

Place Overview Committee

17 September 2021

Public Questions and Responses

From: Graham Bould, Clerk to Sutton Parish Council

Should farmsteads be defined as settlements in their own right in the context of local rural housing needs?

Response:

Shropshire Council, through the current and emerging Local Plan Review, has identified a robust and extensive hierarchy of recognisable named settlements and applied this to policy preparation, including through the delivery of local needs affordable housing provision. This does not recognise farmsteads as distinct settlements in their own right, and therefore it would not be appropriate for the Council to use such a geography to assess local rural housing needs.

The Council's countryside policy, both in the current and emerging Local Plans, does specifically recognise the importance of permitting essential rural workers dwellings in appropriate circumstances, including where these would be linked to an activity relating to the management of the land, for agriculture, forestry or another land based rural business, where certain criteria are met. It is felt this approach recognises the intrinsic rural character of Shropshire, whilst also ensuring that housing for local needs is primarily delivered in named settlements served by a range of services and facilities.