

## FORM FOR PROPOSALS FOR DAPTC AGM

To be submitted by 12 noon Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

NAME OF COUNCIL : **West Moors Town Council**

Please note that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) requests this information and careful completion of the form will increase the chances of a proposal being accepted by NALC

1. Please give the motion your Council would like considered at the DAPTC AGM

At the Full council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, it was

**RESOLVED that a motion be put forward at the DAPTC AGM to**

**“Request that the requirement to display planning site notices within Dorset, is monitored and enforced, to provide a convenient and correctly timed consultation period, for neighbours and parish and town councils. Alternatively, reintroduce neighbour consultation letters for those adjacent and/or opposite the proposed site.**

2. Please give the reason (as thoroughly as possible) why your Council is submitting this motion.

*‘The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015’ states:*

*Para 15 (3) ‘by site display in at least one place on or near the land to which the application relates for not less than 21 days’.*

As a result of Dorset Council Planning Department no longer sending neighbour notifications, the above procedure is not being followed, due to the applicant (s) or their agent (s) being relied upon to display site notices which are sent to them. Quite evidently, this duty is not being upheld, and our planning agenda is often the only way neighbours identify that there is an application in progress that might concern them.

Anecdotally, people do not prioritise the monitoring of Council agendas unless there is an item they know is upcoming, therefore remaining uninformed of the application that may affect them.

Whilst planning officers normally agree to extensions to deadlines, it causes additional work for them in that they often have to get the applicant to agree to any extension.

It also means that we cannot upload our comments to the DC planning website after the stated last date for comment, and this makes it look as though we have not commented.

It also means that we have to email our comments directly to planning officers, increasing the work for both them and us.

However, residents are unable to do this as they are not aware of applications in a timely manner and if made aware after the DC website comments is closed, they have no way of submitting their comments.

3. Please state how this issue is affecting parish and town councils in Dorset (with case study evidence please) and try not to duplicate answers from previous questions please.

West Moors Town Council are not able to discuss the applications on many occasions, due to no site notices being displayed near or adjacent to the proposed development. It is not deemed democratic or representative for our electors.

The following are but a few examples, where residents could not comment on a proposed planning application that could potentially affect their entire life, before we made a decision, had we not requested extensions.

**1. P/FUL/2022/03168 - 19 Oakhurst Lane**

Comment deadline extension requested as no site notice at property- emailed Lucy page 10.06.22 and again July.

**2. P/HOU/2022/03459 - 30 The Avenue**

No comment deadline requested as members saw no reason for objection, but neighbours had no opportunity to submit comments may have been contrary to WMTC

**3. P/FUL/2022/03507 - 20 Woolslope Road**

Objected anyway, but no opportunity to receive residents' comments

**4. P/HOU/2022/02690 -26 Heathfield Road**

No comment deadline requested as members saw no reason for objection, but neighbours had no opportunity to submit comments may have been contrary to WMTC.

**5. 3/21/0773/HOU - 37 Glenwood Road**

No comment deadline requested as members saw no reason for objection, but neighbours had no opportunity to submit comments may have been contrary to WMTC.

**6. P/PAED/2022/04315 – 10 Abbey Road**

WMTC received the emailed notification 14<sup>th</sup> July and still no site notice up on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Meeting scheduled for 2 weeks time.

WMTC fully appreciate that DC have made efforts in reducing the time taken to register and process applications, but the concern is that the attempt to 'improve performance' is at the expense of local democratic input.

4. If you have information on how this issue is affecting parish and town councils nationally and why this is a national issue please give this and try not to duplicate answers from earlier questions please.

N/A

5. If relevant, please tell us exactly what aspect of national parish policy your Council would like NALC to lobby Government on (with case study evidence please).

N/A

6. If you have the information, please tell us exactly which part of primary or secondary legislation (or secondary regulation/statutory instrument) your Council would like to be changed as a result of NALC/local lobbying

N/A

7. If relevant, please state what other action your Council would like NALC and its Policy Committee to take is this motion is adopted.

**Action for DAPTC only:**

1. Write to the Chair of Dorset Council Planning to encourage support and a focus on this motion
2. Engage with Planning Officers to determine how it affects them and how this motion could benefit their workload.
3. Write to the Leader of Dorset Council regarding the budget for Dorset Council Planning Authority

8. If you have the information, please confirm the names of any other organisation or local council that formally support your Council's motion.

1. Portland Town Council support the motion.
2. Lyme Regis Town Council have confirmed they have similar issues.
3. Corfe Mullen Town Council confirmed by email that the majority of their planning meetings have highlighted that no site notices have been displayed.
4. St Leonards Parish Council, Verwood Town Council, Colehill Parish Council, Blandford Forum Town Council have all agreed by email that this is an issue.

No examples were given from the above local councils, but they were all in agreement that since July 2021, there have been problems with the democracy of planning consultations, due to site notices not being displayed in time or at all.

**If you have any supporting documents to be jointly considered with your Council's motion – please e-mail them with this form to DAPTC.**