

Delivery of planning services during coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic - Update 08th January 2021

Current Government Guidance

The Government has advised Local Planning Authorities that it is important they continue to provide the best service possible in these challenging times and to prioritise decision-making to ensure the planning system continues to function, especially where this will support the local economy.

In line with these Government expectations the Authority is continuing to progress decision-making wherever possible at the current time but in a way which protects its staff and the people they would normally interact with.

How We Are Delivering the Development Management Service?

In line with Government advice all of our planning staff are now working remotely and the Council offices are closed to the general public.

This will impact on the level of service that we are able to offer at the current time.

Decision Making

Current Planning Applications

Any current applications where the consultation period has expired will be progressed to a decision where possible. The majority of decisions will be issued under delegated powers in line with the scheme of delegation as set out in the Council's constitution.

Planning Panel

All Planning Panel meetings are now held as virtual meetings. Details of the relevant dates for scheduled meetings are listed on the Council's web site.

Applications will be reported to the Planning Panel in accordance with the protocols set out in the Council constitution.

New Planning Applications

All new planning applications should be submitted electronically, preferably through the Planning Portal. Any documentation submitted through the postal system will result in delays.

Once received an initial acknowledgement e-mail will be sent to you so that you know we have received your submission. However you should note that there is likely to be a delay in the validation and processing of any new application received by the Council until further notice.

Viewing Planning Application Documents

The public access to our Council offices is currently prohibited.

All new planning applications are now published on the Council web site and can be viewed using the following link:-

www.copeland.gov.uk/planning/application-search-terms

Any queries relating to access to the plans should be sent to developmentcontrol@copeland.gov.uk or by ringing telephone number 01946 598300.

Pre Application Advice

The Planning team`s main focus at present will be on decision making in accordance with Government instruction. Consequently the provision of pre application advice will be given reduced priority by Officers until further notice.

All communications relating to requests for pre application advice should be sent via e mail to the following e mail address:-

Development.Control@copeland.gov.uk

Please note that there may be a delay in any response which can be provided.

In order to accord with current Government guidelines no face to face meetings with Officers will take place until further notice.

Planning Enforcement

We will continue to operate the planning enforcement function and all new cases will be logged and reviewed.

Any cases where an offence is being committed i.e. unauthorised works to Listed Buildings and protected trees will be treated as a priority.

Urgent cases should be e mailed to Planning.Enforcement@copeland.gov.uk

In order to accord with current Government guidelines no face to face meetings with Officers will take place until further notice.

Contacting Us

All communications should be sent via e mail to the following e mail address:-
Development.Control@copeland.gov.uk

Please note that there may be a delay in any response which can be provided.

Please note, due to the rapidly changing situation the above approaches are subject to immediate change without notification or consultation.