

## **Privacy Notice – Planning and tree works applications**

This privacy notice explains how St Albans City & District Council (the Data Controller) will use any personal information we collect about you when you use our services.

### **What information do we collect about you?**

The information that the Council will collect varies depending on how you use the Council's Services. We are using the information provided in this case because we have a legal obligation (Art. 6(1)(c) of General Data Protection Regulation). This means we collect your personal information from you so that we can carry out a function we are required by law to carry out. In this case we are collecting personal information so that we can process your planning application.

To allow us to make decisions on their applications individuals must provide us with some personal data (eg name, address, contact details). In a small number of circumstances individuals will provide us with "special category data" in support of their application (eg evidence of medical history).

If you're providing us with special category personal information (such as details about your health) we will be processing this under Art. 9(2) GDPR.

Some information provided to us we are obliged under the regulations to make available on planning registers. This is a permanent record of our planning decisions that form part of the planning history of a site, along with other facts that form part of the "land search".

### **How will we use the information about you?**

We use the information to process your planning application. We may share the information with other departments at the Council to enable us to deal with your application. We will only share the information to enable us to deal with this matter.

We will not share the personal information we hold with any external organisations except for partner organisations. By partner organisations we mean contractors with whom we have a data sharing agreement, where sharing your data is necessary to deal with your application.

AI tools including generative AI are used by the council to check that your application has all the relevant information needed for consideration. This is checked by a person before if necessary asking you for further information. AI is not used in making a decision on whether or not to grant planning permission.

We may be required to share your personal information with the Police, Internal Audit or similar agency, or another Council for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud.

We will make details of planning applications available online so that people can contribute their comments.

We operate a policy where we routinely redact the following details before making forms and documents available online:

- Personal contact details for the applicant - e.g. telephone numbers, email addresses
- Signatures
- Special Category Data - e.g. supporting statements that include information about health conditions or ethnic origin
- Information agreed to be confidential

## **How long will we keep this information?**

We will destroy this personal information in accordance with our Disposal Schedules. To determine how long we should keep information, we consider what the legislation states and what is good practice. This means we will securely destroy the information once we no longer need it. If you would like to know the specific period of time that relates to your personal information please contact [GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk)

## **Individuals' Rights**

You have a right to request a copy of the personal information that we hold about you. If you would like a copy of some or all of your information, please contact [foi@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:foi@stalbans.gov.uk) and ask for a subject access request.

If you consider we hold inaccurate personal information about you, you can contact us to ask for this information to be corrected. We will consider your request and respond within one month. Please contact [GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk).

You can find out more about your rights on our website:

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/privacy-notice/Individual%20Rights%20GDPR%20Website%20Notice.pdf>

## **Cookies**

Cookies are text files placed on your computer to collect standard internet log information and visitor behaviour information. This information is used to make your use of the internet better. For further information on how we use these and how you can control it, please visit: <https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/cookies>

## **Changes to our Data Protection Policy**

We have a Data Protection Policy in place and this can be found here:

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/privacy-notice/GDPR%20Personal%20Data%20Policy.pdf>

We review this policy annually.

## **Data Protection Officer**

Our Data Protection Officer for the purposes of Articles 37 to 39 of the General Data Protection Regulation is Charles Turner, Solicitor to the Council. He can be contacted by emailing [GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:GDPR@stalbans.gov.uk) or calling 01727 819209 for our Complaints Team.

## **How to contact us**

Please contact us if you have any questions about our Data Protection Policy, or concerns about how we handle your information: by emailing [foi@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:foi@stalbans.gov.uk) or write to us at: FOI Team, St Albans City & District Council, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE.

## **Complaints**

You have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner if you are unhappy with how we process your personal information. You can do so through their website: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or by emailing: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk) or calling their helpline on 0303 123 1113.