

SPARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING POLICY

Adopted: 10th March 2026

Date of Review: Three years

1. Parish Councils have a statutory right to be consulted about planning applications within their parish. Sparham Parish Council is notified by Breckland District Council (the planning authority) of new applications via email, and it usually has a period of 21 days by which to respond with its comments.
2. When submitting its representations to planning applications, the Parish Council seeks to reflect the views of local people, offer a local perspective in general, and raise issues of relevance to the parish.
3. The Council takes into account material planning considerations pertinent to an application and compiles its response accordingly. The Council can also recommend planning conditions if deemed appropriate.

Material planning considerations include local and national planning policies, emerging new local plans which have been through at least one stage of public consultation, neighbourhood plans, previous appeal decisions, case law and other issues relevant to the decision.

4. The Parish Council believes that its constituents are best served by the Parish Council responding to applications in a timely fashion. Where possible, all applications will be considered at an ordinary meeting. Extensions to allow this to happen will be requested if the timescales are reasonable.
 - a) In the event a meeting is not taking place within the required planning time frame, and an extension cannot be obtained, and to ensure that consultations on planning applications are dealt with in time, the Parish Council has delegated authority to the Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council, following consultation with all Council members (by email). Council members must respond within the time-scale set out in the email sent for comments by the Clerk. The decision of the Clerk will be taken in liaison with the Chairman.
 - b) In respect of any contentious applications, any Council member can request that the Chairman call an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss the application in public. This must be requested within the time-scale as set out in the email for comments sent from the Clerk.

5. Standard Light Clause – the Parish Council commends the control of obtrusive light and the reduction of sky glow in order to enhance conditions for nocturnal wildlife and prevent light pollution in Sparham. When responding to any planning application that may use lighting in its design, the Council will attach the following to every response, so that the planning authority is encouraged to insert conditions restricting the use of outdoor lighting should planning permission be granted.

‘National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Clause 191c and Norfolk County Council’s Environmental Lighting Zones Policy both recognise the importance of preserving dark landscapes and dark skies. In order to minimise light pollution, we recommend that, if this application is permitted, any outdoor lights associated with the proposed development should be:

- a. Fully shielded (enclosed in full cut-off flat glass fitments)
 - b. Directed downwards (mounted horizontally to the ground and not tilted upwards)
 - c. Switched on only when needed (no dusk to dawn lamps)
 - d. White light low-energy lamps (preferably LEDs, ideally with a colour temperature of 3,000K or 3,500K) and not orange or pink sodium sources.’
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