



## Important information regarding care homes

We are aware that the care-homes in our districts are facing pressure to facilitate visits from relatives and friends of residents, whilst at the same time following Covid guidelines. This is likely to involve the erection of temporary structures and other measures which may normally require Planning permission.

In order to facilitate covid-secure visiting at care homes, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have agreed, in common with other Suffolk authorities, the following tolerance approach:

**Prior to starting any work, the developer/care provider will:**

**Contact the local planning authority prior to undertaking any development and provide details of the location, scale and design of the development in order to establish whether the development is eligible for this tolerance mechanism.**

***N.B. Architectural drawings are not necessary, but the drawings should be sufficiently clear to demonstrate the impact of the development on the appearance of the existing building, access and car parking arrangements and landscaping/trees on the site and its relationship to neighbouring uses.***

The local planning authority will consider the information submitted and provide informal advice as to the acceptability of the development proposed, and where possible, will provide reassurance that planning enforcement action will not be taken. The developer / care provider will be expected to confirm

in writing that they accept the tolerance approach being taken, any limitations [a] to [f] described and that they understand the removal and re-instatement requirement.

Buildings constructed in the grounds of care homes and extensions to care homes are likely to be tolerated and no planning enforcement action where:

**the building/extension is no larger than 20 sq m in area (external) and no more than 3m in height (Above Ground Level) and;**

- a) does not result in the loss of trees,**
- b) does not significantly reduce car parking provision on site,**
- c) does not impact on the character, appearance or fabric of a listed buildings or the character and appearance of a conservation areas, and**
- d) does not overshadow or adversely affect the amenities of neighbouring properties or**
- e) other site specific limitations expressly identified**

After any such building is erected and put into first use, photographs of the finished development should be sent to the local planning authority within 14 days of commencement of the development.

Finally, the development should be removed, and the site returned to its original condition before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (or earlier as may be agreed) unless a prior application has been made to retain the structure.

**Please return to the main Planning webpage for the form you must use if you wish to extend or alter a care home.**

We will endeavour to respond within 10 days.