

---

Elle Cass

Technical Discipline Manager - Planning

SLR Consulting Limited

Hermes House, Oxon Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY3 5HJ

**From:** Tom Mullen

on behalf of Information.Request

<[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:20:02 AM

**To:**

**Subject:** Re: Request for information - CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3

Dear Mr Bramwell,

I can confirm that this is being looked into and prioritised, however due to the amount of information to consider and some staff members being on leave we will be able to get a full response to you by the end of the day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. I apologise for the continued delay but can confirm we will be able to issue a full response to you on Monday.

Kind Regards

Tom Mullen  
Information Governance Team  
Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
SHREWSBURY  
SY2 6ND

Email: [information.request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:information.request@shropshire.gov.uk)

**From:** Dan Bramwell

**Sent:** 07 January 2021 17:30

**To:** Information.Request <[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Request for information - CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3

**Importance:** High

Heather

Please can I have confirmation that I will be receiving all the information by 5pm latest tomorrow (Friday, 8th January) otherwise I will have to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Best wishes

*Dan*

**Dan Bramwell**  
**Bramwell Associates**  
***Public Affairs, Community Engagement, Political Lobbying, Media and Crisis Management***

---

**From:** Heather Jones on behalf of Information.Request  
<[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 04 January 2021 11:51  
**To:** Dan Bramwell  
**Subject:** RE: Request for information - CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3

Dear Mr Bramwell

Thank you for your email. We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. I have followed it up with the team responding.

Yours sincerely

Heather Jones  
Information Governance Team  
Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
SHREWSBURY  
SY2 6ND

Email: [information.request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:information.request@shropshire.gov.uk)

**From:** Dan Bramwell [  
**Sent:** 01 January 2021 17:15  
**To:** Information.Request <[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for information - CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3 CRM:0182434  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sirs

I draw your attention to the below FoI request, a reply to which is still awaited. I have been particularly lenient in chasing a reply because I am aware that your Planning Team has had to address the Reg 19 consultation, Covid-19 has no doubt impacted on staffing availability and in addition there has been a Christmas/New Year break.

However, I have heard nothing and any extension in time should have been either notified to me or agreed with me. Thus, I look forward to a full response by 5pm on Friday, 8th January 2021.

Yours faithfully

*Dan Bramwell*

**DAN BRAMWELL**

---

**From:** FOI <[information.request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:information.request@shropshire.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 November 2020 15:46  
**To:** Dan Bramwell  
**Subject:** Request for information - CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3 CRM:0182434

Dear Mr Bramwell

Thank you for your request for information received on 12/10/2020. We are currently processing your request in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Your request is for information about the Draft Local Plan for Shifnal Housing Sites.

- This is a summary only and full details have been sent to the team providing the response.
- If you feel the information is inaccurate or requires amendment, please notify us as soon as possible using the contact details provided below.

***Please note:***

***The Council has been facing unprecedented challenges this year. Firstly, in response to the flooding in February and now in responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During this time, resources may have to be diverted away from usual compliance or information rights work. The council acknowledges that it can't extend statutory timescales of requests and everyone is doing their best to meet these. However, priority may have to be given to other areas, eg the safeguarding of vulnerable people, during this extraordinary period. The Information Commissioner's Office has blogged about their approach to requests during this time: [blog](#)***

***The Information Commissioner's Office has released a statement about Data Protection and the Coronavirus here: [statement](#)***

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team  
Shropshire Council

Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
SHREWSBURY  
SY2 6ND

Tel:

Email: [information.request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:information.request@shropshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/access-to-information](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/access-to-information)

Elle Cass  
Technical Discipline Manager - Planning

SLR Consulting Limited  
Hermes House, Oxon Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY3 5HJ

**From:** Rachel Paddock

on behalf of Mark Barrow

>

**Sent:** 12 January 2021 08:47

**To:**

**Cc:** Information.Request <[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FOI-CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3 - Draft Local Plan - Shifnal Housing Sites CRM:0341241

Good morning

With regard to points 1-7 of the request for information, the Council considers that disclosure of information where Regulation 12(4)(d) is engaged would likely discourage the public, local businesses and landowners from engaging with the Council during the 'safe space' development of the Local Plan. In our view the disclosure of material in the course of completion would frustrate the process of preparing the Local Plan which is a statutory requirement.

Disclosure of information where Regulation 12(4)(d) is engaged would likely result in a 'chilling effect' on the Council's ongoing and future discussions, and it is also likely to negatively affect the involvement of landowners and potential developers engaging with the council as part of the Local Plan process. The Council is required to undertake public consultations as appropriate stages in the Local Plan process and that the submission of a Local Plan would be subject to examination by a Planning Inspector in an 'Examination in Public'. As such we consider that that the disclosure of 'material in the course of completion' when the Council received this particular request, would only serve as a distraction from the task of preparing the Local Plan.

We accept that there is always a general public interest favouring the disclosure of environmental information. Such disclosures inform public debate on the particular issue that the information relates to and we understand that Local Plans may have significant impact on local communities. However there is also a strong public interest in favour of applying the exemption and there is significant weight to the need for interested parties to engage and consult with the Council in a 'safe space' and without the 'chilling effect', which is likely to flow from the disclosure of material in the course of completion. A 'chilling effect' directly concerns the loss of frankness and candour in debate which would flow from an untimely disclosure of information. This would likely lead to poorer quality advice and would produce less well formulated policy and decisions.

The need for a 'safe space' is to allow free and frank debate is crucial to the planning processes both now and going forward and we cannot take action that could undermine this. The 'safe space' is about protecting the integrity of the decision making process and whether it carries any significant weight will be dependent on the timing of the request and in this case the Local Plan has yet to be finalised or subject to an independent examination process.

