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8th April 2022

Head of Planning and Building,
Test Valley Borough Council

Dear TVBC,

Comments on Local Plan 2040, Reg.18 Stage 1

3,.27 Settlement hierarchy

We suggest that the key facilities should include:

Post Office, especially in view of local bank branch closures. In this village more people use the Post Office than the shop per.se. This is partly because customers for the Post Office also come from neighbouring villages that do not have Post Offices of their own.

Good broadband coverage

Good mobile phone coverage.

3.32 Allocation of houses to villages.

This proposal has some merit but to gain local acceptance it is necessary that the site allocations and the scale of the development respect the size and character of the settlement. Each Parish needs to have the opportunity to comment on, and influence, the number allocated and the proportion that are affordable; and should have a decisive role in choosing the location of any development. It should also be consulted on whether it rather see housing which resulted from a relaxing of the settlement boundary, rather than on a single site.

In the case of Abbots Ann, if the site is to be chosen from SHELAA sites in the parish, then by far the most suitable is SHELAA entry 190 Land southeast of Dunkirt Lane. This is close to the centre of the village, thus adding to the vitality of the village institutions, and would not have an excessive landscape impact.

