

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Question 1

From: Councillor Yolande Watson, Kerne Bridge Ward

To: Cabinet member, finance, corporate services and planning

Are Biodiversity & Ecology (Core Strategy Policy SS6 and LD2) and Climate Change (Policy SS7 and SD1) compliance checklists completed on ALL planning applications including porches and extensions?

Response

Dear Cllr Watson, thank you for your question – which I take to mean: are all Herefordshire planning applicants submitting biodiversity and ecology checklists with their planning applications. To which the short answer is “no”, not presently.

We are recommending that all applicants complete the checklists as part of their initial application submission however, not everyone is doing so. Where these checklists are missing at the validation stage, we are again advising that applicants and agents complete them and return them to the case officer to assist during the determination process.

The provision of these checklists is not a requirement in order for a planning application to be accepted as valid. However, the advice that goes out to applicants/agents is that the lack of a checklist may affect the outcome of the application when the climate change and ecological policy considerations are applied later on in the process.

In reality, and based on the current policy and practice, biodiversity and ecology compliance is likely to have more bearing upon schemes for new houses and for commercial buildings than it would on most small scale householder applications such as those to which your question refers.

Supplementary question

How many compliance checklists have been completed since their inception (as percentage compared to those who don't)?

Response

It was confirmed that a written response would be provided.