

Good morning,

Thank you for your emails of 6 and 9th November.

Firstly I am sorry that you slipped over and I hope that you did not hurt yourself; it seems an ever increasing number of people are using the gap in the fence by the garages to access Britten's Field and with the very wet weather the ground is suffering badly. With that in mind, I have been investigating the possibility of laying some ground mesh that will provide a better surface and we are hoping to have an identifiable path in place by the middle of next week.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) request is for the documents relating to closure of rights of way across Britten's Field for the purposes of holding a bonfire event. There are no public footpaths that cross Britten's Field and therefore no such consents or arrangements for alternative routes were required and no documents are held. Footpath CH14/19 goes from West Crescent along the ridge path to Herne Hill and footpath Ch11/3 starts at Canal Way and goes around the outside of the boundary of Britten's Field to Herne Hill – both of these footpaths were accessible before, during and after the bonfire event.

I can confirm that before final permission was given for the bonfire event the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Open Spaces Committee were given all the documents that the Open Spaces Committee had listed at its meeting on 8 September and that included a risk assessment for the event and a note that the Football Club had liaised with the Fire service. These documents are not being released under the Freedom of Information Act as they were supplied in confidence to the Town Council and the Section 41 absolute exemption applies.

There was a clean-up by the football club on the morning after the event and that included thoroughly combing the bonfire area for nails and other potentially harmful fragments of metal, wood etc.; this was in progress when I was on the rec at 9.30 on the Monday morning.

Your email of 9 November refers to floodlights and a generator being used – whilst you have not specifically referred to the bonfire event in the email I have taken the view that you are meaning they were used during the event. I have spoken to the football club and they will review the positioning for future events – we should also have the results of the bat survey in the middle of 2016 which will provide further useful information.

I hope that this email addresses all the points you have raised and the information you require but should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

This council does not have a complaints procedure regarding FOI so if you wish to make a complaint you should contact The Information Commissioner, using their website <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or their telephone helpline 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 if you prefer to use a national rate number.

Joy

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