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PTOI ITEM 6

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29 APR 2008

date
28 April 2008

please contact
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our ref
1APP VAL

your ref

Dear Mr Farhall

CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

I am writing to you because a number of changes have recently been implemented that affect the way in which planning applications are submitted and considered. Some of these changes have been introduced by the Government and affect all Local Planning Authorities. The County Council is seeking your views on some of these changes where they affect the specific submission arrangements within East Sussex.

1APP

The use of a new National Standard Planning Application Form, or 1APP, has now become mandatory. The requirement to use 1APP affects every Local Planning Authority in England. 1APP supersedes all existing planning application forms (with the exception of forms for minerals development). For more information on 1APP, please visit www.planningportal.gov.uk. The 1APP forms and guidance notes are also available to download on the County Council's website at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/planning.

It is intended that the new forms will provide a consistent format and set of questions with the aim of helping to make the process of applying for planning permission more straightforward for applicants. Different options are provided for different types of application.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



recycled paper

THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS – CONSULTATION

The Government has also introduced new rules for the validation of all planning applications.

An application can now only be validated and processed by the County Council as Local Planning Authority if applicants have submitted with their application a range of information known as Planning Application Requirements. Please see “The Validation of Planning Applications: Guidance for local planning authorities” (Communities and Local Government, December 2007) at www.communities.gov.uk for further details.

As well as establishing a national list of information required for a valid application, Local Authorities are encouraged to consult on and adopt their own “local lists” of local requirements. The local validation criteria will identify what needs to be submitted alongside the national standard application form and other national requirements, and will be mandatory additional information. Early identification of the requirements in this way will assist applicants in preparing planning submissions.

Both the national and local lists will be dependent application type, nature of the proposal and site location, based on the application scenarios in the new national standard planning application forms. By providing the required information at the time of submission it should help reduce the time taken in processing applications.

The County Council, along with other local authorities, is seeking your comments on the draft local validation lists. The emphasis of the 1APP system will be on the electronic submission of planning applications, therefore the consultation process on these validation requirements is predominantly electronically based. The draft local lists, guidance and a questionnaire can be found on the County Council’s website: <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/validationconsultation>

If you wish to comment upon the draft lists then please do so, using the form available on the website, by **9 June 2008**. If you would rather use a paper form, please complete the slip attached to this letter.

After the 9 June, we will review and consider the comments received, to enable a final local list of requirements to be prepared. The adopted list and national list will then be posted on the websites of the County Council and the Planning Portal and published in a leaflet produced by the County Council.

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS

Section 2 of the attached questionnaire seeks your views on your willingness and ability as a Planning Consultee to accept application consultations electronically rather than paper copies. This information is important in assisting us in deciding how to deal with the consequences of the introduction of 1APP. Therefore, I would be very grateful if you would complete section 2 of the questionnaire either online or by using the paper form supplied.

INTERNET PUBLICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Local authorities have a legal duty to make available certain details relating to planning applications as a public register. Representations from consultees form part of the background papers to planning applications and must be made available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Access to Information Act (1985). Regulations also allow this information to be made available on the Internet.

In accordance with Government advice and to provide an enhanced planning service, the County Council is intending to make available on its website all planning applications submitted from 1 May 2008, and associated documents including responses received from consultees and members of the public.

Therefore, by sending us your comments on planning applications received by us from 1 May, you confirm that you agree to this, and accept legal responsibility for your comments. Comments may be viewed at:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/planning/applications/register/Search.aspx>

Once an application is determined, we will remove comments from the website only.

Please see <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/planningdisclaimer> for further information on copyright and the use of personal data.

I hope you have found this letter helpful in understanding some of the recent changes to the planning system. Please contact me using the above details should you have any queries on any of the matters raised in this letter.

I look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire.

Yours faithfully



Holly Bonds
Planner (Development Control)

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION PURPOSES**VAL2: VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS –
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
“VAL1: VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS – EAST SUSSEX
COUNTY COUNCIL’S REQUIREMENTS”.

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QUESTIONNAIRE – SECTION 1

Note: An electronic version of this form is available to download at:
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/validationconsultation>

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON LOCAL VALIDATION
CRITERIA
and
ELECTRONIC CONSULTATION**

This response form is divided into two sections. The first section provides a space to comment on the local validation lists, and the second section consists of a series of questions on the electronic consultation process.

Name:

Name of Organisation:

Contact address:

Section 1

Having familiarised yourself with the Local Validation Criteria variations, what are your thoughts and comments on any of the lists? (Please specify which application option(s) you are referring to).

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Section 2

Changes to the Planning Application Regulations have led to a reduction in the number of paper copies of all documents supplied to the Local Planning Authority. In order to gauge the willingness and ability of Consultees to accept application consultations electronically rather than paper versions we would be grateful if you could answer a few questions set out below:

1. Is your organisation willing and able to accept planning application consultations electronically? YES/NO/MAYBE

Comments:

2. Would you prefer to receive the consultation on a planning application by:

a) email with file attachments YES/NO

Comments:

b) email with links to the appropriate website(s)? YES/NO

Comments:

c) CDs through the post with files and attachments? YES/NO

Comments:

3. What are your views on electronic consultation being made compulsory?

Comments:

Please return your response by email to devcon@eastsussex.gov.uk
Alternatively, you may post your response to: Development, Minerals and Waste Group, Transport & Environment Department, East Sussex County Council, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE.