



Our ref: TH  
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Date: 23 April 2020

Via email

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

## **UPDATE: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS**

Dear Town & Parish Clerks

Please see below the latest on the service disruption from the Covid-19

### **Planning applications**

#### **New planning applications**

Following the current Government guidance to stay at home and to avoid contact with other people, officers are not visiting sites to undertake site assessments or posting up site notices until these restrictions are lifted.

New applications are still being received and validated and allocated to a case officer and the weekly list will be distributed electronically to Members and Town & Parish Councils as normal.

**Town and Parish Councils** may comment on the weekly list as normal if they have the capabilities to do so but 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. Once notices can be erected the 21 days publicity will start from that date and we will continue to accept comments from Parish and Town Councils during this period.

#### **Existing planning applications (where publicity expires 23<sup>rd</sup> March & after)**

There are a number of live applications in the system which have a current site notice with a publicity period expiring **on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

The above falls in line with current practice at Wealden and Hastings who both rely on publicity through the site notice method.

**Existing applications where publicity has expired before 23<sup>rd</sup> March (and the Case Officer has visited the site to undertake assessment)**

These applications will be progressed to decision, unless the application is called to Committee.\* We have approximately 10 cases in the is category

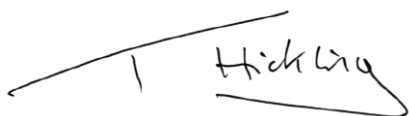
*\*Rother Council has suspended all committees until further notice*

Where applications are delayed for any of the above reasons Officers are requesting an extension of time with the applicants.

We also have a live page on website on service distribution under the CV-19 latest:

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-latest/>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hickling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a loop at the end.

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