



Reference: FOI3654

Request:

Please supply in accordance with Freedom of Information Act and under 'rights granted' to me as the person affected by the decision in question.

1. The actual precise decision taken by the Council Strategic Group (CSG) on December 10th 2019 regarding the Sea Scout Hut at Tynemouth.

The Authority does not have a Council Strategic Group (CSG). Property matters are considered by the Strategic Property Group (SPG) which did meet on 10 December 2019. No decision was taken by SPG in regard to the Sea Scout Hut as the decision was taken by an officer of the Council under delegated authorities.

2. The information relied upon to support the decision of December 10th 2019 at that meeting (CSG).

As stated above. There were no reports taken to SPG on 10 December 2019 relating to this matter. A verbal update was provided as noted in the extract from the minutes below.

3. The attendees at that Meeting on December 10th 2019. (CSG)

As stated above, there is no CSG. However, the attendees at SPG were as follows:

- **Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor**
- **Cllr Bruce Pickard, Deputy Mayor**
- **Cllr Steve Cox, Cabinet Member for Housing**
- **Paul Hanson, Chief Executive**
- **Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning & Asset Management**
- **John Sparkes, Head of Regeneration & Economic Development**
- **Graham Sword, Senior Manager Regeneration**
- **Iain Betham, Senior Manager, Strategic Investment & Property**
- **Niall Cathie, Strategic Property Manager**
- **Emma Simson, Legal Manager, Commercial & Development**
- **Andrew Turner, Strategic Programme Manager, Capita**
- **Matt Calvert, Finance Manager**
- **Brett Devenish, Head of Property, Capita**
- **Roy Marston, Senior Manager Strategy**
- **Fiona Lucas, Minute taker**

4. Who and what Declarations of Interest were noted at (CSG).

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Declarations of interest were made at the SPG meeting on 10 December 2019 as noted below.

5. Did any Declarations of Interest refer to ethical matters?

Declarations were made where they were legally required.

6. The minutes from the (CSG) Meeting of December 10th 2019.

The relevant extract concerning the former Sea Scout Hut from the minutes of the SPG meeting held on 10 December 2019 is as follows:

"Former Sea Scout Hut, Tynemouth - the Elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor declared an interest in this item. A further request to extend the deadline to 12th December was received and has been declined in a letter back to the developer from Mark Longstaff. The team were now looking at options for the site and an update would be brought to a future meeting."

7. The on-file record of the discussions between staff at North Tyneside Council and Dr M Duffy and others on December 6th/December 9th/December 10th 2019.

With regard to the planning application, the Authority had not received an application at that time as applications are not released to the Authority via the portal until the fee is paid. As there was no application file at that time, no notes were recorded. We do not record any telephone calls. Therefore, no information is held.

8. Any noted records of the Council Planning system issues on December 6th/9th of December 2019 either at (CSG) or subsequently

The planning portal is an externally hosted, national, website which allows applicants to submit applications electronically. It is not in the Authority's control; therefore, the Authority would not hold any information on any issues associated with the operation of that site unless the host/operator specifically advised the Authority. We can confirm that the Authority was not advised of any issues on the dates specified.

Once an application has been submitted and the payment has been made, they are transferred from the planning portal to the Authority via a connector. There are no records of any reported issues associated with the connector or other planning systems from the Authority's ICT provider on these dates.

9. Any noted records of the Council Planning system issues in 2019



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As above, the Authority would not hold any information on any issues associated with the operation of the external planning portal unless the host/operator specifically advised the Authority.

In relation to the Authority's systems, there were 7 issues raised in 2019, all of which were resolved within 24 hours of being raised. See attached 'FOI3654 Q8 response – planning portal issues' for details. Please note some information relating to specific planning applications has been withheld under section 40 as personal data. The reason for this, is that in this context, this is information that would not be made public via the planning regulations.

10. The reason for suppressing Dr Duffy's proper request to put a question to full Council addressed to Mayor.

The Council's Constitution allows the Chair of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer, to reject a question which "is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, unlawful or otherwise improper". In this case, any public question in relation to this matter would relate to an ongoing commercial dispute, and would, therefore, be "otherwise improper", and would inevitably be rejected on that ground; on that basis, and given that the putative question was not submitted in accordance with the procedural requirements set out on the Council's website, it was not considered for Council.

11. Confirmation of Dr Duffy's note on the portal regarding issues on December 6th 2019

This information is refused in answer to this request under section 21, information accessible to the applicant by other means.

The reason for this is that this information is publicly available. Any comments made via the planning portal can be accessed via the Authority's Public Access planning website at the following link:

<https://idoxpublicaccess.northtyneside.gov.uk/online-applications/> - Searching with application ref. 19/01662/FUL