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Rose Farm. Codicote Road, Whitwell, SG4 8AB.

30/3/2017

Freedom of Information Request:

Rose Farm was registered with NHDC as a site for potential development in 2014 and a request was made for it to be included in a revised settlement boundary of Whitwell. (Emails from planning officers Chris Carter 15.10.15 and David Hill 16.9.15 confirm these requests).

Instead it has been decided to place Rose Farm in a new Green Belt boundary, the only property in Whitwell to be designated Green Belt.

Please can you explain the reasons for these decisions and provide any internal documents, correspondence and reports which relate to them.

Namely;

1. Why was Rose Farm not considered as a potential site for sustainable development in future.
2. Why was it not included in a revised Whitwell settlement boundary.
3. Why was Rose Farm placed inside a new Green Belt boundary.

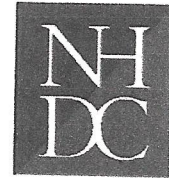
Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Powell.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Lodge, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3HN
Telephone (01462) 474000
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DX 31317, Letchworth



FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE
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Our Ref: FOI021517
Your Ref:
Contact Officer: Jacqui Hamilton
Direct Line: 01462 474375
Email: FOI2@north-herts.gov.uk
Date: 12 June 2017

Dear Mr Powell

Freedom of Information Act/ Environmental Information Regulations
Information Request

In regard to your request for a review of the Refusal Notice we sent to you for the above request for information. Your request has been considered by the Information & Asset Team Leader.

The basis of a review is to consider whether the request has been handled in accordance with the legislative requirements. The decision is that the review has upheld the approach/ information already provided, subject to the confirmation below. Please see the attached for a full response.

In the first instance, an information request has to be for information the Council holds. The Council is not obliged to create information under the Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations. Therefore if you ask for information that is not available in documented format, then the Council is not obliged to provide it under this legislation.

In this instance you asked various questions as to why specific land was or was not included. We hold general information regarding the Strategic Housing Land Availability assessment, and green belt review. We do not hold the specific information requested in the questions in internal council documents, reports from officers and any related emails and correspondence to explain why these decisions were made. All information was provided to you via the links in our response dated 19 April 2017.

Under our Review & Appeal policy your case was referred to another council officer for review, and the decision of the reviewing officer supports that of the original response in that the available information was supplied to yourself via links to documents on the council's website.

Your options

Since your Review has now been concluded, you have the option of appealing to the Information Commissioner at the address below.

David Scholes
Chief Executive

www.north-herts.gov.uk



It is important that you include the above FOI reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Alternatively contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 (or 01625 545745 if you would prefer not to call an '03' number, or +44 1625 545745 if calling from overseas)

www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

JA Hamill

Jacqui Hamilton
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SG6 3HN

FOI2@north-herts.gov.uk
www.north-herts.gov.uk

RESPONSE

However, as you are now aware the NHDC published documents you referenced do not provide the information I requested and answer none of the questions raised.

My request is for internal council documents, reports from officers, and any related emails and correspondence to explain why these decisions were made.

Response: We do not hold the information. The council is not obliged to create answers or information under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations.

As none of this information was provided I ask for further information to provide the reasons for the published decisions.

1. Why was Rose Farm not considered suitable as a site for potential development.
2. Why was it not included in the village settlement boundary. It formed part of the original settlement of Whitwell and is inside the marked village boundary. (This request was made entirely separately from question 1).
3. And why was Rose Farm singled out to be placed in the Green Belt.

Response: We do not hold the information. The council is not obliged to create answers or information under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations. All information was provided to you in our original response.

Rose Farm is the only property in Whitwell to be included in a new Green Belt boundary. This fulfils none of the stated aims of Green Belt Policy.

NHDC policy says the new Green Belt boundaries were subject to inspection by officers. I request to see their report and any related correspondence to discover the specific reasons why Rose Farm has been singled out in this way.

Response: A link to the North Hertfordshire Green Belt Review, July 2016 was provided to you with our original response to your Request on the 19th April. The council does not hold any other information. The council is not obliged to create answers or information under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations.

I request the relevant documents any additional internal reports or correspondence relating to all these decisions.

Response: Links to the relevant information have already been supplied to you under your Request. The council does not hold any additional information.

I have discussed matters with the Information Commissioners Office and enclose a separate Subject Access Request. Under the Data Protection Act, in case any of the information requested and held by NHDC is personal.

Response: This Subject Access Request is being processed separately.