

Dear Parish Clerk

We are looking to update the information that we hold on services and facilities within our towns and villages to understand how sustainable our towns and villages currently are. The information will be used to produce a Sustainable Settlement Strategy, which will be one of many evidence bases that will assist to inform our new local plan.

We have recently consulted with Towns and Parishes through the Parish Clusters on the Sustainable Settlement methodology and following this have identified those services and facilities considered important for the strategy (See Services and Facilities final list document attached). We have attached the analysis and conclusions of the consultation to this email for information (See consultation responses summary document attached). This provides a summary of the responses that we received. We have also provided a short summary setting out our considerations / conclusions (See Refining the Sustainable Settlement Strategy document attached). Please do not feel you have to read these documents but we are providing them in case you would like to. In the background, we have also been working to produce a list of services and facilities in each of our settlements. This has largely been desk based to date.

Local knowledge is vital to the Sustainability Settlement Strategy to ensure that our information is up-to-date and that we have identified all of the services and facilities that may be present in each of our settlements. We would like to invite and very much welcome your input and local knowledge to assist us in this work to check the information that we have gathered so far.

Once we receive the information from you we will come back to you if we have any further queries and will update the information that we hold for the purposes of the study and then progress with the assessment. A point that we have made at the most recent Planning Cabinet Advisory Group and also at our Parish Cluster meetings is that this assessment will not in itself determine the location of future growth. The assessment will simply assist us to understand the current sustainability of our towns and villages and to help us best plan for the future.

Assistance required

We have produced the list in a word document, as we thought this would be the easiest way to update the services and facilities list. The list provides a Yes (Y) / No (N) column in relation to whether a service is present in the built up area or on the outskirts of the town or village. Please check whether this is correct along with the information about that particular service or facility and address.

Where we state (N) in the column, this means that we have not identified the service / facility in the settlement. Please check if we have this right and provide details if we have not. It would be helpful to have the name and full address of the service and facility.

Where a particular service or facility is not present, we have identified the nearest service and facility to the settlement and the distance. It would be helpful if you can

check this, however it is not imperative, as we will update this information based on responses received from all towns and parishes.

If you have any comments or any updates in relation to services and facilities we may have missed, got wrong or do not have quite right please can you add comments in the Town and Parish comments column provided.

The services and facilities list is not in any particular order. Areas that we are aware of being particularly information light at this stage include national groups and also retail shops, if you can provide this information, this would be really useful to us. Please check the full list.

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know. We are happy to assist with this as needed, so feel free to give us a call on 01892 602008 or email planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk

We appreciate that we are in holiday season but if you are able to get this back to us soon it would be much appreciated. In relation to a closing date, we are working to Monday 20th September 2021.

Thank you in advance

Kind regards

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