

Response to Joint Local Plan Background Paper on Facilities/Services Priority List

Dear Strategic

Please accept comments below from Hatherleigh Town Councillors in answer to your 1st question:
Have we missed anything that you feel makes an important contribution to a rural village? Yes If so, what have we missed, and what contribution does it make to rural communities?

Town/village car parks and parking provision be added to the list as a high priority.

For rural towns and villages easily accessible parking provision ie car parks are essential for the support and survival of local businesses, community facilities, service providers and recreational areas. A town/village cannot operate effectively without adequate parking. Without a central place to park a car people change their shopping habits and will drive to a larger town (or supermarket) that does.

In response to your 2nd question:

Do you agree with the weight that has been accorded to each of these services and facilities? No If not, what would you change and why?

Our suggestions:

Highest Weighting - a sustainable village needs a range of community facilities and services which can be accessed as far as possible without vehicle use.

Health centre – with some dispensary facility

First response officer

Primary school

Public transport 9 -5 service

Post office

Shop – with cash point

Parking facilities

Pub/café

Village hall

Recreation area

Place of worship

Local employment area

Internet service - essential for home businesses

Mobile phone coverage

Walking/cycling access - promotes health, reduces car congestion etc

Middle weighting - important but not seen as highly important as these can be accessed easily by vehicle with close proximity to larger towns anyhow.

Fire and ambulance station

Community transport

Chemist

Petrol station

Community allotments/orchard

Police

Lowest weighting

Dentist

Bus service – commercial (not sure how this differs from a 9-5 service, buses travel county wide)

Train station

Library (although mobile van could raise this higher)

Holiday accommodation