

# Statement of Community Involvement

## Temporary Changes in Respect of Publicity of Planning Policy Documents and Planning Applications during COVID-19 Crisis

During these unprecedented times, we will be unable to fulfil some of the commitments set out in our adopted Statement of Community Involvement related to how we consult on a variety of application types and policy documents. The temporary changes outlined have been made to protect the health of our communities and follows national advice and guidelines. The changes are set out below.

### How we will engage the community in planning policy

Availability of our documents – we will always make our consultation documents available online via our website and may be able to provide a hard copy of the document by post if the person enquiring does not have access to the internet. However, at this time, as our libraries and offices are closed, we will not be making copies of our documents available in these locations. Nor are we able to publicise our consultations on Local Council noticeboards. This applies to consultations on Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans and Community Infrastructure Levy as well as any other planning policy documents.

How to respond – anyone can respond to any consultation online, using the form supplied or by email to the relevant team. Paper response forms will not be available in our libraries and offices and we would encourage you to respond online as the Council is operating a reduced postal service at this time. Any paper copies may not be received or acknowledged until after normal office working is re-established.

Meetings, workshops and focus groups – we value your views as we develop our planning policies, however, due to the current COVID-19 situation we are unable to hold any face-to-face meetings, workshops, focus groups or exhibitions. This is to ensure the health of our communities and residents. Where we can we will consider innovative online engagement methods, such as the Council's 'Have your Say' website <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/>.

### Changes to Publicity for Planning Applications

Please note that we will not be displaying a Site Notice for the majority of planning applications during the COVID-19 crisis. Whilst the Legislation for most applications

requires either a Site Notice or a Neighbourhood Notification, Cornwall Council has previously committed to both forms of publicity. However, during the current crisis we will not be displaying Site Notices which will ensure officers are not travelling out of their homes unless absolutely necessary to protect the health of our staff and our residents.

The only exception being applications for development affecting a Public Right of Way, development representing a departure from the Development Plan or applications for EIA development accompanied by an Environmental Statement, as these applications require a Site Notice to be displayed. For these applications during the COVID-19 crisis period, we will either post a Site Notice to applicants and ask them to display it or agree to an extension of time until the restrictions on travel no longer apply.