

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING POLICY

Reviewed May 2024

1. Planning applications are reviewed by the parish council as a whole, which is made up of five non-professional volunteers, who meet and seek to take a broad Parish perspective of any planning application received from the District Council.
2. The Parish Council will consider all planning applications based on their individual circumstances and merits. All responses to planning applications will be based on material planning reasons (e.g. policy documents, design, impact on area, traffic). Non-material considerations (e.g. moral issues, personal circumstances, property prices) will not form any part of the response to the District Council.
3. When reviewing applications, the Parish Council will make reference to their published Planning Guidelines (please refer to the [council website page](#))
4. The Parish Council will respond to all planning applications within the timeframe stipulated by the District Council.
5. Where a planning application has been received after publication of the Agenda the Chairman will email the village distribution list to notify them of the late addition.
6. The application will be discussed and decided at the meeting unless a councillor determines that there is insufficient time to adequately review the plans in which case a vote will be taken on whether to postpone discussion of the application to a future (possibly extra) meeting.
7. Where planning applications are received outside of the normal meetings cycle, non-contentious applications will be dealt with through consultation with councillors via email.
8. An additional Council meeting will be called whenever there is a situation of wider public concern.
9. The Parish Council will support the installation of renewable energy sources and/or those which minimise carbon emissions or the use of fossil fuels, providing that such systems take full account of their visual impact and the surrounding countryside.

10. The Parish Council opinion will represent the majority local interest and comments will reflect local knowledge and interest in the local environment. The Parish Council will seek to ensure that any development, either new or for alterations to existing properties, will blend in and be sympathetic to the surrounding area.
11. Pre-application meetings can be requested with the Parish Council by parishioners to provide some basic planning support and information, but we would remind residents that councillors are not qualified planners and do not make the final application decision. For formal advice please contact Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Planning Control to speak to the Duty Planning Officer.