



Guidance for Community Councils

1. Contact the planning department as soon as the project is formulated – even before you put in the grant application. You need to know what funds will be needed for planning and what time to allow for getting permission if you need it.
 2. Ideally start applying for permission at least four months before what you are seeking permission for, e.g. an interpretation board, is finalised and you want to get it into the ground. The planners will require a detailed description of the panel contents or draft design to be able to advise if it requires advertisement consent. This will take approximately 4-6 weeks if it does not require advertisement consent and 8-10 weeks if it does.
 3. Contact the landowner and/or highways to gain permission.
 4. Ensure you build time and potential cost into your project timetable.
 5. For interpretation/information panels you do not need advertisement consent if:
 - The Community Council is itself responsible for the project. This means that the project must be formally linked to the Community Council, e.g. the minutes must consider, approve and ratify the project. If a sub-group is implementing the project, it must be made clear that the project is being done on behalf of the Community Council. The Community Council must take on board ownership and maintenance.
- AND
- The signs can be said to be **ONLY** for information purposes. This means that signs do not contain any sort of advertisement, e.g. name of a company, name of a pub. It can contain logos of partners/funders as long as they are public bodies but even the name of a company turns it into an advertisement which by definition needs advertisement consent.
- So your panel could include a map showing a pub but not specifying it as, e.g. The Crown Inn.
- If a project does not meet the above criteria and does require advertisement consent a fee is payable. NB: the National Park Authority has the same statutory undertakings as Community Councils.
6. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority advises that you do your best not to put interpretive panels on or around protected places such as Listed Buildings, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation (places within five metres of rivers in the National Park are likely to be Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Special Conservation Areas) etc, as special rules apply. Whilst you may well get permission eventually, it is a lengthy process and it would be much easier if you found another place to put your panel(s). The Buildings Conservation Officer at the National Park Authority offices can advise on Listed Buildings and the Countryside Council for Wales can advise on protected landscapes.
 7. Sculptures etc are not considered as interpretation and therefore do not require advertisement consent. However they almost certainly **WILL** need full planning permission for change of land use and operational development. Talk early to the planners if you are thinking about this as an option. If planning permission is required a fee is payable.
 8. Details of fees payable can be found on Planning Advice Note 2. If any project is lead by the Community Council half the normal fee is due.
- For further information contact:*
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, LD3 7HP
- Tel: (01874) 620431
Email: planning.enquiries@brecons-npa.gov.uk