

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

REF: Playing fields on Somerset Avenue, Leicester

As a club with an interest to develop activities and sporting opportunities in the area, we would appreciate it if you could answer the following questions.

A) What is the land planned to be used for?

ANSWER

The site known as Blackbird Road playing fields is allocated as a future housing site for 320 houses with about 6 hectares of associated green & open space and sports pitch provision. The current use is private open space formally the playing fields associated with Gateway College.

B) Has it been marketed? If so, when and what has been the response?

Expressions of Interest in the site, including adjacent land owned by an adjacent landowner, were invited last year. This generated interest from major housebuilders.

C) What facilities are there for young people in the area?

Nearby facilities which can be used by young people include Home Farm neighbourhood centre (about ½ mile from the site), Stocking Farm Youth Centre (about ¾ mile from the site) and St Margaret's Pastures Sport Centre (about 1 mile from the site).

D) What consultation, if any, has been done with the residents?

Significant public consultation has been carried since the decision by Gateway College to dispose of the site. This involved a public meeting as well as various other forms of resident consultation (letters, site notices etc) in 2004, 2005 & 2006 as part of the local plan consultation and as part of the planning application for outline planning consent for housing.

E) What is the value of the land?

Discussions with the Planning Authority on the amount of open space required and the number of houses likely to be permissible on the site are ongoing. These issues are fundamental in order that housebuilders can form a view on value; this may then result in further commercially sensitive negotiations.

This therefore acts as the statutory refusal notice required by section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because of the reasons contained in FOIA S43.2 – the disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the authority holding it).

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.