

FOI Ref

9354

Response sent

12 Aug 2021

(CCC) Skaters Meadow car Park

With regard to the proposed change of use of the Skaters' Meadow car park at the Newnham entrance to Granchester meadows:

We request access to the following documentation under the Freedom of Information act.

1) Documentation including dated, attributable documents covering the consultation carried out prior to the notice of closure posted 15 June 2021 including but not limited to:

All questions asked and responses given as part of this consultation,

Records of incidents and records of surveys including the scope, remit and extent of such surveys conducted that informed the proposed closure

c. Impact assessment of the effects of closure on the users of the area and the carpark

d. Any written communication (detailed and attributable), minutes of meetings and notes (incl. handwritten ones) of conversations pertaining to the lead up to and the decision to close the car park

e. Documentation pertaining to the finalisation of the decision, minutes, conversations etc

f. Documentation (attributable) of the rationale for the two week advance notice period and the discussion or minutes that describe the communication strategy and approach pertaining to the dissemination of the decision to close the car park

g. The discussion and rationale for the decision to close and the details of all other options to manage the space explored including notes, rationale why other options were discounted

2) All documents relating to the legal title to the car park

3) Documentation of meetings, minutes and conversations

(properties of such as stipulated in 1 above) that involve the genesis of the investigation to the status of the footpath , carpark and surrounding ground

- i. in so far as to describe the trigger for such requests
- ii. the participants involved
- iii. details of the requestors
- iv. the extent, scope and remit of the search and the documents disclosed
- v. The documentation, minutes and approval (dated and attributable) of the rewilding project that has taken place in the car park, including:

evidence of
the consultation with the local residents prior to the rewilding project,

the safety assessment and risk assessment that was carried out to measure risk /benefit impact of narrowing the space available to users

the assessment of trip hazards (railway sleepers) in a poorly lit area with open public access

Response

Thank you for your request for information which we have dealt with under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Some of the information requested is held by the City Council. In our earlier exchange of emails we explained that the County Council is the decision-making authority on this item and you explained that you have also sought disclosure of information from the County Council.

We are disclosing information where we have it however items where we hold no information are exempt and refused under the exception rules relating to EIR and I will explain which Regulation is applied to the information you have requested.

The City Council does not own the land at Skaters Meadow, and the consultation and then decision to bollard the existing public footpath/ right of way is one being taken by the County Council. The City Council has supported the County with enquiries with neighbouring landowners. The ownership of the land remains unregistered.

The City Council recognises the significant importance this site has for our residents in relation to access to nature and open space and also the benefits this site has helped deliver through the Pandemic. We are therefore supporting where we can in helping to reach a decision on the use of the land in question for vehicle access.

The City Council does not propose to take any action which might be construed as an act of management, possession, or ownership in relation to the Property, since to do so may incur upon it, liabilities with which the Property is, or may become, encumbered.

You may wish to direct your enquiry to the County Council in respect of this matter, as they may be able to give you a fuller response with the information they may hold.

With regards your specific information requests:-

1) Documentation including dated, attributable documents covering the consultation carried out prior to the notice of closure posted 15 June 2021 including but not limited to:

All questions asked and responses given as part of this consultation, Records of incidents and records of surveys including the scope, remit and extent of such surveys conducted that informed the proposed closure

We do not hold this information, as we did not carry out consultation on this matter.

c. Impact assessment of the effects of closure on the users of the area and the carpark

We do not hold this information as we did not decide to close this area. We have applied exception Regulation 12 (4)(a)

d. Any written communication (detailed and attributable), minutes of meetings and notes (incl. handwritten ones) of conversations pertaining to the lead up to and the decision to close the car park.

This information is attached.

e. Documentation pertaining to the finalisation of the decision, minutes, conversations etc

We do not hold this information, as the City Council is not the decision-making local authority in this matter. We have applied exception Regulation 12 (4)(a)

f. Documentation (attributable) of the rationale for the two week advance notice period and the discussion or minutes that describe the communication strategy and approach pertaining to the dissemination of the decision to close the car park

We do not hold some information, as the City Council has not consulted on this matter nor is it the decision-making local authority in respect of this matter. We have applied exception Regulation 12 (4)(a)

g. The discussion and rationale for the decision to close and the details of all other options to manage the space explored including notes, rationale why other options were discounted.

We do have some information, where the City Council has been advised and this is attached.

2) All documents relating to the legal title to the car park

There are no documents relating to the legal title as the land is unregistered. We therefore do not hold this information. We have applied exception Regulation 12 (4)(a)

3) Documentation of meetings, minutes and conversations (properties of such as stipulated in 1 above) that involve the genesis of the investigation to the status of the footpath, carpark and surrounding ground

This information is attached.

i. in so far as to describe the trigger for such requests

This information is attached

ii. the participants involved

Representatives of the following bodies have been involved in the discussions with Cambridge City Council

- Newnham Residents Association
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- City Councillors for the Newnham ward

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- Friends of Skaters Meadow Footpath

iii. details of the requestors

- Newnham Residents Association

- Cambridgeshire County Council

- City Councillors for the Newnham ward

- Friends of Skaters Meadow Footpath

iv. the extent, scope and remit of the search and the documents disclosed

This information is attached, and we have applied exception Regulation 12(5)(c): Intellectual property rights where this applies relating to copyright materials.

v. The documentation, minutes and approval (dated and attributable) of the rewilding project that has taken place in the car park, including evidence of the consultation with the local residents prior to the rewilding project, the safety assessment and risk assessment that was carried out to measure risk /benefit impact of narrowing the space available to users the assessment of trip hazards (railway sleepers) in a poorly lit area with open public access

We do not hold this information. We have applied exception Regulation 12 (4)(a)

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk
