



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW

7 May 2021
Our ref: 7112180

Thank you for your request received on 15 February 2021, for the following information:

With regard to the Council owned land used as open space at the Dame Alice Owen Sports Ground, Chandos Avenue, London N20 9DX (sometimes referred to as Pavilion Study Centre, 58B Chandos Avenue) please provide answers to the following;

*** Has the Local Authority appropriated open space land under the Local Government Act 1972 / Town & Country Planning Act 1990? If land has been appropriated please provide a copy of the Local Authority's report, the decision, the minutes of any meeting when the decision was taken, the plan showing the extent of the land involved, and the Public Notice.**

*** Was the decision to seek planning permission for the new Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) taken at Committee or officer level? I did ask the Governance Service for an answer to this question in May 2020 however as the officers were unable to provide an answer my question was eventually referred to a senior officer in Children's Services on 22nd September 2020, who I was told 'should be able to point me in the right direction.' I have not had any communication from the officer. If the decision was taken by a Council Committee please advise the name of the Committee and the date of the meeting so that I can access the report on the Council website. If the decision was taken at officer level please advise the officer title, the powers delegated to them, and provide a copy of the officer report.**

*** When was it decided that the open space needed for the new PRU was surplus to requirements? If the decision was taken by a Council Committee please advise the name of the Committee and the date of the meeting so that I can access the report on the Council website. If the decision was taken at officer level please advise the officer title, the powers delegated to them, and provide a copy of the officer report.**

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

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

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to as Pavilion Study Centre, 58B Chandos Avenue) please provide answers to the following;

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The Council is currently in the process of appropriating 2,853m² of land in the north-eastern corner of Dame Alice Owens playing field under Section 122(2a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

As per planning permission for the project, this is due to the reconfiguration of the school's footprint. The land will be used for a section of the main school building, and a multi-use games area which will be available to the public via a community use agreement. Any objections to these plans were addressed during the planning approval process.

In line with requirements, a public notice outlining the intention to appropriate this land has been posted in the Hendon Times. This was published on both 22 April and 29 April.

Following receipt and pending the consideration of any representations, a formal decision will be made on the appropriation of the land in question, and the papers published in line with Council processes.

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The decision to seek planning permission for the new Pupil Referral Unit was taken at officer level. The decision to proceed to apply for permission was made at April 2020's Education Capital Programme Board in line with its terms of reference.

The chair of this board is the Assistant Director for Education Strategy and Partnerships.

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The PRU has occupied the land at Dame Alice Playing Fields for some time within the existing buildings. The decision on the utilisation of open space for the new PRU

was made by Strategic Planning Committee at the meeting on 22 June 2020. Section 3 of the officer's report outlines the reasons behind this decision.

The officer has considered the National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan, Sport England's Playing Fields policy, as well as Barnet Council's own development policies. Also considered was the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy, which identifies Dame Alice Owen Playing Fields and its current utilisation for cricket.

The improvements made to the playing fields and pavilion building have been deemed acceptable to Sport England. Any loss of playing field is offset by the fact the proposals 'significantly enhance the usability of the playing fields and would more than compensate for the marginal reduction in site area'.

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.