

We had become aware that TMBC Planners had met several times with Barton Willmore Planning who represent the Sand Mafia, the Borough Green Garden City Consortium. Each time they met, the BGGC proposal grew. The final straw was when Barton Willmore tried to get the Relief Road split into two pieces. We knew that if it happened the likelihood of us ever getting the Relief road were minimal.

So we issued a Freedom of Information request as below, and below that is their answer refusing. But it actually makes better evidence of collusion than releasing the documents !

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From: Mike Taylor [<mailto:mike.truck@btconnect.com>]

Sent: 10 September 2018 10:15

To: [redacted]; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] > All TMBC Officers

Subject: FOI

Dear [redacted]

I have become increasingly concerned during the development of the Plan that the BGGC proposal has steadily grown despite local concerns that even the original landfill scheme was too much for our little villages. It appears that the Consortium have been allowed far too great a level of influence within the process.

So I am lodging a Freedom of Information 2000 request for the information below:

1. Details of all meetings between Officers, Members and the Consortium and its representatives, between the end of the Reg 18 consultation and the Cabinet meeting on 3rd September.
2. Any emails, minutes and contemporaneous notes from those meetings or generated as a result of those meetings.
3. Any emails, minutes or contemporaneous notes of any internal meetings between Officers, or between Officers and Members, referring to Borough Green Gardens and offers from the Consortium.
4. Any emails, letters or telephone conversations between Officers and the Consortium or its representatives and contemporaneous notes.
5. Details of any advice or consultation provided to TMBC by the Consortium or its representatives.

Kind regards

Mike Taylor

Chairman, Borough Green Parish Council

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 October 2018 16:39

To: Mike Taylor <mike.truck@btconnect.com>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: FOI 18/646

Dear Councillor Taylor,

Thank you for your email dated 10th September 2018 in which you have requested information in connection with all correspondence in relation to the strategic site at Borough Green Gardens between November 2016 and 3rd September 2018. A copy of your request is reproduced below for ease of information.

Having reviewed the information you have requested, as required by the Act, I am able to advise that we do hold some of the specific information that you have asked for. The email account of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health has been deleted, so I do not have access to any correspondence directly between that account and the people you have requested, but I do have some correspondence where copied in.

I have reviewed the total number of emails, meetings, notes and telephone conversations over this period and I can advise that this would necessitate officers reviewing every single correspondence to redact any personal data/information as required by the GDPR (2018) and any commercially confidential information. This would fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations and in particular the exception set out at Regulation

12(4)(b) as it would be “manifestly unreasonable” insofar that it would create unreasonable costs or an unreasonable diversion of resources. I would consider that provision of this information would take an officer in the region of 37 hours to complete conclusively and in full.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, then you may ask the Council to conduct an internal review of your case by writing to the Council’s FOI Team (foi@tmbc.gov.uk). If you are still not content after the Council has conducted an internal review of your case, then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by the Borough Council.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted in writing at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please quote the reference number at the top of this email in any future correspondence about this request.

Yours Sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Planning Policy Manager.

Planning Policy Manager