

Our ref: THAG3
Please ask for: Tim Hickling
Email: Tim.hickling@rother.gov.uk
Date: 3 April 2020



Dr A Leonard
Executive Director of Business Operations
Town Hall
Bexhill-on-Sea
TN39 3JX

Via email

Dear agent/applicant

UPDATE: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Further to my letter dated 25th March I am writing to give you an update on how we are dealing with planning applications.

Validation of planning applications

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the validation team are now working remotely and this is likely to result in delays in the validation of new applications. During this time we will be trying our best to keep these delays to a minimum and to keep you informed with regard to progress through the coming weeks.

New planning applications

Following the current Government guidance to stay at home and to avoid contact with other people, case officers are not visiting sites and will not be publishing site notices until these restrictions are lifted.

Behind the scenes work to allocate new applications to a case officer and create the weekly list will continue. Consultee notifications will also continue; albeit it is anticipated there will be delays in response times during this part of the process.

As there will be no site notices published these applications will be held until the Government restrictions on movement are lifted, and no decisions will be made at this time. The relevant case officer will be in contact with you to request a 3 month extension to be reviewed at the end of this period, or beforehand if the Government changes its advice on movement.

Existing planning applications (where publicity expires 23rd March & after)

There are a number of live applications in the system which have a current site notice with a publicity period expiring **on 23rd March or later** (date of lockdown).

To minimise any possible future judicial reviews the publicity period will be paused and held until the Government movement restrictions are relaxed. When this happens then the remaining publicity period for each application will be activated. This impacts on approximately 50 applications. If your application falls within this category the relevant case officer will be in

contact with you to request a 3 month extension to be reviewed at the end of this period, or beforehand if the Government changes its advice on movement.

Planning Committee cases

At present we have approximately 10 cases which have been called in by Members to Committee. As a result of Full Councils decision on 23rd March all Committees are currently suspended. If your application falls within this category the relevant case officer will be in contact with you to request a 3 month extension to be reviewed at the end of this period, or beforehand if the Government changes its advice on movement.

All other cases

We are progressing these cases as normal

I fully appreciate that this is a difficult time for you and the above update may well be frustrating, but be rest assured Rother planning officers are doing their utmost to maintain the best service we can (within the current Government restrictions) to you and our community during this very difficult time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hickling". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn rectangular box.

Tim Hickling MRTPI, MCMI
Head of Service
Strategy & Planning Service