

Ideal English Village Size

A survey by Cambridge County Council shows that the facilities in villages improve with their size. Villages of 170 to 600 people may have a pub, post office, village hall and a store. Larger villages of 600 to 1100 people will also have a primary school, church, playing field and a garage. Larger villages of up to say 3500 people may also have a police house, butcher, hairdressers, licensed club, doctor, chemist and secondary school.

Some facilities such as a health visitor, group surgery, junior school and more shopping facilities need a population of 5000 people so they are shared between villages.

Other studies have concluded that a minimum of 700 people should be aimed at but that beyond 1500 people a village becomes socially “difficult”.

“A village is a closely integrated community.”

For more detail please see “Country Planning” by R J Green Manchester University Press ISBN 0 7190 0455 1 pages 24 to 26, and pages 112 to 113 for references.