



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
21 September 2020
Our ref: 6483804

Thank you for your request received on 3 August 2020, for the following information:

I would like to make the following request under the terms of the FOIA:

Please tell me who created the recent proposal to close Barnet High Street to traffic, when, and why.

Please tell me when local councillors were consulted on these proposals, and name these councillors.

Please give me copies of any emails between local councillors and Capita Re officers in regard to this proposal.

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

Please tell me who created the recent proposal to close Barnet High Street to traffic, when, and why.

The Head of Parking & Infrastructure leads the Council's work to make town centres suitable for social distancing as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.

The proposal to close Barnet High Street to motor traffic was developed in order to address concerns about social distancing safely in the most restricted part of the High Street, in a way that also allowed for other activities to support the Town Centre.

See attached Member briefing note dated 28 May 2020.

Please tell me when local councillors were consulted on these proposals, and name these councillors

On 6 June 2020 Cllrs were advised that Mr Hoare would be visiting all town centre locations to survey them for any potential public health measures needed to enable distancing on town centres. The first visit was on 8 June to Chipping Barnet High

Street where they were invited to participate to ensure that every ward member is given the opportunity to comment. Cllr David Longstaff Cllr Wendy Prentice, Cllr Julian Teare, Cllr Jess Brayne Cllr Paul Edwards, and Cllr Paul Edwards and Cllr Tim Roberts. A follow up meeting was held on 24th of June to inform local Councillors of the proposed measures and preferred option.

On 8th of July the Council met with Deputy Leader to inform them of the decision to proceed with Temporary Pedestrianisation of the High Street.

24th of July Local Councilors were informed regarding the project's programme for implementation.

28th of July Leader approved a letter to send out to local businesses to enable them to make the necessary preparations.

The Leader and relevant Committee Members remained updated throughout this period as a part of ongoing Council Programme Updates.

Please give me copies of any emails between local councillors and Capita Re officers in regard to this proposal.

Briefings would have been from London Borough of Barnet officers with RE being involved only where they had technical expertise but with LBB officers leading.

Following searches of records held, one email has been found between Re-Members-Enquiries and Cllr Laurie Williams, and is attached.

We consider that regulation 13 (Personal information) applies to some of the information requested.

Refusal Notice

[Part 1 of Schedule 19](#) of the Data Protection Act 2018 amends the personal data exception Regulation 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. These are consequential amendments designed to ensure that the correct provisions of the GDPR and the new Act are referenced instead of the now repealed DPA 1998. They will not fundamentally impact when personal data can, and cannot, be disclosed in response to an EIR request.

We consider the information is subject to Regulation 13 because to release it would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Personal Information is governed by the Data Protection legislation and is defined as any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). It adds that: an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location number, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

The withheld information is exempt because disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle which requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of the requested information would breach this principle and in particular the requirement of fairness.

This is because individuals working for the council have a reasonable expectation of privacy and do not expect that the council would disclose their names or contact details in response to an information rights request, especially as they are relatively junior and not in public facing roles. The council's redaction policy states that officers' names and contact details under the level of Assistant Director will generally not be released. All of the posts redacted are under the Assistant Director level.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

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 Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

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.