

Consultation responses received after the publication of Cabinet papers

Email

Comments: Two further e mail responses were received with regards to proposals to no longer send postal notifications in relation to planning applications. The following points of concern were raised:

- That online provision would disproportionately impact groups such as older people who may not have access to or lack confidence in using associated technologies.
- That the planning system subsequently becomes less democratic, open and accountable and will greatly benefit developers who will face less public scrutiny.
- That the public will become less involved in planner matters that impact on their neighbourhoods.
- That the general public do not have the time, interest or inclination to sign up for online notifications.

Response: The Council's approach to making services digital by design has led to the development of the MyHastings system which will provide residents with a means to track all their communications with HBC and to receive updates on issues they have reported or indeed alerts for items they wish to be kept informed of. We are developing a system that will enhance the current online means of finding out about planning application in an area. The equality impact assessment that will accompany the development of the new system will identify the means by which those who are digitally excluded can secure the information, learning from our partners in Rother and other Councils who have moved to this approach. It is anticipated that the new system will be fully tested and functional from the end of summer 2016, and we will continue the current method until that date. From 1st October 2016 we will move to the new online system, therefore the savings in the budget will be part-year for 2016/17.

Letter

Comments: Additional comments received in support of the Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy and network, which was discussed at an earlier consultation meeting with Hastings Community Network.