

South Somerset's settlement hierarchy workshop discussion paper April 2011
REPORT 2 – Review of Crewkerne, Ilminster, Bruton & Ilchester status

The Settlement Role and Function study recommended the following:

- Crewkerne and Ilminster should be considered as Market Towns
- Bruton and Ilchester should be considered as Rural Centres

There were no objections to the status of Ilminster and Bruton although comments in support were received. The objections to Crewkerne and Ilchester have been summarised and considered below.

Crewkerne

Issue: “

- Approximately 2 representations have been received in support of Crewkerne's identification as a Market Town.

- What is a Market Town?" - the term should mean a place that has a real, regular weekly market.

Response:

The definition of a Market Town in planning terms is a place that meets the following criteria:

- there is an existing concentration of business and employment and realistic potential for employment opportunities to be developed and enhanced
- there are shopping, cultural, religious, faith, educational, health and public services that can be provided to meet the needs of the settlement and the surrounding area
- there are sustainable transport modes that can be maintained or developed to meet identified community needs in the settlement and surrounding area.

The Baker Associates Settlement Role and Function Study (April 2009) illustrates that Crewkerne meets all of the above criteria, it displays a strong employment role relative to other settlements, acts as a service centre for those settlements surrounding it (benefiting from a range of strategic and non-strategic education, health, retail, financial, leisure and community facilities and services) and has sustainable travel opportunities. There are no substantive reasons given for change, Crewkerne is therefore rightly identified as a Market Town.

Recommendation: No change.

Ilminster

Issue: The role of Ilminster as a Market Town is recognised and 1 representation in support of its classification has been received.

Response: Noted.

Recommendation: No change.

Bruton

Issue: The role of Bruton as a Market Town is recognised and 1 representation in support of its classification has been received.

Response: Noted

Recommendation: No change.

Ilchester

Issue:

- Approximately 1 representation was been received in support of Ilchester's identification as a Market Town.
- Object to Ilchester being identified as a Rural Centre, as it is a village.

Response: The definition of a Rural Centre in planning terms is a small town or village with greater levels of self-containment and stronger local communities than other small towns and villages. The Baker Associates Settlement Role and Function Study (April 2009) clearly illustrates that Ilchester satisfies the definition of a Rural Centre, it has an employment function (provides 2,700 jobs which accounts for 4.3% of all employment across the District, it has the 3rd highest level of employment self-containment in the District and ranks 3rd in terms of employment density with 1.12 jobs per economically active person, the District average being 0.86) together with an identified retail and community role. Other settlements do not have such services and facilities. In conclusion, there are no substantive reasons given for change, hence Ilchester is therefore rightly identified as a Rural Centre.

Recommendation: No change.