



Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

***Rotherham Town Hall,
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Mr. R. Wainwright,
1 South Road,
Kimberworth,
ROTHERHAM.
S61 1ET

24th September, 2018.

Dear Mr. Wainwright,

Council – 5th September, 2018

At the Council Meeting on the 5th September, 2018 you asked a “how the removal of the building fitted in with the new neighborhood working strategy which involved devolving power down to local communities. I believe the obligations at officer level had not been fulfilled with regards to consulting with other parties and could I please be provided with a copy of the new asset review strategy in relation to this building.”

I confirm that public consultation was not required for the Council to take the decision to demolish the building as consultation is only required if a building and its associated land is deemed surplus to the Council's requirements and a disposal is proposed. Should any land and its property have been declared surplus then further consultation would have been carried out.

Local Ward Councillors were informed of the decision to demolish in February, 2018.

You requested a copy of an “Asset Review Strategy”. The Council does not have such a document. The Council does have an Asset Management Plan which incorporates an Asset Management Policy and Strategy and I attach a copy of this. The Council also has a set of Asset Transfer Policy Principles and again a copy is attached.

In addition at the Cabinet meeting on the 17th September, 2018 you asked a three part question:-

(1) Who other than the Ward Councilors was consulted and did the Council explore all avenues to involve or find any interested parties, did the Council explore the possible benefit to the community and determine what the demand for this building would be, did the Council discuss or consider or determine what other uses there could be for this building and if so who and what were they?

I can confirm the decision to close the building was taken at the 13th February 2017 Council meeting as part of the Budget setting process. <http://modgov-p-db/documents/g13639/Public%20reports%20pack%2013th-Feb-2017%2010.00%20Cabinet%20and%20Commissioners%20Decision%20Making%20Meeting%20during.pdf?T=10>

The Leader of the Council, The Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment and the Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration and Transport were all consulted on the demolition.

As the site is not available for disposal no one else was consulted or any other third parties approached.

(2) Was there a stakeholder or any other list made or a list made of any other stakeholders or anybody else before the decision was made to dispose of this building?

Again I confirm no decision has been made to dispose of the building/site as the land is being retained for Council use.

The Council would only consult and draw up lists of potential stakeholders if disposal was an option for a site, which in this case it was not.

(3) Why the community was not informed of the community right to bid for community asset transfers?

I can confirm Right to Bid and Community Asset Transfers are only relevant if a site is being disposed of. This site is not being disposed of. It is being retained in Council ownership.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Lelliott

Councillor Denise Lelliott
Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.