



Reference: RFI 1705038

Request:

Purchase of Council Land in the vicinity of the Spanish Battery

We need to understand what has exactly has transpired to date and therefore request, Under the Freedom of Information Act, information as to what negotiations / discussions have already taken place ref the selling of the land by Capita / NTC (connected on the south and east side of no 6 Old Coastguard Cottages garden) for the proposed building of 'The Watch House Garden' by Northern Property Group / Mark Maitland.

Information of particular relevance to be included would be the cost estimate for the purchase of the said land - (which we believe must have been discussed to enable the developer to assess the viability of their scheme.)

Response:

The Council owns the land as shown on the attached plan coloured green.

An enquiry to purchase the land from agents acting for Mark Maitland and others known as Northern Property group has been received. Initially the approach was regarded as a minor land matter and an initial costs letter setting out typical fees for such matters was issued. This was subsequently stopped and the matter elevated to a potential land disposal once the scale of development proposed was known.

The agent was therefore advised to seek pre planning application advice in the first instance, in order to determine if a planning approval to the proposal was considered a possibility.

The Council has now been asked to provide contact details for the enquiry to provide a notice of intent to serve planning permission which is something a third party is entitled to do.

At this time, the Council has not engaged in any further detailed discussions to dispose of its interest in the land pending further consideration of the matter internally.

A cost estimate for the purchase of the said land has not been provided to the agent.