

Request

1 The first stage is for the public and councillors to know what has gone wrong and what is required to put it right. I assume that following the meeting between HDC, SDNPA and SWAB a written record of what was discussed and agreed and some sort of action plan must have been prepared. Accordingly, under the Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations please could you let me have copies of any file notes or memoranda and of any emails or other correspondence exchanged between HDC, SDNPA and SWAB or any of its constituent councils or any councillor and/or with AiRS which record what concerns were to be addressed at the meeting and any follow ups to it, including any agenda documents? Second, please could you let me have the same categories of document relating to what was in fact discussed at the meeting or any follow-ups and what was agreed and/or what recommendations or conditions or next steps were decided/imposed by HDC, including any draft minutes and including the recording of the meeting made to assist the preparation of those minutes.

2 It seems that there was a significant conflict of interest in that AiRS had been retained by the Wiston Estate to work up a housing plan for Bayards Fields before AiRS was appointed to advise SWAB. See attached AiRS 2013 concept plan document. This 2013 document formed the basis of discussions between AiRS and some residents including Steyning Parish councillors. AiRS was subsequently appointed in around September 2014 to advise SWAB. SWAB then decided while being guided by AiRS that its principle housing site would be Bayards Fields. This clear conflict of interest and apparent pre-determination was always going to be fatal to the propriety of the Plan. Please provide copies of all the same categories of document which relate to the attached concept plan, to the degree of knowledge held by councillors about AiRS previous work with the Wiston Estate and to advice from AiRS as to the appropriateness of this.

3 It seems that the evidence base for housing need which has underpinned everything throughout the two and a half year process has been found to be inadequate. Please provide copies of all the same categories of document which relate to advice from AiRS as to what was required as an adequate evidence base of housing need. It is likely that Cllr Muggridge will be the prime correspondent.

4 It also seems that the site assessment criteria both for housing and for the designation of Local Green Space have been found to be inadequate. Please provide copies of all the same categories of document which relate to advice from AiRS as to what was required as an evidence base for LGS designation and in particular relating to whether or not it was satisfactory for those who were developing the site assessment criteria to know what sites had been put forward. Again, Cllr Muggridge is likely to have been the key correspondent.

5 Please provide (with fee figures redacted if considered exempt from disclosure under the Act) a copy of the contract(s) and any related specification setting out the terms on which AiRS was retained, with particular reference to its duties and quality standards.

Response

Refused

1. Section 14(1) - Vexatious or repeated requests
2. Section 22 - information intended for future publication.