

Abthorpe Village & Foscote Hamlet

Abthorpe Parish

Rural Areas Settlement Hierarchy – Response Form

Technical Engagement with Parish Councils

February 2024

This response form should be read in conjunction with the Settlement Hierarchy Consultation document and Settlement Confines Background Paper. You can type your answers directly into this response form. Please email your completed form to localplan@westnorthants.gov.uk by **Tuesday 2nd April 2024**.

Existing settlement hierarchy

Question SH1. Do you think Small Village is still the appropriate tier of the hierarchy for Abthorpe? If not, which tier do you think is more appropriate? Do you think Hamlet is still the appropriate classification for Foscote? If not, do you think Foscote should be in one of the Settlement Hierarchy tiers?

Yes – Abthorpe should be classified as a small village

Yes – Foscote should be classified as a Hamlet

Question SH2. What is your experience of being in this tier? Have any issues arisen, for example through Planning Applications, because of being in this tier?

No specific issues have arisen as a result of our allocation to the Small Village Tier

Question SH3. Have you identified any advantages or disadvantages from being in this tier?

Our experience is that while we are a small settlement in our own right, we are geographically, economically and emotionally linked to other settlements in the Tove Valley, eg Wappenham, Lois Weedon, Weston, Bradden, creating a larger and more significant community. We are uncertain how tiers that focus planning decisions at the individual settlements level, morph into planning across coherent rural regions such as ours, particularly concerning decisions around public services and facilities.

Existing services and facilities

Below is the list of services and facilities which were identified in 2013 when the last assessment was carried out. Could you please review this list and indicate any services or facilities which are no longer available and add any new provisions which are now available. Where possible, please indicate whether the service/facility is located in Abthorpe or Foscoate.

ABTHORPE (INCLUDING FOSCOTE) Services and facilities	2013	2024	Comments
Secondary school	NO	NO	
GP surgery	NO	NO	
Primary school	NO	NO	Local primary Schools seem very full with children from Abthorpe now split across several local schools
Bus to urban area	NO	NO	
General store	NO	NO	
Post office	NO	NO	
Broadband	YES	YES	This is local, community based, not for profit provision across all the villages of the Tove Valley
Recreational facilities	NO	NO	
Pre-school / Nursery	NO	NO	
Community Facilities	YES	YES	Village Hall
Public House	YES	YES	
Local Employment	NO	YES	Very limited. The Pub, Challock Stud, Silverstone Farm Poultry, some agricultural but mainly owner managed and staffed
Restaurants / takeaways	NO	NO	Except for the pub
Allotments	NO	NO	
Social Club	NO	NO	
Wildlife site	NO	NO	
Adult learning facility	NO	NO	
Permanent library	NO	NO	

Question SH4. Do you think there are any other services, facilities or factors that should be considered?

No Other Facilities

Parish Aspirations

Question SH5. Do you have a vision for your parish for the next 15 years? What changes or enhancements would you like see?

We hope to see Abthorpe flourish as a village. Abthorpe would like to see improved infrastructure for the existing population. This could be linked to any new housing developments. Abthorpe would like to see a small, limited growth in housing, within the confines of the existing village envelope. A mix of housing would be desirable, with some affordable houses for Northamptonshire families. Any new houses must have off-road parking.

Question SH6. What needs does your Parish have over the next 15 years?

1. The Parish Council has received requests is for allotments where people can grow their own produce. Such provision should be linked to any potential new housing developments.
2. Like many villages we have a mix of housing, most of which have limited or no off-road parking. As a result the village green at the heart of the village, and the narrow roads leading to it and the village pub, are overwhelmed with parked cars which erode the benefit of the village green as a communal open space. They also endanger the overall H&S of the community by potentially restricting access for emergency vehicles. A scheme or schemes to alleviate this problem should be found.
3. There will be an increasing need to provide access to vehicle charging facilities going forward, where a significant proportion of properties in Abthorpe do not have individual off-road parking. Guidance, financial and logistical support will be required.

Question SH7. Do you think your Parish has the right mix and amount of housing and employment? Are there any sites or opportunities you would like to highlight for future development or redevelopment?

We have very few employment opportunities within the village. With the exception of the pub, equine and agricultural sites, there are no opportunities, if you discount working from home. It is difficult to see where any significant employment opportunities might arise.

Settlement Confines

QUESTION SC1. Do you agree all exception sites should be excluded from settlement confines? If not, please explain why

Yes. Agreed

QUESTION SC2. Do you agree with suggested criterion 4: Developments that are isolated or peripheral to the main built up part of a settlement, where there they meet criteria: at least 30dph, have at least 20 dwellings, are within 100m of the main settlement and do not have a separate identity? If not, please explain why.

Yes. Agreed

QUESTION SC3. Do you agree with suggested criterion 8, to exclude land from settlement confines which would otherwise be outside the confines, even if it is between the edge of the settlement and a bypass? If not, please explain why.

Not Applicable, BUT, Yes

Question SC4. Do you agree that all settlements in the hierarchy should have their confines defined in the Local Plan? Please explain why.

Yes.

- It clearly defines the current village settlement structure to allow focus of limited resources to a defined area
- It will aid the decision making for future development and enhancement of the settlement at the same time as protecting extra village/rural spaces

Question SC5. Should there be any changes made to the settlement confines boundary? Please explain your suggestions and/or annotate the enclosed map

No. We do not believe so!

QUESTION SC6. Do you think there is anything missing from the suggested criteria?

No
No

QUESTION SC7. Do you have any other comments on the suggested settlement confines criteria?

Your details

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Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

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