

**Sent:** 30 May 2018 13:25

**Subject:** [OFFICIAL] Changes to Comments on Planning Applications on CEC Website

Send on behalf of David Malcolm – Please send any questions direct to David.Malcolm@cheshireeast.gov.uk

**For Your Notification – Changes to Comments on Planning Applications on CEC Website**

As you may be aware there are a number of changes taking place across the Council and many other organisations concerning the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The Council has always wanted to provide as much information concerning planning applications as possible on line - including comments from third parties. This adds both convenience for Parish and Town Councils but also the public through self service. However, as a consequence of the new GDPR all previous third party comments/representations made by the public on planning applications have been removed from the website as they currently contain personal data. This will of course not affect how those comments are received and considered by Planning Officers as part of the normal application process.

Given the value that is put on the current website, we have introduced a new solution such that comments will now start to appear on the website with just the address (not the name of the writer). However given there was over 128,000 records it is not practical to put the previous comments back on as each would have to be manually redacted. As a consequence there maybe a period of some inconsistency of comments appearing on the website and this may generate queries from your residents.

Once this period of transition has worked its way through, the system will operate as it always has done but without the names - just addresses of third parties. Appropriate messaging has been placed on the website.

Regards

**David Malcolm**

**Head of Planning (Regulation)**

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