

Subj: RE: advice needed - RTW Town Forum letters to third parties

Dear Dr Bech

I don't think it would have any re-percussions for the Council if the Town Forum wrote to property occupants in broadly these terms, but I would have to say that the Council would not be able (as I am sure you will appreciate) to provide support in the form of contact details for occupants or any other information which might be the subject of Data Protection provisions.

It is also important that the letters do not imply that the TF is privy to any other kind of "inside" information held by the Council, or indeed that the TF is able to exert any improper influence on the Council's decision making processes, but I don't think that the draft you have proposed includes such implications. I also think it will be sensible for the letters to do no more than you have suggested in your draft to me, i.e. they should not indicate that action will definitely taken against them, or that any particular kind of action is likely to be taken. There is a range of enforcement options available to the Council in most cases, and I would not want the Borough Council or the TF to face any difficulties in selecting one, when another had been mentioned by the TF. In some case, despite the Council's best endeavours, it proves not to be possible to take action, and again, it is important for the credibility of both the Council and the TF that the letters do not try or appear to commit the Council to taking action "no matter what".

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-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Bech
To: Lois Howell; Roy Bullock
cc: Matt Goodwin; George Lawson; Samantha Timms

Dear Mrs Howell,

At the T F meeting on 28 September 2006 I had proposed that the T F should give powers to its Committees to write to third parties. More specifically, I thought that the T F could have a '*pre-warning /awareness*' role with regard to '**Grot Spots**' where especially private residents are involved.

As an example: Someone painted in Garden Road, lying in the Conservation Area, a substantial wall in 'virulent' green and quite a few people reported it to the T F's Grot Spot Register.
<http://www.townforum.org.uk/focusgroup/report/report.html>

It has been accepted that the T F acts as a complaint body to TWBC in these cases.

A number of your colleagues tried to help with this particular example, however they thought before waving the stick, the Civic Society could approach the owner. Surely it would have been in line with the society's objectives to let the owner know that a number of persons seemed to take offence in this kind of *decoration*. The Civic Society refused to write and only tried to exert more pressure on the Council.

I spoke to the T F about this problem and Cllr Bullock suggested that you could give advice.

I try to formulate the question:

Do you see a problem for the Council, bearing in mind that the T F has 21 RTW Cllrs as members, to write to such owners, informing them that their place has been reported to be a grot spot and that the T F will forward this to TWBC as a formal complaint. If however one could be of help etc, etc . . . ?

Looking forward to hearing from you in due time
Kind regards
Daniel Bech