

BISHOP'S CASTLE LOCAL CONNECTION POLICY

What does it mean to have a local connection?

Local connection is defined by s.199 of the 1996 Act. A person has a local connection because of normal residence (current or previous) of their own choice, employment, family associations, or special circumstances. Residence is not of a person's choice if it is the consequence of being detained in prison or in hospital under the Mental Health Act. As a result of changes to s.199 introduced in 2008¹³ a person serving in the Armed Forces can establish a local connection with a local authority district through residence or employment there, in the same way as a civilian.

General Guidance:

The determination of local connection is a matter of fact – an applicant either meets the required policy criteria or they don't.

Shropshire Council advise Town and Parish Councils that they are free to ask applicants appropriate questions, but their determination should be based solely upon the issue of 'Strong Local Connection'. In this respect it is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate to the Council's reasonable satisfaction how they meet the criteria – proof of address, schooling, family connections, employment, other community connections, etc.

Policy Criteria:

This will normally mean that at least two of the following descriptions apply to at least one of the adult members of the household:

- Their parents were permanently resident in the local area at the time of the applicant's birth;
- They were in permanent residence in the local area for any period of five years as a child attending a local school (or who for special reasons attended a school outside the local area but would have been expected to attend a local school but for those special reasons);
- They are currently lawfully resident in the local area and have lived there for at least the previous 5 years;
- They don't currently live in the local area but have previously lived there at some point for 15 continuous years as an adult;
- They are currently employed or routinely carry out self-employed work within either the local area or 5km of the site;
- They can demonstrate active community involvement in the local area sustained for at least the previous 2 years; or are determined by the Council as having some other form of strong connection with the local community and/or its hinterland.
- Their parents currently live in the local area; or another close family member who provides or requires a substantial degree of support currently living in the local area

It would be expected that any applicant should attend the relevant town council meeting when this request was formally being made.

