

PARISHES LIAISON MEETING – 16TH OCTOBER 2013

BRIEFING NOTE – PAPERLESS PARISHES

Following the discussion at the Parishes Liaison meeting 19 June, Planning Services received emails from several Parish Councils raising concerns about the proposition of moving to electronic consultation.

For the most part the comments did not relate to “ in principle objections” but concerns were raised in relation to lack of technological backup and/or resources to provide them.

Dunkerton Parish Council have already moved to electronic consultations and have said “As you know Dunkerton PC has been operating in this way for several months, it has been without doubt an excellent decision for us to go down this route in particular with regard to planning applications. By displaying plans on the parish hall screen we have found that Cllrs and parishioners alike find it far easier to understand applications and, we feel has led to us submitting improved quality responses to development control.

The decision to go this way has been a very steep learning curve for us and one which I would be happy to share with other PC's. There is a great deal of understandable apprehension amongst PC's about this idea, I've listed here a few of the issues that clerks and Cllrs from other PC's have raised with me.

- Our parish hall doesn't have internet facilities.
- How can Cllrs at a meeting all look at plans on B&NES website on one laptop.
- A lot of the plans on B&NES website are displayed sideways
- how can we look at those on a screen in a hall.
- It's difficult to understand hard copy plans, we certainly can't understand the plans on the B&NES website.
- Not all of our Cllrs have computers”

Dunkerton have offered to assist the Planning Service and other Parish Councils work through this issue and it is anticipated that further report will be presented at 19 February meeting.

Lisa Bartlett
Development Manager