

Joy Norris

From: Joy Norris
Sent: 11 July 2014 18:23
To: n
Subject: Freedom of Information request 1

Dear

I am writing with regard to your Freedom of Information request dated 9 June 2014.

The Freedom of Information request is " ...please provide me with the documents showing that sustainability appraisals were carried out on those four applications [Canal Way (Persimmon, Winterhay (Powermatic) Gooch and Housego Former Doctors surgery Wharf Lane] when they were considered, the results of those SA discussions, showing how they would have affected the decisions made on the applications, how they were carried out and when."

The context of the request is the Town Council's submission to the Inspector for the Local Plan Hearing which refers to Councillors carrying out a sustainability appraisal every time they consider a planning application.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section 7 says that there are 3 dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Applicants may submit supporting information to the planning application, in many cases there may be several documents which could be termed as part of a sustainability appraisal e.g. flood risk assessment, habitat survey, travel plan, . When the Town council considers an application it is able to take into account all the information supplied with the application. All of the supporting documents for a planning application are available to view on the planning section of the South Somerset District Council's website by entering the site name for which you wish to see the planning documents then selecting the relevant application and then clicking on the "documents" tab. <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planningsearch>. The Town Council holds hard copies of these documents on behalf of the district council so that residents can view them.

The Town Council does not prepare or write any form of sustainability appraisals for the planning applications it considers as a statutory consultee and therefore holds no documents which fall under the scope of your request.

The comment to the Inspector was made in the context that the Town Council considers all applications from a whole town view point and appraises the impact of the potential development upon the town bearing in mind the NPPF 3 dimensions of sustainable development. The appraisal being an integral part of This Town Council does not have an appeal procedure regarding Freedom of Information requests so any complaint about the way this FOI request has been dealt with should be made direct to the Information Commissioner either via the website <http://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or the telephone helpline 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

Joy Norris
Town Clerk