

Coronavirus

Building Control service change

Coronavirus update

As we continue to deal with the coronavirus outbreak across the UK, we hope that you are coping under the challenging circumstances and that you, your colleagues and family are well. We will continue to provide you with a first-rate service, while also ensuring safety at all times.

National guidance

Following the publication of government advice on the provision of a building control service, guidance from RICS and CIC guidance on construction work activities, we have reviewed our current inspection regime.

The guidance states "Building Control Bodies should continue to undertake normal, regular on-site inspection activity where this can be done safely, in line with Public Health England guidance. Building Control Bodies may wish to consider the use of alternative methods of checking compliance to supplement physical inspections, for example using digital photographs and video or other remote means of checking compliance.

Building Control Bodies should satisfy themselves within the limits of their professional skill and care that these remote inspections are used appropriately. Remote inspections should not normally be used as the sole method of assessing compliance."

These are designed to keep you, your staff and colleagues safe, whilst trying to minimise the impact coronavirus has on your business.

Site inspections

We recognise the need to balance service delivery with reduced personal contact, so where possible we will be conducting some virtual inspections. We will be asking you to provide suitable photographic evidence and any other relevant details and information.

Our aim is to minimise the number of site inspections but still protect the public.

Pre-visit safety

When booking a site inspection, we will ask you to confirm the following:

- If anyone at the site (property owner or builder) has been self-isolating, ill or displaying coronavirus symptoms: a new, continuous cough or a high temperature?
- If anyone at the site (property owner or builder) has travelled abroad within the last two weeks?
- Can the inspection be carried out in the absence of the builder or homeowner if necessary?

- Will there be vulnerable people on the premises?

Reduce mail handling

Wherever possible, please email us in preference to sending paperwork (cheques, plans and so on) via post. This will reduce the risk to everyone, including postal workers.

Should the current guidance change, we will let you know as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact us by telephone on 01284 757387 or email us at building.control@westsuffolk.gov.uk should you wish to discuss any specific points raised.

We want to thank you for your patience during this challenging situation and wish you all the best.

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West Suffolk
Council