With regard to point 8 - any other ancillary information considered during the Draft Local Plan 2016-2038 decision making process for the selection of sites for future residential development in Shifnal, the Council is currently consulting on the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan and as part of this has provided a comprehensive range of supporting documents on the Council's website, including

the Sustainability Appraisal Site Assessments for settlements which is available to view following the link below

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/reg-19-pre-submission-draft-local-plan/>

Information on all supporting evidence and previous consultation on the local plan review can also be found on the Council's website following the link below.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/>

Regards

Mark Barrow  
Director of Place

**From:** Dan Bramwell

**Sent:** 12 November 2020 16:35

**To:** Information.Request <[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - SHIFNAL HOUSING SITES TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**Importance:** High

Dear Sirs

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS**  
**DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - SHIFNAL HOUSING SITES TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

I would be grateful if you could forward me the following information in relation to all sites considered as potential options for residential development in Shifnal in the Draft Local Plan 2016-2038:

1. Dates and notes of all meetings with site owners/potential developers/agents since 2016;
2. Copies of all correspondence between site owners/potential developers/agents since 2016;
3. Copies of all technical evidence/proposals/plans and other ancillary information submitted by site owners/potential developers/agents in connection with any potential sites since 2016;
4. Copies of all telephone conversations/correspondence/meetings and minutes/records of them, as necessary, between Shropshire Council representatives (Officers and Councillors including Cabinet Members) and all site owners/potential developers/agents since 2016;
5. Records and/or minutes of all meetings/telephone conversations between Shropshire Council representatives (Officers and Councillors including Cabinet Members) and the local Member of Parliament (Mark Pritchard MP) since 2016 to discuss the allocation of housing development sites in Shifnal;
6. Records and/or minutes of all meetings/telephone conversations between Shropshire Council representatives (Officers and Councillors including Cabinet Members) and Shifnal Town Council, Shifnal Matters, local Shifnal Councillors and other stakeholders since 2016 to discuss the allocation of housing development sites in Shifnal;

7. Records of all discussions, e-mails and other correspondence between Shropshire Council Officers and Cabinet Members in discussing the decision to select Lodge Hill sites as the preferred options for housing development for the Draft Local Plan 2016-2038;
8. Any other ancillary information considered during the Draft Local Plan 2016-2038 decision making process for the selection of sites for future residential development in Shifnal.

Yours faithfully

*Dan Bramwell*

**Dan Bramwell**

***Public Affairs, Community Engagement, Political Lobbying, Media and Crisis Management***

**Mobile:**

[For information about Coronavirus click here/image below](#)



\*\*\*\*\*

If you are not the intended recipient of this email please do not send it on to others, open any attachments or file the email locally.  
Please inform the sender of the error and then delete the original email.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

Elle Cass

Technical Discipline Manager - Planning

SLR Consulting Limited  
Hermes House, Oxon Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY3 5HJ

**From:** Rachel Paddock

on behalf of Mark Barrow

< >

**Sent:** 13 January 2021 14:36

**To:**

**Cc:** Information.Request <[Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Information.Request@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FOI-CAS-2182145-B1Z3T3 - Draft Local Plan - Shifnal Housing Sites CRM:0341241

Good afternoon

With regard to points 1-2 and 4-7 of the request for information, the Council considers that disclosure of information where Regulation 12(4)(d) is engaged would likely discourage the public, local businesses and landowners from engaging with the Council during the 'safe space' development of the Local Plan. In our view the disclosure of material in the course of completion would frustrate the process of preparing the Local Plan which is a statutory requirement.

Disclosure of information where Regulation 12(4)(d) is engaged would likely result in a 'chilling effect' on the Council's ongoing and future discussions, and it is also likely to negatively affect the involvement of landowners and potential developers engaging with the council as part of the Local Plan process. The Council is required to undertake public consultations as appropriate stages in the Local Plan process and that the submission of a Local Plan would be subject to examination by a Planning Inspector in an 'Examination in Public. As such we consider that that the disclosure of 'material in the course of completion' when the Council received this particular request, would only serve as a distraction from the task of preparing the Local Plan.

We accept that there is always a general public interest favouring the disclosure of environmental information. Such disclosures inform public debate on the particular issue that the information relates to and we understand that Local Plans may have significant impact on local communities. However there is also a strong public interest in favour of applying the exemption and there is significant weight to the need for interested parties to engage and consult with the Council in a 'safe space' and without the 'chilling effect', which is likely to flow from the disclosure of material in the course of completion. A 'chilling effect' directly concerns the loss of frankness and candour in debate which would flow from an untimely disclosure of information. This would likely lead to poorer quality advice and would produce less well formulated policy and decisions.

The need for a 'safe space' is to allow free and frank debate is crucial to the planning processes both now and going forward and we cannot take action that could undermine this. The 'safe space' is about protecting the integrity of the decision making process and whether it carries any significant weight will be dependent on the timing of the request and in this case the Local Plan has yet to be finalised or subject to an independent examination process.



With regard to point 3 we attach copies of the technical information we have had submitted on the promoted sites to the Local Plan process. Please note we have not included the site promotional material for the Nurton land as you will already have access to this.

The documents will follow by SharePoint.

With regard to point 8 - any other ancillary information considered during the Draft Local Plan 2016-2038 decision making process for the selection of sites for future residential development in Shifnal, the Council is currently consulting on the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan and as part of this has provided a comprehensive range of supporting documents on the Council's website, including the Sustainability Appraisal Site Assessments for settlements which is available to view following the link below

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/reg-19-pre-submission-draft-local-plan/>

Information on all supporting evidence and previous consultation on the local plan review can also be found on the Council's website following the link below.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/>

Regards

Mark Barrow  
Director of Place