

FOI Reference Number: FOI/169/1920

Date: 29 August 2019

Request:

1. Communication between NIFRS and NIE in relation to Smithfield bonfire issue.
2. Details of Council investment and projects in the Smithfield area of Ballymena over the last 10 years.
3. Information on the bonfire forum.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 31 July 2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to the Smithfield bonfire/area.

- 1. There were various methods of communication between Council officers and staff from NIE and NIFRS regarding the bonfire in Smithfield, Ballymena. These ranged from telephone calls, a meeting on 17 June 2019 attended by NIE and a site meeting on 21 June where NIE were in attendance and at the Cultural Celebrations Working Group Meetings.***
- 2. Investment projects in Smithfield are - play area in Lamont Park, refurbished in 2015 at a cost of around £6,500. Together with annual pitch maintenance costs of £4,600 approx.***
- 3. Ballymena Bonfire Forum is an informal grouping of statutory bodies and those engaged in cultural celebrations such as bonfires. It works collectively and collaboratively to attempt where possible to have a positive influence and to seeks to minimise any negative impact on the environment or communities. It also attempts to encourage dialogue and activity around cultural education initiatives which seek to promote positive cultural expression.***

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/169/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an 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.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

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