



Brighton & Hove City Council
Information Governance Team
Room 233
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 3BQ

Ms J. Bramley

FOI Reference: 7225171
Direct Dial: 01273 295959
Email: foicases@mail.brighton-hove.gov.uk
Date: 20 November 2020

Dear Ms Bramley

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information to Brighton & Hove City Council ('the council') that was received on 25 September 2020. We apologise for length of time it has taken us to respond to you. We have now processed your request and our response is below.

Your request:

"I am writing to request any communications related to the positioning and decision making relevant to the new 5G tower due to be installed at the bottom of Elm Grove. I am particularly interested in decisions about the trees which used to be in that spot, as well as any concerns raised about the positioning."

You provided the following clarification on 25/09/2020

"To clarify, please could I request any electronic communications (eg: emails, online messages, documents, planning notes and minutes of relevant meetings) between any relevant person in the council involved in the project. I am sorry I do not know exact names or positions as I am not sure who would be involved in this matter."

With regards to the trees, I'm specifically looking for information on the decision to remove them and if it relates to the proposed erection of a 5G tower"

The time frame for the information requested is from the date the tower was first proposed (apologies I don't know when the original proposal was) up to 25th September 2020."

Our response:

In processing your request, we liaised with colleagues within Economic Development, Planning and Cityparks as they would hold the information in relation to your request were this information to be held by the council.

We can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by the council. The information that is being released to you is detailed below and attached.

I am writing to request any communications related to the positioning and decision making relevant to the new 5G tower due to be installed at the bottom of Elm Grove. I am particularly interested in decisions about the trees which used to be in that spot, as well as any concerns raised about the positioning.

To clarify, please could I request any electronic communications (eg: emails, online messages, documents, planning notes and minutes of relevant meetings) between any relevant person in the council involved in the project. I am sorry I do not know exact names or positions as I am not sure who would be involved in this matter.

With regards to the trees, I'm specifically looking for information on the decision to remove them and if it relates to the proposed erection of a 5G tower

The council does not hold specific correspondence regarding the positioning of the mast.

The removal of the trees is unrelated to any planning matters. The trees were removed because they had elm disease.

This grass triangle of land at the lower end of Elm Grove originally supported three good size Wheatley Elms. After an initial loss we knew that the remaining trees may become infected. This was due to the fact that when the first tree was identified the infection had already spread to the roots and that due to the close proximity its neighbours were at risk. Monitoring the trees closely this summer resulted in a false alarm being raised on the 17 June 2020 when symptoms appeared on the trees which after sampling proved to be negative. On the 07 August 2020 a second sample was taken after more symptoms were evident and these showed to be positive. Signs were attached to the trees just afterwards and the removals followed.

Please quote the reference number **7225171** 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 of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed to:

foicases@mail.brighton-hove.gov.uk

or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

We will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team

Please note that due to the current Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic, we are unable to respond to or receive telephone calls or hard copy correspondence. Please contact us via email should you have any queries.