

Planning COVID-19 Update

In line with current guidance from government the District Council has taken the decision to reduce some of its development and planning services. These include, but are not limited to site visits, posting site notices, consultation and legal correspondence required to be delivered via post or by hand. By doing this we are reducing the amount of people on our streets – adhering to the message to stay indoors and work from home wherever possible.

As a result whilst we will be able to receive new planning applications, where site visits, neighbour notification letters and/or site notices are required, we will be unable to fully process them at this time. We will continue to progress, where current government guidance and statutory requirements allow, those live applications already submitted to the District Council and where consultations and site visits have already been undertaken, but await additional guidance as to how we can maintain this process during this difficult time. We also await confirmation on how planning committee meetings could be held.

- We will continue to determine existing planning and related applications where we have already undertaken site visits and for which consultations are in progress or completed;
- We have a duty officer available for queries via phone and email;
- We continue to provide information and service enquiries via phone and email;
- We will be able to receive planning applications subject, however, because we cannot validate them nor start consultation or visit the site we will be unable to fully determine them;
- We will be able to deal with different types of applications such as, but not limited to, minor amendments or discharge of conditions or technical prior determinations etc providing these do not need consultations or site visits;
- We will continue to monitor and request payment arising from s106 triggers and CIL payments;
- We will process requests for Street Naming and Numbering subject to there being no requirement for a site visit;
- We will provide responses to Local Land Charge queries;
- We will be making arrangements, subject to new legislative provisions, for holding planning committee meetings (format to be advised); and,
- We will continue to acknowledge and commence investigations relating to alleged breaches of planning control but without visiting the site.

We will be reviewing government advice regularly and will keep residents and businesses up-to-date as much as possible.