

FOI Ref

Response sent

7437

29 Jul 20

(CCC) Information about Council intentions for Voyage Care home, 71-73 Fen Road

This FOI relates to what plans or intentions the Council has for the land that was previously the site of the Voyage Care home on Fen Road, Chesterton, 71-73 Fen road.

I would like released:

1. Written (eg email) communications between executive Councillors and Council staff on the topic of what should be done with the address.
2. Any updates sent to East Chesterton City Councillors by Council staff about the land.
3. Any plans (including diagrams) developed by Council staff or Council contractors for for the address.
4. Site visits carried out by third parties on behalf of the Council, eg surveyor visits.

If it helps with the timeframe and answering the request

- please only consider this a request for the last year from the date of this request
- For the first part of the request, please just confirm if any such communications have occurred

Response:

1. Written (eg email) communications between executive Councillors and Council staff on the topic of what should be done with the address:

The Executive Councilor for Housing was briefed on the confidential paper prior to the Housing Scrutiny Committee that took place in January 2020, officers that were involved unavailable at the time of responding to the Freedom Of Information request

2. Any updates sent to East Chesterton City Councillors by Council staff about the land:

Please see attached email (RE CONFIDENTIAL Housing Scrutiny Committee land purchase East Chesterton and Cherry Hinton)

3. Any plans (including diagrams) developed by Council staff or Council contractors for for the address.

The Council has only recently completed on the purchase of the property on the 24th July 2020. The Council is currently in the process of employing an Architect to work on developing a housing scheme within the area of land purchased from Metropolitan Thames Valley to be consulted on and submitted to the planning authority .

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4. Site visits carried out by third parties on behalf of the Council, eg surveyor visits.

Please see attached email (FW 71-73 Fen Road)

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

From: Claire Flowers

Sent: 23 December 2019 11:13

To: Cllr Gerri Bird (Cambridge City - East Chesterton); Rory Lowings; Cllr Gerri Bird (Cambridge City - East Chesterton); Cllr Carla McQueen (Cambridge City - East Chesterton); Cllr Baiju Thittala (Cambridge City - East Chesterton)

Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL: Housing Scrutiny Committee land purchase, East Chesterton and Cherry Hinton.

Dear Gerri

The site is on Fen Road. It is currently occupied by vacant single storey buildings in poor condition. The buildings previously housed a scheme for people with Learning Difficulties. The scheme closed in 2019 and the residents have been rehoused. The scheme was managed by a supported housing provider funded by Cambridgeshire County Council; the lease on the site is held by Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing Association. The freehold is owned by Cambridge City Council. Following the closure of the scheme MTV have indicated that if agreement can be reached they would surrender their leasehold interest.

The leasehold interest was originally for 125 years; there are 98 years remaining. The rent is a peppercorn but there are restrictions on the use of the site. Although less than 30 years old the properties on the site suffer from significant disrepair and maintenance issues. The properties also do not make full use of the potential of the site. An initial capacity study for 14 homes has been drawn up.

Do let me know if you need any more information.

With best wishes,

Claire Flowers, Head of Housing Development Agency, Cambridge City Council |

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Cllr Gerri Bird (Cambridge City - East Chesterton)
[mailto:gerri.bird@cambridge.gov.uk]

Sent: 21 December 2019 19:22

To: [REDACTED]@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Russ McPherson
(Cambridge City - Cherry Hinton) <Russ.McPherson@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Gerri
Bird (Cambridge City - East Chesterton) <gerri.bird@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Robert
Dryden (Cambridge City - Cherry Hinton) <Robert.Dryden@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr
Mark Ashton (Cambridge City - Cherry Hinton) <Mark.Ashton@cambridge.gov.uk>;
Cllr Carla McQueen (Cambridge City - East Chesterton)
<Carla.McQueen@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Baiju Thittala (Cambridge City - East
Chesterton) <Baiju.Thittala@cambridge.gov.uk>

Cc: Claire Flowers <Claire.Flowers@cambridge.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL: Housing Scrutiny Committee land purchase, East
Chesterton and Cherry Hinton.

Dear [REDACTED],

Please could you advice where in East Chesterton this will be?

Best wishes

Gerri

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From: [REDACTED]@cambridge.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 12:00:56 PM

To: Cllr Russ McPherson (Cambridge City - Cherry Hinton)
<Russ.McPherson@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Gerri Bird (Cambridge City - East
Chesterton) <gerri.bird@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Robert Dryden (Cambridge City -
Cherry Hinton) <Robert.Dryden@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Mark Ashton (Cambridge
City - Cherry Hinton) <Mark.Ashton@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Carla McQueen
(Cambridge City - East Chesterton) <Carla.McQueen@cambridge.gov.uk>; Cllr Baiju
Thittala (Cambridge City - East Chesterton) <Baiju.Thittala@cambridge.gov.uk>

Cc: Claire Flowers <Claire.Flowers@cambridge.gov.uk>

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: Housing Scrutiny Committee land purchase, East Chesterton and Cherry Hinton.

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to notify you that the Housing Development Agency is submitting a paper to the Housing Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 15th of January 2020. This paper will be requesting approval and a budget for the purchase of two parcels of land.

One parcel is in [REDACTED], and the other in East Chesterton. The intent of both purchases is to assemble sufficient land for two future new build housing schemes and both sites, when brought forward, will also make use of existing Council assets. Final papers will be submitted to Committee Services by the 30th of December. Please note that this paper is commercially sensitive and as such will not be made available on the public agenda.

Please let me know if you have any enquiries on this matter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project Management Assistant

Housing Development Agency, Cambridge City Council

[REDACTED]

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From: Claire Flowers

Sent: 28 July 2020 14:57

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: 71-73 Fen Road

The Council appointed Bidwells to do a valuation. They inspected the property on 22nd November 2019

Claire Flowers

[REDACTED]

From: Claire Flowers

Sent: 28 July 2020 14:18

Subject: FW: 71-73 Fen Road

Claire Flowers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 June 2020 10:26

To: Fiona Bryant [REDACTED]

Cc: Claire Flowers [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: 71-73 Fen Road

Morning Fiona

To assist the Council's purchase of 71-73 Fen Road, on 15 May we instructed a topographical and underground utilities survey to confirm the location of utilities under the site. This included surveying the area immediately surrounding the site including Fen Road, the adjacent passage and the area to the north of the site, to ensure all utilities affecting the site were accurately located. The surveyors were given a Google Earth image with a red line and were told the boundaries of the survey. Having spoken with a Partner in the surveying firm this morning, they have apologised and are seeking more details of the conversation but emphasised that their only role was completing a survey and they are not aware of any development proposals.

The Council's development proposals are restricted to the boundaries of 71-73 Fen Road and any mention of extending this boundary has no factual basis – if the surveyor did make such a comment this that individual's ill-informed opinion and poor judgement.

We apologise for the grief that this misunderstanding must have caused to those affected.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]