

FOI Reference Number: FOI/136/1819

Date: 27th July 2018

Request:

With reference to M&EA Council Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday, 08 May 2018 at 7.00pm.

The following are excerpts from the minutes, specifically from section 17.4 about “Glenarm Village”

i. Lands known as Glenarm Fish Factory

“Ms Donaghy provided Members with an update on the situation in regards to the lands known as Glenarm Fish Factory and detailed the recommendations contained within the report.”

ii. Sale of Eglinton Yard for Development

“Tabled and previously circulated - Report.”

iii. Glenarm Village Development incorporating the Glenarm Regeneration Strategy 2010

“Tabled and previously circulated - Report.”

Under the Freedom of Information Act please provide a copy of the “report” (and/or recommendations from the report) to which these minutes refer.

Also, under section 17.4 Glenarm Village, item (iii) Glenarm Village Development incorporating the Glenarm Regeneration Strategy 2010, the Council have agreed to grant the Chief Executive approval “(v) to move forward on negotiations and development opportunities on other Council sites identified in Glenarm.”.

Under the Freedom of Information Act please provide clear details on;

- a. what the “other Council sites identified in Glenarm” are being referred to in the minutes,
- b. where the Council have given approval “to move forward on negotiations”, are negotiations ongoing in relation to the “other Council sites identified in Glenarm”,
- c. in relation to sites where negotiations are ongoing, how have these negotiations been initiated (specifically with reference to public sector procurement legislation),

d. what current "development opportunities" exist in relation to "other Council sites identified in Glenarm"

I'd like to comment that all the minutes appear to be vague and void of detail, it is very difficult, even for someone born and raised in Glenarm, to establish what the current plans and proposals are for the Village.

I completely understand the commercial sensitivities but I would urge Council to directly share as much information as possible, the vast majority of proposals are great for the village and should be celebrated and publicised as good news, with social media (the "Glenarm" Facebook page for example) it would be very easy to keep residents directly up-to-date.

A current example, the new play park/MUGA, it'll be a great development for the village, but now people just see diggers and excavations and many ask whats going on - why not spend a couple of hundred quid on a nice big colourful sign to show the proposals, plans and estimated completion date, share it on social media and be positive!

Lastly, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TOURISM COMMITTEE, Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Smiley Buildings, Victoria Road, Larne - section 9.3 Glenarm Road Train, Under the Freedom of Information Act please provide details on the proposed route for the road train.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 26th June 2018.

Part of the information you requested is exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 'Information intended for future publication', and is therefore withheld. Under section 22 of the Act, Information is exempt from disclosure if it is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

The information you requested was presented to Council for its consideration in closed business. It is the intention and normal procedure of Council that when any discussions conclude, the outcomes will be presented to the public.

In response to any concerns you may have, you should note that Council follow procedures and processes which meet public sector procurement legislation.

Council liaises regularly with Glenarm Village Community representatives and has issued regular communications through community newsletters, etc. on any proposed or potential developments. In 2017 Council conducted a full public consultation prior to the Play Park being developed which had a huge response. The responses guided the design and facilities as well as the location of the Play Park which is now under construction. Council had 206 responses - 75% from Glenarm & 25% from elsewhere.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/136/1819 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.