

Hello Sarah – thank you for your e-mail. I can confirm that no date has been set as yet, but when this is done, we will communicate that with you as soon as possible. I hope that is ok but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me

With best wishes

Liz



Liz Beighton | Planning Development Manager

East Suffolk Council

01394 444778 | 07775 406370

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk www.eastsuffolk.meansbusiness.co.uk

East Suffolk Council will continue to review and prioritise the delivery of its services during this unprecedented time.

The COVID-19 outbreak will severely impact what we are able to do, however we will continue to support and protect our communities, delivering the critical services you need.

From: LTC Planning <planning@lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 March 2020 15:55

To: Lisa Mills <lisa.mills@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>

Cc: Liz Beighton <Liz.Beighton@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; Philip Ridley <Philip.Ridley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; David Ritchie <David.Ritchie@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; Melanie Van de Pieterman <Melanie.VandePieterman@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Planning update from Cllr David Ritchie

Thanks Lisa. We are continuing with our Planning Committee meetings using Zoom. The next one will be on 7 April. Legislation has been passed to allow for this we are just waiting for the regulations to make it lawful. As we are making recommendations and not decisions we are content with the framework we are currently operating.

Is it possible to advise me if a date has been set for application **DC/20/0653/FUL**, Old Post Office, London Road North Lowestoft to be considered as per the system outlined below? Thank you.

Sarah Foote PSLCC
Deputy Town Clerk
Lowestoft Town Council
Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft NR32 1DE
Tel: 0330 053 6019.



From: Lisa Mills <lisa.mills@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 March 2020 11:47

Cc: Liz Beighton <Liz.Beighton@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; Philip Ridley <Philip.Ridley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>; David Ritchie <David.Ritchie@eastsuffolk.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning update from Cllr David Ritchie

Dear Parish Councillors

Please cascade to all of your colleagues.

I am writing to all Town and Parishes to confirm what detailed arrangements have been put in place during the current Coronavirus pandemic in relation to those planning applications that would ordinarily be determined by one of the Council's Planning Committees. The Councils Head of Legal and Democratic Services agreed, on Friday, with the Leader of the Council, the Chairman of PCN, the Chairman of the PCS, and myself as the Portfolio Holder for Planning, and the Chief Executive Officer is that we temporarily increase the delegations to the Head of Planning and Coastal Management (HPCM), so that he can decide planning applications, in consultation with an Advisory Panels(APs).

This is in line with the latest advice, of 23.2.20, from the government's Chief Planner, Steve Quartermain, who said in a communication published earlier last week that:-

"We recognise that face-to-face events and meetings may have to be cancelled but we encourage you to explore every opportunity to use technology to ensure that discussions and consultations can go ahead. We also encourage you to consider delegating committee decisions where appropriate". His advice encourages Council to take a "pragmatic" approach.

I am also mindful that whilst there is emergency legislation to deal with the current crisis, which will allow for meetings to be held, remotely, the Government has not, as yet, tabled the necessary regulations to bring these provisions into force.

It is therefore imperative that we have amended processes in place to determine those applications.

To aid the Head of Planning and Coastal Management in reaching a decision on applications the Council will publish committee style reports for those applications to be considered at an Advisory Panel as usual on CMIS on the Council's website at least five working days before the relevant Advisory Panel meets. The Advisory Panel will consist of the two Planning Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and a member from an opposition group. There must be at least three councillors in attendance.

On publication of the reports on CMIS all relevant Ward Members and Town or Parish Councils, along with the applicant will be informed by e-mail. They will then have an opportunity to provide further representations if they so decide, and be sent to planningadvisorypanel@eastsuffolk.gov.uk within five days. These representations will be published on CMIS as part of an update sheet. Any additional comments need to be

received by midday the day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the update sheet. The Advisory Panel will meet by Skype/telephone and will advise the Head of Planning and Coastal Management who will then take in to account those views before making the determination. It must be noted that the Head of Planning and Coastal Management may decide to defer a determination and await the reinstatement of the Planning Committees. All decisions will be recorded and reported accordingly.

I appreciate that Town and Parishes are not able to meet in person during these times and that each will have ways of ensuring that if further information is needed to be sent on an application that processes will be in place to do this.

If the HPCM is not available for any reason, or he has a personal, private interest in any application, he will delegate this authority in writing to another senior planning officer, who will likewise act in accordance with these consultative arrangements, in exercising this delegation. There may be applications which the HPCM considers it inappropriate to determine, such as any applications made by the East Suffolk Council (ESC), or which relate to land owned by the ESC, or those made by Councillors of ESC, or its staff. These applications may have to be deferred until after the end of the restrictive period.

As and when the emergency restrictions are lifted, or regulations are made by Government to allow for meetings of the SPC, PCN and PCS to be held remotely, this emergency delegation to the HPCM will be reviewed and withdrawn.

We are in extraordinary times and this has been agreed as a pragmatic approach to ensure that East Suffolk Council can ensure that as part of the recovery we have a strong an economy as possible to help our communities, businesses and visitors.

This communication has come from Cllr David Ritchie – Portfolio Holder for Planning.

If you have any questions or comments please email either Liz Beighton – Planning Development Manager: liz.beighton@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or Philip Ridley - Head of Planning & Coastal Management: philip.ridley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Kind Regards



Lisa Mills FdSc | Planning Quality Outcomes Officer

Building Control & Planning

01502 523105 | 07825 753380

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk

East Suffolk Council will continue to review and prioritise the delivery of its services during this unprecedented time.

The COVID-19 outbreak will severely impact what we are able to do, however we will continue to support and protect our communities, delivering the critical services you need.