

Temporary amendment to the Peak District National Park Authority Statement of Community Involvement 2018 during COVID 19 Crisis

The government has issued [new guidance for how local planning authorities should respond to COVID 19](#) in terms of progressing their plan making. This guidance supersedes other plan making guidance until further notice. It instructs local authorities to update their [Statement of Community Involvement](#) in the light of the [government's COVID advice](#) in relation to staying safe and social distancing

It is important that plan making, community engagement and the participation of the public in the processing of planning applications is able to continue.

We outline below, how our current procedures have temporarily changed to follow the government's advice on COVID 19 precautions.

Part A: Planning Policy

Deposit of Consultation Documents

In accordance with the [recent memorandum to the Town and Country Planning Regulations](#), we will no longer be placing copies of consultation documents at deposit locations such as the Authority's office and local libraries. Many of these locations remain closed to the public.

This change has been authorised up to the 31st December 2020. We are also no longer obliged to provide copies of documents upon request. All relevant documents are viewable on the [Peak District National Park Authority website](#).

Public Meetings and workshops / exhibitions

We are unable to hold public meetings at present

Meetings with planning officers

Our planning officers are working from home and are unable to currently meet with members of the public to discuss policy consultations. We can offer advice by telephone or email.

Leaflets and brochures

It is not practical to produce or distribute such items at present

Peak Park Parishes Forum

We cannot arrange these meetings at the moment, however we will endeavour to use tele / video conferencing and parish bulletins to communicate and engage with parishes.

Adverts

There is no longer a regulatory requirement for press adverts but the adopted SCI retains a commitment to use local media (such as the Peak Advertiser) at formal consultation stages and for adoption notice purposes. Through the temporary amendment period the Authority will focus on direct email contact and use its Parish Bulletins and the Parklife magazine to advertise statutory consultations and notices.

Part B: Planning Applications

Up to date general information regarding how COVID 19 is affecting our Development Management Service can be found on [the planning section of our website](#).

Pre Application advice

Our pre application advice service is currently suspended for reasons unrelated to COVID 19. Further information is available on [the planning section of our website](#).

This suspension will be reviewed in November 2020.

Site Notices

Where an application requires a yellow site notice, these are being displayed at the development site by PDNPA staff.

Planning Officer Site Visits

We are unable to carry out meetings or site visits, to sites where social distancing cannot be achieved, or where the personal circumstances of the planning officer or applicant prevents it.

Planning Committee

Will be held via video conference until it is deemed safe to have public meetings at Aldern House, in accordance with government guidelines

Public Participation at Planning Committee

Members of the public who wish to speak at the committee are invited to either a) provide a written representation of not more than 400 words b) an audio recording no longer than 3 minutes c) a video file no longer than 3 minutes d) a live telephone connection to the meeting no longer than 3 minutes

Full details can be found in [the amended Public Participation Guidance](#)

Member Site Visits

No member site visits are planned until it is considered safe to do so

Public Inspection of historic planning files and current applications

Public inspection of historic files is currently not able to take place due to Aldern House being closed. However our paid for, local searches can still be obtained upon request.

All current applications are viewable on our website.

Public copies of reports to committee

We are not able to provide paper copies. All reports and agendas are available to view on our website.