



Digital Service for Environmental and Water Permits is Super-Simple

A new dormer window or extension? Until recently, that was something for the real diehard. Because the route to getting planning permission was awkward and complicated. Via the Digital Service for Environmental and Water Permits (Omgevingsloket), part of the NUP, you can now request the exact permit you need – in one combined Environmental Permit. Super-simple, say users Ewout Tiemens and Martijn Verbeek. They talk enthusiastically about the advantages. They both think, however, that it is also high time the government went digital...

‘My wife and I think Voorburg is a great place to live,’ says Ewout Tiemens. ‘The city centre of The Hague and the A4 motorway are just a stone’s throw away, and within ten minutes you’re on the beach in Scheveningen. Now that our twins have arrived, we need more space. We want a dormer window in the attic, for extra light and space. Many of our neighbours also have such a dormer window. I asked them how they had tackled the planning permission. Because this was my first planning application. It’s very handy to have an example then.’

Martijn Verbeek runs an office which helps people submit their planning applications. Because that was always very complicated for the uninitiated, says Verbeek. ‘Which data to submit, how should the drawings look, what are the regulations? Many local councils do let people know how it should be done, but don’t provide the information in writing so that you can read it at leisure. I saw the strangest things. Drawings constructed with scissors and Pritt sticks. And up to now you always had to go to the council. With the Environmental and

Water Permits, you get the right information and you can do the application at home. The last one I did was an online application on behalf of two clients. My expectations were high, and they were certainly not disappointed. I found the Online Digital Service for Environmental Permits to be clear and well organised.’

Tiemens also thinks the Online Digital Service for Environmental Permits is super-simple. ‘You log in with your DigiD. After that you fill in what you want to do, and then you see which permit you need. You subsequently get on your screen only the fill-in fields you need. It also states which drawings and photos you have to send as attachments.’

‘With a paper application you have to read a lot. And then you still often don’t know what you do or don’t have to fill in. People then often quickly lose sight of it all,’ adds Verbeek. ‘The Digital Service for Environmental and Water Permits leads you through the application step-by-step. Moreover, you can apply for all the necessary permits in one go, at the same time. An enormous advantage.’

‘I got my planning permits after three weeks,’ says Verbeek. ‘That kind of speed is super. Working digitally also suits my working methods. For a long time now I’ve made all drawings, calculations, photo albums, and so on, digital. Previously you had to print them out six-fold and send them off. Now you send them as pdf files. It’s great that the government is also finally going digital now. That saves time and money.’

Ewout also has his planning permit. After just five working days. ‘In six weeks I can start building. Then the period during which any objections can be lodged is over. Will I begin right away? That depends on my cousin. He is my builder, so he has to have the time,’ concludes Ewout, laughing.

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