

Statement for planning applicants – Covid-19 implications

Thank you for your planning application or your pre-planning application advice query.

As you are aware the country is responding to the challenges of Covid-19 which could present a number of issues in processing your application. The main risks concern staff resources to secure a timely response and the ability to conduct specific elements of the work such as securing responses from statutory consultees and undertaking site visits in the usual way. The situation is being monitored daily.

As we all work together in dealing with these challenges, the planning team response will support the corporate response of the Borough Council of Wellingborough.

The specific approach and prioritisation of the planning team includes the following:

- We will attempt to deliver current applications within the required timeline if possible recognising this may be impacted as staff availability is currently not the same due to the national emergency.
- Prioritisation for applications validated from week commencing 16th March 2020 will be given to prior approval applications.
- The usual guarantee on pre-planning application advice being issued within 8 weeks (and sooner where possible) will be removed given the prioritisation of statutory planning applications.
- Any required site visit will be risk-assessed and may vary in the way it is undertaken.

We may require extensions of time from applicants in making determinations as we all work together to meet the challenges presented by Covid-19.

The position may be updated, and you are encouraged to check the council's website for further information.

We thank you for your ongoing co-operation and your continued business.

Yours faithfully