



25th March 2020

Dear Agent

This note updates the one that I sent out to our planning agents last Wednesday regarding the way in which the Coronavirus is impacting upon the Planning Service of Snowdonia National Park Authority. Things have moved on considerably in a week, and I believe its timely that I update this.

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope you and your families are all keeping safe – ultimately this is the number one priority for all of us.

Following the Prime Minister's Statement earlier this week, the biggest change since last Wednesday's update is that we have decided that undertaking site visits is not 'necessary' in the short term. Therefore, case officers cannot go and visit sites or put the statutory site notices up. This means any new applications or ones which have been received relatively recently cannot be processed immediately. This situation will be reviewed again in 3 weeks time.

Any planning applications impacted will obviously take longer to determine. Once we are through this temporary restriction, these applications will be prioritised and determined as quickly as possible. This may be frustrating to some, but I'm sure you will understand and support our rationale. I believe most other Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate have taken a similar approach.

We are still open to receiving new planning applications, although applicants and agents will need to be more patient and potentially wait a few more weeks than normal for a determination. Clearly at this stage we are uncertain how long this wait will be, and I will endeavour to keep you informed of progress.

Case officers can provide you with an update on your applications should there be any uncertainty.

The other issues that I raised last week are still valid, which are summarised below:

- The National Park offices are closed to the public;
- There will be no planning committee on 1st April or 20th May. The situation will be reviewed with regard to the Planning Committee on 5 July. I understand that the Welsh Government are also looking into legislation that will enable remote planning committees to take place – again I will update you should this situation change.
- Please only submit electronic planning application for the time being, and pay by BACS bank transfer. The bank details for such payments are: Account Name: AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL ERYRI CYFRIF INCWM Sort Code: 20-35-70 and Account No: 30507008. It is imperative that you use the planning applicant's surname as a reference and, if space allows, use the address of the application site in the reference box too. You must then follow the BACS payment (immediately if possible) up with an email to cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru stating the amount paid, your reference (i.e. applicant's surname and ideally address), the address of the site along with the development proposed. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee there will be a member of staff to take electronic payments over the phone, and neither can I guarantee there will be staff available to receive cheques – and would urge the use of BACS payments only for the time being. Once payment has been cleared the application can proceed.
- We will still be deploying the pre-application service and please note that all payments will have to be made through BACS – please follow this up with an email to cynllunio@eryri.llyw.cymru along with the required reference as referred to above

Thank you all for your patience and cooperation during these challenging times. I promise we will work with you once we are through the other side of this to try and get things back on track as soon as possible. As stated last week, I look forward to having more detailed discussions with you in our Planning Agents Meeting – hopefully this Summer.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with me if anything is unclear, and please stay safe.

Regards
Jonathan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Cawley', written in a cursive style.

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