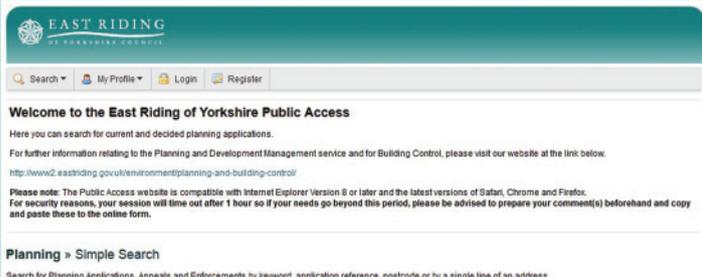


Changes to planning application publicity



From April, the council will be publicising all planning applications by posting a site notice or site notices. This will ensure that local residents in the vicinity of an application have the opportunity to comment on planning applications.

However residents do not need to wait until they see a site notice and can be kept informed automatically of new applications in their area by registering with Public Access on the council's website.

Registering with Public Access allows users to:

- view details of planning applications and enforcement notices
- monitor the progress of planning applications and receive updates via email
- submit comments about an application
- search from a constantly updated list of applications
- view all associated documents, including plans, application forms, consultation responses and decision notices with conditions.

These changes form part of a wider initiative to encourage a greater use of technology within the council and the planning service.

Public Access can also be viewed on smart phones and tablet devices and the new site notice will include a QR code that will allow residents to scan the notice and bring up details of an application on their mobile device.

With the greater use of site notices and Public Access, the council will no longer post individual letters to neighbouring properties.

Councillor Andy Burton, cabinet

portfolio holder for planning, highways and transportation, said: "This will be a change for some of our residents but, with the increased use of new technology, encouraging greater use of Public Access will provide more opportunities for people to fully engage with the planning process and in a way that is convenient for them.

"With training and support, we have already had great success in engaging electronically with town and parish councils in the East Riding.

"This means that all town and parish councils are now able to view the progress of an application, track an application to receive email updates, submit comments and search a list of applications received and decided each week.

"By encouraging greater use of the online system, residents will be able to find out the latest information about an application in near real time."

Residents that do not have internet access can visit any of the council's libraries where computers are available to view and comment on planning applications online.

This is a free service, but will require residents to register when using the facility.

Make a note of the application number or postcode address as given on the site notice before visiting the library.

A step-by-step guide on how to use Public Access can be viewed at www.eastriding.gov.uk/publicaccess

You can register for an account upon entering the Public Access website.



LEADING LINES

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL,
COUNCILLOR STEPHEN PARNABY OBE

I'm extremely proud of the fact East Riding of Yorkshire Council is recognised nationally as providing some of the best services in the country.

That recognition, however, doesn't come easily and takes a huge amount of hard work, innovation, drive and dedication from a lot of people.

Those people range from the council staff who empty your bins, care workers who make sure our most vulnerable residents are safe and well looked-after and the employees "behind the scenes" who use technology to make the authority more efficient or plan major infrastructure projects to improve the East Riding as a fantastic place to live, work and visit.

They include the councillors who represent their residents' views, raise issues and lobby on behalf of their communities on a variety of matters.

And they also include you – residents and businesses – who help the council to shape the services it provides through engagement with, and the support of, the local communities.

The council delivers about 600 different services and they all require expertise and commitment to ensure people are getting the best possible value for their money.

Believe me, it gets harder and harder every year to do this.

The council constantly reviews how it can not only maintain but improve services wherever possible but this is against a backdrop of ever-decreasing funding from central government

There is still uncertainty around the economic outlook and of course Brexit but while

the UK Government decides on the best strategies to deal with these issues, the council continues to have its own hugely important job to do in providing quality services to more than 330,000 residents, our communities, businesses and numerous other organisations.

Our excellent track record of strong financial management and forward planning has allowed us to avoid the knee-jerk reactions to central government funding cuts that have blighted other authorities and we will strive to continue this.

We froze council tax for five years until last year when, with the unprecedented support of the full council, we had to reluctantly increase it in the face of the funding reductions.

This year the council has again had to increase council tax, by 1.99%, with the additional 3% adult social care precept the Government introduced.

This precept will go part of the way to addressing the huge pressures the council faces to meet increasing adult social care demand but, with an ageing population, there is still a large shortfall in the financial support.

Despite this, we will keep doing our absolute best to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, which is one of the council's top priorities.

Residents had their say on the council's Budget during our annual consultation at the end of last year and we have taken those opinions on board in how we prioritise spending.

You can rest assured we will continue to focus on the things that matter most to people and do all we can to provide the best possible services to our communities and make every penny count.