Due to the unprecedented situation caused by Covid-19 the Planning Service has had to implement a number of temporary measures to facilitate publicity and consultation activities in a safe manner. This is to respect social distancing guidance and to ensure that public health considerations are observed in all planning matters. As a result, consultation activities will vary from the guidelines outlined in the current Statement of Community Involvement. This follows updated government guidance to local planning authorities: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#covid19

Engaging with the Community

Owing to the closure of and limited access to public buildings, such as community hubs, libraries and Council offices to the public at the current time, the Council cannot publicise consultations in these locations, therefore physical copies of documents cannot be viewed at the present time.

For the foreseeable future, in view of the current restrictions, the Planning Service will not be able to use public exhibitions, meetings or workshops for consultation purposes. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted via email, online and through our website.

In line with the Statement of Community Involvement, stakeholders on the Council’s Local Plan Consultation Database will be contacted if there is a specific consultation being undertaken on the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents or Guidance. Please also look out for notifications in the local press and/or on our website:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200133/planning/525/planning_public_consultations

The current changes to practice relate mainly to the methods of engagement as detailed in section 2.24 of the adopted SCI:


Neighbourhood Plans

The Government has suspended any referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan until 6 May 2021. It advises that plans that have reached the stage of referendum will be given significant weight in decision making:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#covid-19
Planning Applications

The scheme of delegation has been broadened so that a wider range of planning applications can be considered outside of committee, and arrangements made for virtual meetings of Planning Committee to address restrictions placed by Covid-19 measures.

Further information in relation to planning matters and Covid-19 is available on the Planning Advisory Service website:


More broadly, guidance is available on the latest position in relation to Covid-19 from the government via the following link:


Information in relation to Medway Council activities is available here: