

Subject: FW: Freedom of Information Act Request re Steyning Community Partnership

From: John Fullbrook **Sent:** 27 June 2022 16:51

To: Paul Campbell <**Subject:** Freedom of Information Act Request re Steyning Community Partnership

Dear Cllr Campbell

Thank you for your FOI request noted below.

After discussing the matter with one of the Partnership directors I can tell you the following.

In 2007, the Partnership changed its status to a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee, a new legal entity, the MOU between SPC and the Partnership agreed in 2004 ceased to be binding on either party at this point.

Beyond this statement, and the enquiries made so far, I would consider any further time spent on this matter as unnecessary, as I believe this request is the latest in a very long line of Freedom of information requests over many years to be vexatious under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act, and by way of further explanation I reference the letter you received from the Information Commissioners Office dated 7th June 2018 which stated the following –

[REDACTED]

In terms of this response, you have the right to ask the Council to review any refusals.

If you want the Council's FOI panel to consider any further information relating to your review then please send in writing to me (including by email) and give reasons and I will be sure to pass on all communications to them, for their consideration.

If you are unhappy with how this request has been dealt with then you can also apply to the Information Commissioner at the ICO – The link being

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-informationconcern/>

Yours Sincerely

John

John Fullbrook

Clerk to the Council

01903 812042

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This e-mail might contain privileged and/or confidential information. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender and delete the e-mail immediately; you may not use or pass it to anyone else. Whilst every care has been taken to check this outgoing e-mail for viruses, it is your responsibility to carry out checks upon receipt. Steyning Parish Council does not accept liability for any damage caused. E-mail transmission cannot guarantee to be secure or error free.

This e-mail does not create any legal relations, contractual or otherwise. Any views or opinions expressed are personal to the author and do not necessarily represent those of Steyning Parish Council. This Council does not accept liability for any unauthorised/unlawful statement made by an employee.

Information in this e mail may be subject to public disclosure in accordance with the law. Steyning Parish Council cannot guarantee that it will not provide this e mail to a third party. The Council reserves the right to monitor e-mails in accordance with the law.

If this e-mail message or any attachments are incomplete or unreadable, please telephone 01903 812042.

From: Paul Campbell <Sent: 13 May 2022 08:14

To: John Fullbrook < **Subject:** Freedom of Information Act Request re Steyning Community Partnership

Mr Fullbrook

I have now asked twice for a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Steyning Community Partnership. Without success.

Please treat the request as having been made under the FoIA.

Similarly, under the Act, please let me have a copy of the decision you say which was made on your watch that SPC no longer wished to be represented on the body which the Memo apparently says we are a member of.

Finally, under the Act, please let me know the identities of the "one or two" of our councillors who you say are members of the Partnership if there are any in addition to Cllr I Alexander who is its chairman.

I should not need to use the Act, again, to obtain such basic information relating to our function as councillors. This too will be brought to the attention of Hoey Ainscough.

Thank you

Cllr Campbell

From: Paul Campbell <Sent: 09 May 2022 01:19 PM

To: John Fullbrook <**Cc:** spc-full <**Subject:** Re: Steyning Community Partnership and Committee preferences and Cllr representation List to be filled in please in advance of May Full Council Meeting

Given that SPC is supposed to be a member of the Partnership I am sure that you and others must appreciate how this decision apparently on your watch was both ultra vires and highly inappropriate.

I repeat my request for a copy of the memorandum of understanding to be circulated.

Again, I see your comment about me not attending the Annual Parish meeting as another unhelpful and irrelevant piece of attempted point scoring.

I may not have attended but I have watched the recording and was very impressed with Mr Barnes' presentation. It was clear that the Partnership without any paid support staff was in many respects very efficiently filling the void left by SPC's disfunction. The only trouble is that it is doing so without the democratic accountability which I assume the memorandum of understanding was set up to achieve.

So far as I can tell the Partnership does not publish its membership nor does it publish agendas or minutes. I also sensed a distinct reluctance from its chairman to give full details of the Partnership's intentions re the bypass speed limits at the last Full Council meeting. I felt I had to press more than should have been necessary.

You say we have "one or two" councillors who are also members of the Partnership. So how many is it, please? I am aware that Cllr Ian Alexander is its Chairman but I am not aware of who, if anyone else, is.

That illustrates the problem. It is councillors who should be publicly elected to serve on the Partnership by their peers because SPC is a member. It should not be the case that an existing unelected member of the Partnership who then happens to be elected to SPC should be treated in the same way.

I hope this helps with your understanding of this matter.

Cllr Campbell

From: John Fullbrook <Sent: Monday, 9 May 2022, 09:45

To: Paul Campbell <**Cc:** spc-full <**Subject:** RE: Steyning Community Partnership and Committee preferences and Cllr representation List to be filled in please in advance of May Full Council Meeting

Dear Paul

Thank you for sending in your preferences.

We have not had official SPC representation within Steyning and District partnership for many years.

Indeed Council has during my term agreed that it did not want to formally re-establish this representation.

We have instead welcomed Steyning and District representatives from time to time to make presentations as indeed happened at the Annual Parish Meeting which unfortunately you could not attend.

We are also fortunate enough to have one or two members from the Steyning and District Partnership committee amongst our number of councillors which I'm sure you are aware.

I hope this helps with your understanding of this matter

Kind regards

John