

8 April 2014
Our ref: 798964

Thank you for your request received on 18 March 2014, for the following information:

I request the following information under the provisions of the freedom of Information act.

Barnet Council did a residents survey of the estate prior to the official start of the regeneration process.

I request that you provide me with the following information.

*Date survey was implemented
Number of residents eligible to vote at that time
Number of residents that actually voted
Number of leaseholders eligible to vote
Number of Leaseholders that voted
Number of leaseholders now
How many leaseholders voted
How many voted in favor of the scheme
How many tenants voted in favor of the scheme
What percentage of those eligible to vote actually voted
What percentage of those eligible to vote voted yes.*

I also require either a copy of the survey or the actual questions asked. Dear Barnet Borough Council,

Please can you also inform me of:

Of the people who voted in favour of the regeneration back in 2003, how many of those are still on the estate and how many have left the estate.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet. Details of the voters are not known as the ballot was secret.

1. November/December 2002.

2. See below an extract from a briefing document supplied by Metropolitan Development Services:

Participation roll

Those eligible to participate in the ballot will comprise the following:

- All council secure tenants registered with the council on 1 October 2002. In 529 tenanted properties, there are 391 single tenants, 256 joint tenants, and 30 triple tenants.
- One per household in 106 leasehold properties 36 freehold properties. All communication to these households will make it clear that participation is welcome from the leaseholder or freeholder.

Letters will be sent by ERBS to all 142 leasehold and freehold properties on 11 October 2002 asking householders to reply by 31 October 2002 with details of the leaseholder and freeholder. Households where no reply is forthcoming will still be invited to participate, but the communication will be addressed to "The Leaseholder" or "The Freeholder".

3. 63% of those households eligible to vote did so.

4. As per the above extract: 142 leaseholders and freeholders were eligible.

5. It was a secret ballot so there is no information on who voted.

6. However many leaseholders appear on the referencing schedule.

7. It was a secret ballot so there is no information on who voted.

8. 75% of those who voted were in favour.

9. It was a secret ballot so there is no information on who voted.

10. 63% of those households eligible to vote did so.

11. 75% of those who voted were in favour.

As per the back page of the Pledge document, the question asked was:

"Barnet Council and Metropolitan West Hendon wish to work with residents and the wider community to regenerate West Hendon. This will involve the phased redevelopment of the West Hendon estate with modern homes for all existing residents, set in a new urban environment. In principle do you support this aim?"

It was then noted below that:

"A positive vote now will ensure Barnet Council and Metropolitan West Hendon continue to work closely with local people on the estate and surrounding area to regenerate West Hendon."

Page 11 of the Pledge sets out the “Opportunities for owner-occupiers”. PDA Schedule 38 Owner-Occupier Schedule reflects these options.

We do not hold information on how many of the voters are still on the estate and how many have left the estate, as it was a secret ballot.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the FOI Officer at: The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP (email foi@barnet.gov.uk).

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.