



THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Peter Williams,
Policy Team Leader, Forward Plans
Aylesbury Vale District Council,
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14th November 2015

Dear Peter Williams,

Further to our conversation on Thursday 12th November, I've downloaded the document 'Draft Settlement Hierarchy Assessment for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan to accompany Issues and Options Consultation October 2015' that you referred to, along with several other relevant documents. Thank you for directing me to the web page.

Looking at the criteria and assessment process detailed in the document I can see what I believe to be several discrepancies in the assessment that categorises Thornborough as a 'larger settlement'.

Defining the Criteria for 'Larger Villages' Para 5.11 states that 'In developing a criteria for larger villages, the settlements were defined as typically having a population of between around 700 and 3,000'. The population of the parish of Thornborough was under 700 (641 in the 2011 census) and this was the entire population of the parish which included two settlements; the village of Thornborough just north of the A421 and the hamlet of Coombs which is towards Padbury, south of the A421.

Para 5.17 goes on to state that 'There are a number of settlements which do not meet the criteria for any of the previously identified settlement tiers. The majority of these 'other settlements' have a population of around 200 or less and 2 or less of the 11 key criteria'. Although it hasn't been included in the 'Other Settlements' section, it seems reasonable to assume that Coombs should be one of these settlements as it contains 14 houses, each with at least two adults (according to the current electoral roll) making a population total of 28. It would have none of the key criteria.

There are a further 17 outlying houses and farms, with probably a collective number of residents in excess of 34.

This means that the actual 'settlement' of Thornborough Village is in fact about 580, much less than 641.

With regards to the criteria, the future of the Thornborough outreach Post Office, which comes to the village for two hours on a Wednesday afternoon is uncertain due to financial implications. Should it stop in the near future that would reduce the Key Criteria of Thornborough as a settlement to 5.

With a population of less than 600 and future Key Criteria possibly being reduced to 5, I believe that Thornborough should be more accurately assessed as a 'Smaller Village' I would be grateful if you could consider this and let me have your comments to pass on to Thornborough Parish Councillors.

Yours sincerely

Maggie Beach
Clerk to Thornborough Parish Council

cc. Aylesbury Vale District Council Councillor Sir Beville Stanier
Buckinghamshire County Council Councillor Warren Whyte