

Interpretation of SCI whilst Covid – 19 social distancing measures are in place

Planning Policy

Due to the unprecedented situation caused by Covid-19, we are not able to follow our normal processes for public consultation. To protect the health of our communities, there will be no public events, workshops or exhibitions. Our engagement with you will be almost entirely online and through our website.

In line with the Statement of Community Involvement you will be contacted if you are on the Councils Local Plan Consultation Database and there is specific consultation being undertaken on the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents or Guidance. Please also look out for notifications in the local press, on our website or in social media as noted in paragraph 1.15 of the Statement of Community Involvement.

Online facilities such as online meetings and workshops may be used in place of briefings/development management forum or workshops which would, under normal circumstances, be undertaken face to face. Policy 'surgeries' will not be undertaken face to face but may be undertaken on line.

The Council currently has limited capacity to issue documents in printed form but will use its best endeavours to make printed copies of documentation available for reference in publicly accessible locations.

We will be keeping the situation under review as government advice changes and will update you accordingly.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Government has suspended any referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan until 6 May 2021. It advises that plans that have reached the stage of referendum will be given significant weight in decision making. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2# covid-19>

Planning Applications

For information on our approach to dealing with Planning Applications including consultation please follow this link <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/planning-and-building/comment-on-a-planning-application/>

We continue to place advertisements in the local press, send neighbour notification letters and/or display site notices at or near the application site as required by relevant legislation.