



Statement of Community Involvement Temporary Changes Addendum

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 fulfil some of the commitments set out in our adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2014) relating to how we consult on planning policy documents and a variety of application types. The temporary changes outlined have been made to protect the health of our communities and follow national advice and guidelines. The changes are set out below.

Planning policy

How we will engage the community in planning policy

Owing to the closure of most libraries, Parish/Town Council Offices and our Council offices to the public, the Council cannot publicise consultations in these locations nor can physical copies of documents be viewed. When these buildings are reopened to the public, physical copies of documents will be made available for inspection.

We will fulfil bespoke, proportionate requests for extracts or summaries of documents at no charge to those who do not have access to the internet. Please contact us on 01344 352000 to discuss your requirements. Please note, in accordance with government regulations the Council reserves the right to make a reasonable charge for requests for hard copies of documents that are beyond the scope of an extract or summary.

Information on consultations will continue to be published on our website and consultation portal. We will continue to notify interested parties by email and letter. Should you wish to be added to our consultation database please send your contact details to development.plan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk including your name, postal address and email address. Please note, this will only be for future consultation events, rather than website updates.

We value your views as we develop our planning policies, however, due to the current COVID-19 situation we are unable to hold any public consultation events including face-to-face meetings, workshops, or exhibitions. This is to ensure the health of our communities and residents.

The Government has postponed Neighbourhood Planning Referendums until 6th May 2021.

Officers can be contacted via email (development.plan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk) or phone (01344 352000) during this period, but will not be available to meet in the Council Offices.

The above applies to consultations on Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the Community Infrastructure Levy as well as any other planning policy documents.

How to respond to planning policy consultations

Anyone can respond to our consultations online, using the form supplied, by email or by using our consultation portal. Paper response forms will not be available in libraries, Parish/Town Council offices or our Council offices, and we would encourage you to respond online as the Council is operating a reduced postal service.

Publicity for planning applications

Planning applications will be publicised as normal. The Council will continue to display site notices, carry out neighbour notifications, place press notices, circulate a weekly list of planning applications and display details of applications on its website as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. In addition, where appropriate we will post updates on the website regarding certain applications in lieu of sending letters and provide instructions on how to join the virtual planning committee via the website.

Responses to consultations on planning documents can be done electronically using the online response system.

Temporary regulations have extended the minimum time limits for making representations in relation to planning applications from 14 to 21 days.

Future review of Statement of Community Involvement

The Council will review the Statement of Community Involvement once some form of normality has been restored and options for permanent arrangements are clearer.

August 2020