

Statement of Community Involvement - Temporary Changes in Respect of Publicity of Planning Policy Documents and Planning Applications during COVID-19 Crisis

During these unprecedented times, we will be unable to operate community consultation on planning policy documents and a variety of application types in the precise way set out in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

The temporary changes outlined have been made to protect the health of our communities and follows national advice and guidelines. The changes are set out below.

Engaging with the Community

Owing to the closure of libraries and Council offices to the public at the current time, the Council cannot publicise consultations in these locations nor can physical copies of documents be viewed at the present time. Consultations continue to be published on our website and we continue to notify interested parties by email and letter and receive comments through the website or by email or by letter.

Responding to Consultations

Anyone can respond to any consultation online, using the form supplied or by email to the relevant team. Paper response forms will not be available in our libraries and offices and we would encourage you to respond online as the Council is operating a reduced postal service at this time. Any paper copies may not be received or acknowledged until this emergency period is over and normal office working is re-established.

Changes to Publicity for Planning Applications

Please note that we may not be displaying a Site Notice for planning applications during the COVID-19 crisis. This will ensure officers are not increasing the risk of transmission by travelling out of their homes to protect the health of our staff and our residents.

The only exception to the above being applications for development affecting a Public Right of Way, development representing a departure from the Development Plan or applications for EIA development accompanied by an Environmental Statement, as these applications require a Site Notice to be displayed. For these applications during the COVID-19 crisis period, we will either post a Site Notice to applicants and ask them to display it or agree to an extension of time until the restrictions on travel no longer apply.