

Our ref: 14138521
14 April 2020

Ryan shanks
???

Account reference: request-655016-9efa1165@whatdotheyknow.com

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Dear Ryan shanks

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham City Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Request

How many reports have been made in the last five years about residents whose gardens back onto New hall valley extending them illegally into the nature reserve

Of these reports, how many resulted in formal visits and subsequent action to reinstate the garden to its original boundaries?

Response

We believe that this enquiry relates specifically to the areas of Country Park adjoining Bowood End and Firbarn Close. The earliest encroachments at Bowood Close were reported in 2014 but were judged to be longstanding and unable to effectively defend. That was discussed with Parks officers and no action proceeded. Further reports were made in 2016 regarding several houses in Firbarn Close and on inspection it was evident that access from the NHVCP side close to the fence line was not physically possible and that was reported to Parks. Subsequent emails have been received in 2017 and 2018 regarding the same boundaries and clearly there remains a desire to address any encroachments.

Our attention was drawn to a specific encroachment at 12 Firbarn Close in November 2019 and on receipt of a letter and visited by Parks officers and agreed to realign the fence. Although unrelated to these cases an encroachment on the southern portion of NHVCP at Allendale Road was resolved in 2018.

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PO BOX 28
1 Lancaster Circus
Birmingham
B1 1TU

All of these were initially brought to our attention by concerned neighbours whose involvement is both appreciated and confidential and is now being pursued by a local Councillor. The unresolved alleged encroachments remain as live cases and to be attended as resources permit. It is now believed there are additional encroachments on Sir Alfred's Way a connecting road to the above addresses and these will be reviewed when inspections are allowed.

We are satisfied that a meeting with the local Member(s), Parks and Property Services officers would be appropriate.

Please quote the reference number 14138521 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Leigh Mornington
Business Support Co-ordinator

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Inclusive Growth Directorate
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Birmingham
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