

FOI Request received 15.12.14

Dear Rebecca

I wish to make a F.O.I. on all correspondence between Steyning Parish Council and W.S.C.C. and also for any internal briefing notes, minutes or correspondence regarding the land to the rear of 13 Canons Way. This land was discussed by SPC Planning Committee on 8th and 22nd July this year. My request covers the period from the start of the WSCC consultation to today's date.

I have seen item 74 in the minutes of the meeting of WSCC Chanctonbury Local Committee of 26th November 2014 . Cllrs Barling and Howell were there. I would like to know whether Mrs Booth was acting on proper authority when she apparently wrote to WSCC as recorded in these minutes:-

".....Regarding the land, there had been long process with consultation throughout the County Council and it was found to be surplus to requirements, a legal process was carried out to 'stop up' the land, at this time Steyning Parish Council was consulted and raised no concerns..... The Chairman of Steyning Parish Council stated that he believed the Parish Council had not been consulted on the future of this land and that a possible mini roundabout at Canons Way could not happen now. The PCO undertook to send the Parish Council an email from the Parish Clerk confirming that the land was of no use to the Parish Council and that previous minutes of the Parish Council should be checked".

How could it have happened that Mrs Booth apparently wrote to WSCC in this way and then clerked two meetings of the planning committee and also wrote to HDC on two occasions without the apparent discrepancy between what she had written to WSCC and what she wrote to HDC coming to light?

I am concerned that SPC as a body seems to have been wrongly denied the opportunity to object when it was consulted by WSCC. It seems Cllr Howell is not aware of any meeting at which this response was discussed and authorised, and neither I, nor any of the regular attenders at Council meetings I have spoken to, can recall this being discussed.

SPC response to FOI 15.12.14

Dear

I have made some investigations and spoken with the Chair of Planning to obtain any information that would answer your request.

I can find no information or correspondence, relating to the land in question, prior to application DC/14/1017 being discussed at the Planning meetings of 8th and 22nd July 2014. I have attached copies of the minutes of both planning meetings and also the subsequent response that was provided to HDC Planning Department.

Although SPC maintained their objections to the proposal, shortly before the Planning meeting of 21st October, the Department for Transport gave SPC notice of the Stopping up of the Highway at 13 Canons Way. SPC continued to object on grounds of safety and access. I have attached the minutes of the meeting and a subsequent e-mail that was sent to WSCC.

With regard to the minutes of the CLC meeting of 26.11.14, I have not received a copy of an e-mail from the PCO regarding an e-mail sent by the previous Clerk 'confirming that the land was of no use'.

Kind regards

Rebecca Luckin
Clerk to the Council
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