

## Hearing Session Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 pm

### Agenda session 24

#### 'Has Cuddington been correctly classified in the settlement hierarchy' ?

#### Written Representations by Ken Trew on behalf of Cuddington Parish Council

##### 1. October 2015 Issues and Options Document

1.1 Cuddington was originally classified as a 'smaller village' in the Issues and Options document

##### 2. Summer 2016 VALP Draft Plan

2.1 In the Draft VALP Cuddington was reclassified as a Medium Village. Cuddington PC and a number of villagers submitted objections to this. The Cuddington PC objection (ID VALP16-09-02-00664) was as follows: -

*"Following a review of the original settlement hierarchy a number of large villages have been re-graded as medium. Cuddington is the only small village that has been changed to a medium village. The Parish Council objects to the settlement hierarchy methodology and the identification of Cuddington as a medium village.*

***The village does not satisfactorily meet the AVDC criteria for a medium village and should revert to its previous classification as a small village.***

*Cuddington does not meet 4 of the 5 criteria for a medium village: -*

- *Size – Population is 569. It would be the smallest of the medium villages and less than half the average of 1152 (in a range of 680-2115) for the proposed medium villages.*
- *Connectivity – Whilst only being 1.5 miles from Haddenham, there is no public transport to Haddenham, no footway and the necessity to cross the dangerous A 418 at an accident black spot. The public transport to Aylesbury is infrequent. This is not being 'well connected'.*
- *Employment – None. Insufficient weight has been given to the lack of employment – most of the settlements in the medium village group have some employment. This is an important issue that requires more weight to be given to it in any assessment of sustainability.*
- *Facilities –*  
*Key services are -Food store, Pub, Post Office, General Practice, Village Hall, Recreation, Primary School*  
*Non - Key Services are - Pharmacy, Library, Places of worship, Secondary schools*

*Cuddington is assessed to score 6 of the 7 on the list of key services. However, the system gives one point irrespective of how many shops/ pubs etc there are in the village. Various of the medium villages have greater numbers of each of these services but still the same score applies. Further, there is no weighting between any of the 'Facilities'. For example, for a population with a high proportion of older people, a GP surgery will be more important than recreational facilities.*

*Currently the nearest general practice and pharmacy is at Haddenham and this is only accessible by car.*

*The Cuddington school site is **not** a full Primary School, in that Cuddington and Dinton School is located on two sites, the junior school being in Dinton, with infants in Cuddington. The school is also heavily over- subscribed. It serves not only Cuddington but also Dinton, Chearsley and Lower Winchendon and these primary pupils are bused-in or driven to school.*

- *Qualitative assessment – recommends, throughout, a **small** village status. The description of being ‘well connected to a service centre’ is not accurate”*

### **3. Winter 2017 VALP Proposed Submission Plan.**

- 3.1 The submission draft of VALP continues to classify Cuddington as a medium village. Although Cuddington PC did not submit further representations on this issue it still maintains its position that Cuddington is a small village.