

FRETtenham PARISH COUNCIL



Information guide relating to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Publication Scheme

1. What is the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)?

The FOIA was introduced to make all levels of government more open to the public. The FOIA allows the public access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities (in this case Frettenham Parish Council). It allows access to information regardless of when the information was created or how long it has been held and sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities.

2. Who can ask for information?

Anyone can request information from Frettenham Parish Council provided the request satisfies all of the relevant conditions.

3. Does a reason for the request need to be given?

No, there is no obligation to provide a reason for your request, although it would help the Council if a reason was given to identify all the information relevant to your enquiry.

4. How do I ask for information?

Write to the Parish Clerk with your name, address and description of the information you are looking for.

5. What type of information can I ask for?

You can ask for any information, although there are limits on information the Council must provide. The Council is required by law to keep some types of information permanently, or for several years. Some information is routinely destroyed after a few days or weeks.

6. What does it cost to obtain the information?

The majority of costs for complying with requests will be met by the Council. The Act allows for public authorities to decline to comply with certain requests for information on the grounds of cost where these requests would be particularly expensive. It also allows for public authorities to charge for answering requests for information in certain circumstances.

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Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 'appropriate limit' prescribed in the Regulations.

7. Can the Council refuse to give me information?

The Council might refuse your request if you ask for one of the types of information which are deemed as 'exempt' from the Right to Freedom of Information, for example:

- If the Council does not hold the information you have requested, or has not retained it.
- If providing you with the information would involve the Council in excessive cost or effort, or would disrupt services.
- If revealing the information is forbidden by law, or if the people who supplied the information expect us to keep it secret.

If we refuse your request, we will explain why.

Even if the information you have requested is 'exempt', the Council will still consider whether it would be in the public interest to release it.

8. What is the Publication Scheme?

The Council's Publication Scheme sets out what information it will make available as a matter of course, how and when it will do so and whether or not there will be a charge. The Publication Scheme is shown in the following pages in a table-format.

9. How long will I have to wait for the information?

The Council will provide the information within 20 working days of receiving your request.

If we ask you to pay a fee for the information requested, the 20 working-day time period will stop until you have paid the fee. You have up to 3 months to send the fee to the Council. When the Council receives your fee the 20 working-day time period will recommence. If you do not pay the fee within 3 months the Council will close the file and you will not receive the requested information.

10. What can I do if I think my request has not been handled correctly?

If you feel that your request has been mishandled, please contact the Chairman of the Council. Your complaint will involve a review of the way your request was handled and whether any exemptions have been correctly applied. If, following the review, you are still not satisfied with the way your request has been handled then you can contact the Information Commissioner.

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11. **Can I use the information freely?**

How you use the information is up to you, but the Council, or the person who supplied the information to the Council, will still hold any copyright, and your use of the information is therefore limited by copyright law (broadly speaking, you can use it for research, for commercial purposes and private study, and for criticism, review and news reports).

12. **Where can I obtain further information?**

Further information on the FOIA is available on the Information Commissioner's website: www.ico.org.uk

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Note: Hard copies of documents will be charged in accordance with the Schedule on page 8

Publication Scheme

Information to be published	How the Information can be Obtained
<p>Class 1 - Who we are and what we do (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)</p> <p>This will be current information only</p>	
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website, village noticeboard
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website, village noticeboards
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website, village noticeboards
Staffing structure	Website, village noticeboards
<p>Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)</p> <p>Current and previous financial year as a minimum</p>	
Annual Governance and Accountability Return and report by auditor	Website and hard copy
Finalised budget	Website and hard copy
Precept	Website and hard copy

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Borrowing Approval letter	N/A
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website and hard copy
Grants given and received	Website and hard copy
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard copy / details in Minutes (website)
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard copy
Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)	
Neighbourhood Plan (currently in progress)	Hard copy, Minutes (on website)
Annual Report to Parish Meeting (current and previous year as a minimum)	Website included in the Minutes
Quality status	N/A
Local charters drawn up in accordance with DCLG guidelines	N/A
Internal and external financial audits	Website, hardcopy
Class 4 – How we make decisions (Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous council year as a minimum	
Timetable of meetings (Council, any committee/sub-committee meetings and Community meetings)	Website, village noticeboards, hard copy
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website, hard copy, village noticeboards
Minutes of meetings (as above) – nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website, hard copy
Reports presented to council meetings - nb this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website, hard Copy
Responses to consultation papers	In Minutes (website), hard Copy, third party websites

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Responses to planning applications	In minutes available (website), available to read on Broadland District Council's planning portal
Bye-laws	N/A
<p>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities)</p> <p>Current information only</p>	
<p>Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business:</p> <p>Procedural standing orders Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements</p>	Website or hard copy
<p>Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff:</p> <p>Internal policies relating to the delivery of services Equality and diversity policy Health and safety policy Recruitment policies (including current vacancies) Policies and procedures for handling requests for information Complaints procedures (including those covering requests for information and operating the publication scheme)</p>	<p>Website or hard copy Website or hard copy</p>
Information security policy	Given in Risk Management Policy
Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	Covered in Data Protection Policy

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Data protection policies	Website, hard copy
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	See Below
Class 6 – Lists and Registers	
Currently maintained lists and registers only	(Some Information May Only Be Available By Inspection)
Any publicly available register or list (if any are held this should be publicised; in most circumstances existing access provisions will suffice)	N/A
Assets Register	Inspection Only – contact the Clerk
Disclosure log (indicating the information that has been provided in response to requests; recommended as good practice, but may not be held by Parish councils)	N/A
Register of members' interests	Link on Parish Council's website to Broadland District Council's website or hard copy
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard Copy
Class 7 – The services we offer	
(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)	(Some Information May Only be Available by Inspection)
Current information only	
Allotments	Website, hard copy
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	N/A
Community centres and village halls	N/A
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	N/A
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting	Hard Copy and website
Bus shelters	Hard Copy, website

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Markets	N/A
Public conveniences	N/A
Agency agreements	Hard Copy
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	Website or hard copy
Additional Information	
This will provide Councils with the opportunity to publish information that is not itemised in the lists above	
Village Sign	Hard Copy

Contact details:

Anne Tandy – Clerk to the Parish Council. Email: clerk@frettenham-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07562014003 Mail: 48 Green Lane West, Rackheath, NR13 6PG

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and should be published as part of the guide.

TYPE OF CHARGE	DESCRIPTION	BASIS OF CHARGE
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @5p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost *
	Photocopying @25p per sheet (colour)	Actual cost*
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 nd class

* the actual cost incurred by the public authority