

## Advice for Smoking Shelter Planning Permission

T:01493 440444

The **smoking ban in enclosed public places comes into force on July 1st 2007**, meaning the smokers in your venue may have to stand out in the rain unless you erect an awning or shelter of some kind.

The councils are advising that **you will need planning permission for any shelters or awnings** you intend to install on your grounds. Even if an awning is retractable you are likely to require planning permission as this alters the external elevation of the building.

You may even **require planning permission if you are changing the use of your grounds**. This will apply if your licensed area does not extend to the outside of your building if you want to let people take drinks outside – refer to The Licensing Act 2003. It will also apply if original planning permission for the use of the building does not extend to external areas – planning history will need investigating by Development Control Officers.

This also affects you if you are thinking of turning a flat roof into a balcony area.

### So what is the next step?

First of all you need to decide what kind of shelter or alteration you require - there are many options available online. Alternatively, we can work out the feasibility of the best type of solution to suit you following a survey of your building and/or looking at your existing plans (as long as they are up-to-date).

You should contact your local council's planning department for advice first, or we can do this for you – obtaining all the relevant documents. Advice from planning departments is usually free, but remember it is informal and not contractually binding. You also need to check your licensing area covers outdoor areas.

### What we can do

- Contact your local council
- Look at your existing plans and the feasibility of installing a solution
- Survey your building and create new and up-to-date plans
- Amend/update your plans
- Submit your planning application
- Supply approved plans to your contractor carrying out the installation



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### Don't leave it too late!

Planning applications can take some time to be approved. Make sure you are ready for the legislation in July so you don't risk losing your smoking customers. Non-compliance with this new law can result in a £50 on-the-spot fine for smokers and a £2500 fine for the premises.

### Our Experience

We have a great deal of experience in this area, as we carried out measured surveys and drafting work for Greene King in time for the Licensing Act legislation.

C A Design Services is a national company with offices in East Anglia and the West Midlands. We are ISO9001:2000 accredited by BSI and are a member of The Survey Association.

### Contact us today!

Call and ask for a member of the sales team on **01493 440444**

E-mail us at **sales@cadesignservices.co.uk**

Complete or **online enquiry form** on our website **www.cadesignservices.co.uk**

#### Head Office address:

C A Design Services Ltd  
The Design Centre  
Hewett Road  
Gapton Hall  
Great Yarmouth  
Norfolk NR31 0NN

We are here to help you get up to speed!