

# Development Service

## Electronic Planning Consultations Update

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# Background

- Training and information sharing session held November 2015
- Parish & Town Council Support webpage created
- Offer of support from Planning
- Offer of support from Martin Robinson & Kathryn Manchee, Dunkerton & Tunley PC
- Printing and posting of planning applications stopped on 1 April 2016
- Now an email is sent with a link to the website

# What has happened since?

- Some correspondence & phone calls with a few parishes
- No requests to visit, until last month
- Request for this update
- Survey of electronic working in Parish and Town Council's by Martin Robinson – thank you!

# Main Issues

(that we were aware of)

- Lack of broadband connection in the place where meetings are held
- Downloading & accessing planning documents in preparation for meetings
- Viewing & measuring plans on screen beforehand and at meetings

# Survey - Positive Feedback

Good to see that a best practice guide was introduced in March 2017 by the planning department entitled "Drawing Standards", which can be viewed on line by all potential planning applicants.

Applications received by clerk's in a far timelier manner

Electronic applications are working very well, big improvement over the old paper system

Lack of paper waste, considerable cost saving to both B&NES and parish / town councils

Showing documents in chronological order on the website is a big improvement

Easy to search by application number or address

Really useful to see comments submitted

Great to have planning documents in one place to refer to

# Survey - Suggestions & Requests

1. Improve the standard / quality of drawings
2. 'Download all', zip files, file names that don't change when you download them
3. Clerks log on facility (like Bristol)
4. Lists of parish meetings available to officers
5. All planning history available on line
6. Application & weekly list number cross-ref (?)
7. Officer email address on notification - done
8. Remove the extra click on 'view documents' - done
9. Stop the website going down

# Next Steps

- If you're having issues, please call us on 01225 394041, option 5 or email [development\\_management@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:development_management@bathnes.gov.uk)
- Or ask Martin & Kathryn at Dunkerton & Tunley
- Or the B&NES Parish Support webpage <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-advice-and-guidance/parish-and-town-council>
- I will update this webpage