

6 August 2021
Our ref: 7506256

Thank you for your request received on 21 July 2021, for the following information:

Fairview Homes/One Housing held one or more pre-application meetings with Barnet Council Planning Officers regarding the Victoria Quarter development in Albert Road, New Barnet, EN4 9SH between September 2020 and June 2021. Under the Freedom of Information Act please can you provide me with copies of the minutes of those meetings and copies of the guidance provided by the planning officers to Fairview Homes/One Housing regarding this specific development including, but not limited to, the density, height and proposed mix of dwelling sizes (number of bedrooms).

I would note that The Local Government Association guidance in its Pre-Application Suite <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/pre-application-suite-3e1.pdf> page 10, makes it clear that 'Once an application is submitted the expectation is that the pre-application advice will come into the public arena.' Previous ICO decisions have also made the clear distinction between requests for disclosure of pre-application advice made before a formal application has been made and after a formal application has been submitted. They have also noted that withholding the pre-application advice until after the application has been decided, is not in line with LGA guidance. I have not asked for any information which is personal data or commercially sensitive.

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

Response

We can confirm that no formal minutes or report has been issued prior to, or after the submission of the latest planning application.

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.