

FOI Ref
10697

Response sent
13 Apr 2022

(CCC) Changing of use of land

What council owned sites has the council designated for educational needs since 2019.

What council owned sites has the council dedicated for Forest school use since 2019

How many licences has the council awarded to schools or charities to use sites not accessible to the public for educational needs / forest school activities since 2019

Was a biodiversity audit carried out before the Highfield Tree Belt was designated for educational needs/forest school use?

what other information was provided before the Highfield Tree belt was designated for educational / forest school activities?

Under what power was the change of use of the Highfield Tree Belt made?

Response

Changing of use of land What council owned sites has the council designated for educational needs since 2019.

What council owned sites has the council dedicated for Forest school use since 2019 – Cherry Hinton Hall area behind the lake was licenced for such use in 2020. A further site at The Spinney also has a license but this predates 2019.

How many licences has the council awarded to schools or charities to use sites not accessible to the public for educational needs / forest school activities since 2019 One in 2020. The permission for Highfields this year was done as a series of events, a copy of the Highfields licence is attached as requested.

Was a biodiversity audit carried out before the Highfield Tree Belt was designated for educational needs/forest school use? Yes. City Council Ecologist and Tree Officer visited site to assess habitats and trees, whilst no formal management plan drawn up to date one is currently being prepared.

what other information was provided before the Highfield Tree belt was designated for educational / forest school activities? Letter to residents dated 02/10/19 outlining intention to licence (attached). The trees on the land are plotted on Council tree management software and form part of a wider inspection/maintenance schedule.

Under what power was the change of use of the Highfield Tree Belt made? This is guided by the Council's constitution;

General Delegations

Each Director and Head of Service has delegated powers to manage and operate the department and the services for which s/he is responsible provided that any

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action taken is within the portfolio and operational plans, budgets and policy and financial guidelines set by the Council and relevant committee/s and subject to the conditions and requirements in or implied by the Council's Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations.

Full constitution on link provided

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/9885/constitution.pdf>

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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