lot of new development growth but it only came with some limited improvements that are inadequate for our village. We also accept that the Parish outside the village on the other side of the A14 is classed as an urban area but this is distinct from the village itself. So the village relies on our neighbour Bramford which is a Core Village and Pinewood and Ipswich for our needs and do not provide a Core Village service to surrounding villages.

For this reason we object to our allocation as a core village from a Hinterland Village in the JLP Settlement Hierarchy and ask that provision within this JLP allows for our re-assessed based on our ability to support surrounding villages as a Core Village.

Summary

If not already acted on by BMSDC before this JLP is examined Sproughton Parish Council abject to the weighted scoring of services employed to establish village classifications as it failed to employ any weighted adjustment for a services capacity or relevance at all. On three counts we object to the score given and our allocation to a core village by just one point considering this failure and ask that there be provision within the JLP for re-assessment of a village classification.

Changes

That this JLP is amended to allow provision for truly weighted proportional scoring of services considered in the scoring system for village classification where there are objections to the assessment of services / facilities or changes to the service / facility from previous assessment /scoring and that where such re-assessment alters the village classification by that count the new classification should apply.