

Read Parish Council

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT - PUBLICATION SCHEME

This publication scheme has been prepared by Read Parish Council to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the Parish Council.

This scheme commits Read Parish Council:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the Parish Council and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the Parish Council and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.

Key to format abbreviations in the table below:

W = Website, E = Email, P = Paper, I = Inspection, N/A = Not Applicable.

Classes of Information	Format
Who we are and what we do Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council structure• Councillors' details• Staffing structure• Location• Contact details	W W N/A W W
What we spend and how we spend it Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Return form • Auditors Reports • Budget and Precept Demand 	<p>W P P</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors' Allowance and Expenses • Grants made • Current contracts • Financial Regulations 	<p>N/A P P W</p>
<p>What our priorities are and how we are doing Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports • Responses to consultation papers • Quality status • Local Charters 	<p>P P N/A N/A</p>
<p>How we make decisions Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas and minutes of all council meetings open to the public (excluding information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting) • Reports presented to the Council when open to the public • Responses to planning applications 	<p>W/P I P</p>
<p>Our policies and procedures Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Orders • Freedom of Information - DRAFT • Health & Safety • Complaints Procedure • Records Management • Job Descriptions • Clerk's Contract of Employment 	<p>W - N/A W I P P</p>
<p>Lists and Registers Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the function of the Parish Council</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets Register • Register of Councillors' Interests 	<p>W/P P - RVBC website</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of gifts and hospitality 	I
The services we offer Information about the services we offer, advice and guidance, leaflets and newsletters. Details of the services offered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Burial Grounds and closed churchyards • Community Centres and Village Halls • Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities • Bus shelters • Markets • Public conveniences • Agency agreements 	I N/A N/A I I N/A N/A N/A

The classes of information will not generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

Methods by which information published under this scheme will be made available

- Where it is within our capability, information will be published on our website.
- Where it is impracticable to make information available on our website, or if an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, hard copies can be requested at a mutually convenient time and location within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where the Parish Council is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

The purpose of the scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Parish Council for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- Photocopying
- Postage and packing
- The costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

Written requests

Information held by the Council that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

January 2017