

From **1 July 2007**, it is against the law for people to smoke in almost all work or public places that are enclosed, or substantially enclosed. The law therefore applies to village halls, community centres, parish halls etc.

### What does 'enclosed' or 'substantially enclosed' mean?

Somewhere is **enclosed** if it has a ceiling or roof and, except for any windows and doors, has walls or sides that enclose it. A **substantially enclosed** place is one that has a ceiling or roof, and has walls or sides that enclose more than 50% of it.

### Do village halls etc have to provide a shelter for smokers?

No they do not have to provide a shelter. But a free leaflet on smoking shelters is available from your Council, which provides guidance on what to do, if you want to provide a shelter for smokers to use.

### What does the smoke-free legislation require?

- That people do not smoke in those parts of the village hall etc that by law have to be smoke-free.
- That no-smoking signs are prominently displayed at the entrances.

### Is it against the law for people to smoke outside the village hall etc?

No. People will not be breaking the smoke-free law if they go outside to smoke.

### What are the penalties for non-compliance?

The requirements of the smoke-free laws will be enforced by Authorised Officers of the Council. The offences and proposed penalties are:

- Smoking in a smoke-free place or vehicle - a fixed penalty notice of £50 or a fine of up to £200.
- Failure to display appropriate signs – a fixed penalty notice of £200 or a fine of up to £1000.
- Failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place or vehicle – a fine of up to £2,500.

### Can people take a drink outside when they want to smoke?

Only if the existing licence permits drinking outside, for example on a paved seating area. Otherwise an application would have to be made to the Council for a variation of the existing licence.

### Where can Village Hall Committees etc get advice?

Contact your local Environmental Health Department to speak to an officer or to arrange an advisory visit:

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| • Breckland District Council                  | Telephone <b>01362 656870</b> |
| • Broadland District Council                  | Telephone <b>01603 431133</b> |
| • Gt. Yarmouth Borough Council                | Telephone <b>01493 856100</b> |
| • Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council | Telephone <b>01553 616200</b> |
| • North Norfolk District Council              | Telephone <b>01263 513811</b> |
| • Norwich City Council                        | Telephone <b>01603 212212</b> |
| • South Norfolk District Council              | Telephone <b>01508 533714</b> |

You can also log onto the Smoke-Free England website at [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk) for information about going smoke-free.

For the latest smoke-free information from the Council visit our website at: [www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk).

E-mail your enquiries to: [healthandsafety@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:healthandsafety@breckland.gov.uk)

To speak to an officer, or to arrange an advisory visit telephone: 01362 656870.