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SENT BY EMAIL

To All Parish Clerks

Our ref: SK
Your ref: SK
Date: 9 June 2020

Contact: Stephen Kelly
Direct dial: 07734 370866
Direct email: Stephen.kelly@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Dear Parish Clerk,

As you may be aware, as part of the governments bid to support the construction sector in the re-establishment of construction, the government have encouraged Local Authorities to adopt a degree of tolerance to the enforcement of planning conditions on construction hours. For information see <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-05-13/HCWS234/>

In particular, the Written Ministerial Statement above encourages Local Planning Authorities to respond positively and promptly to requests for short term extensions of operational hours. The Council has begun to receive a number of requests for a relaxation of their conditions from applicants and contractors. In Cambridge City, the Council has adopted a protocol for considering such requests.

Recognising the important role of Parish Council's and the valuable insight they provide to officers and members in the Council on activities within their locality, I wanted to seek your input on how we might try to capture the Parish views in the consideration of such requests. The Governments expectation is that the LPA considers such request within 10 days. This does not provide time for conventional planning committee meetings either within the Council or, I suspect, Parish Councils.

SCDC has delegation provisions in place to enable officers to determine the expediency of enforcement action (and non-enforcement). It would be helpful if you could therefore advise my colleague Glenda whether your Parish Council has any formal delegation process in place to allow for consultation with and responses to such requests to be received from your Parish Council within such a timescale. This will allow me and my officers, to present to members proposals that are both inclusive, and legally sound.

In addition to information (and ideally a copy of your delegation arrangements or a link to them online) I would also welcome any other views that you may wish to make on how the LPA might approach this issue. Construction noise and disturbance is a common source of

concern in the responses that we receive to planning applications and recognising the harmful effect that this can have on our communities we are anxious to find an appropriate mechanism to respond to the current circumstances. Applications for extended construction hours over a long period of time will still require formal applications to vary the planning conditions upon which Parishes will be consulted in the normal fashion.

If you could please provide your response to Glenda Hansen (my PA – Glenda.hansen@greatercambridgeplanning.org) by 16th June, this will allow me and my team to consider how we can advise members in both the District Council and Parishes on a set of measures to apply going forwards.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Kelly
Joint Director Planning and Economic Development

CC: Cllr Tumi Hawkins (South Cambs – Caldecote)