

Planning Department

Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae

Portlaoise

Co. Laois

☎ Phone: 057 8664039 | 🌐 Web: www.laois.ie | Email: planning@laoiscoco.ie

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT VISITING RESTRICTIONS

COVID-19 Infection

As public offices will remain closed in the initial easing of restrictions during Phase 1 (25th May to 8th June 2020), Laois County Council Planning Department wish to advise that the reopening of the planning system to members of the public in the initial period will be **by appointment only** and only one person can attend an allocated time slot at any one time.

In order to secure an appointment for attendance at Aras an Chontae, certain information including, but not limited to, the reasons for the visit, details of documentation to be viewed and relevant contact details, must be provided in the first instance. This is to determine if the query can be dealt with by phone/email/video-conferencing etc. and to reduce the number of unnecessary travel/appointments.

Please be advised that you will be required to complete some COVID-19 screening questions.

Appointments will be allocated for a time slot of 15 minutes only, in accordance with Government guidance. Times slots and duration must be strictly adhered to.

Appointments to view information that is already available online will not be encouraged.

Please review the website www.laois.ie

Requests or Appointments can be made through emailing planning@laoiscoco.ie

Planning Applications/Validation/Section 5 Exemptions Applications

New applications, Section 5 Exemption applications will continue to be accepted by post only and validation queries will continue to be by email/post/phone also.

Pre planning meetings

Pre-Plannings are currently available only by phone/email/video-conferencing and any other means of remote discussions that can take place. Further announcements for the recommencement of face to face pre planning meetings will be at a later date in line with the timelines for easing of restrictions as they are issued by the Department of Health and the Taoiseach

Unauthorised Development Queries

Unauthorised Development Queries will continue to be accepted by post only and queries will continue to be by email/post/phone also. Please complete the Unauthorised Development complaint form which is available on www.laois.ie and email the completed form to enforcements@laoiscoco.ie

Part VIII Schemes

For Part VIII schemes, on-line display and electronic means of consultation will be maximised.

Building Control

For information in relation to Building Control, please visit www.localgov.ie

General Planning Queries

General Planning queries will continue to be carried out by phone or email at planning@laoiscoco.ie

Please note that you must comply with the advice of the Department of Health and Department of the Taoiseach by continuing to stay at home whenever possible and only travel within a 5km of home.

Every effort will be made by the Planning Department to ensure that COVID 19 guidelines and procedures are adhered to at all times, in particular, Strict adherence to Social/Physical Distancing and arrangements may change at any time in order to facilitate updated/revised Government guidance.