



## **Oulton Broad Parish Council and Nicholas Everitt Park Trust**

### **Freedom of Information Policy**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires public authorities to publish information as a matter of routine in addition to that supplied when responding to information requests.

Oulton Broad Parish Council has adopted the Information Commissioner's approved Model Publication Scheme, which sets out the statutory requirements and specifies seven information classes in which the majority of routinely published information will fall.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the authority 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.
- To publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19. The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19(8) of that Act.

### **Classes of information**

#### **Who we are and what we do:**

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

#### **What we spend and how we spend it:**

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

**What our priorities are and how we are doing:**

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

**How we make decisions:**

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

**Our policies and procedures:**

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

**Lists and registers**

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.

**The services we offer**

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

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.

The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged 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 an authority 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 this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the authority 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 information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- photocopying
- postage and packaging
- the costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority. 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.

Making a request for information:

Information which cannot be accessed via the publication scheme can also be requested providing it is held in an easily retrievable format. If an exemption under the Act applies, the information will not be made available.

Requests must be made in writing, either by e-mail to [clerk@obpc.uk](mailto:clerk@obpc.uk) , or by post to The Clerk, Oulton Broad Parish Council, Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9JR.

They should include:

- The name and address of the applicant
- A telephone number, in case we need to discuss the request (optional)
- A clear description of the information sought

After a request has been made:

The receipt of a request will be acknowledged within three days and will indicate by when it is aimed to provide a response. This will normally be within 20 working days which may be extended, for example where the applicant is asked for further clarification or information about the request.

If we do not hold the information requested, the applicant will be informed of this in writing. If it is established that the information could be obtained from another Authority, we will advise the applicant of this.

Any obligations under equality legislation will be adhered to when providing information.

Rights to appeal:

Where a request for information under the individual right of access is denied, the applicant has the right to appeal the decision. Appeals should in the first instance be made to Oulton Broad Parish Council, where they will be subject to scrutiny by the Finance Committee who will have been independent of the original process.

The information commissioner's office recommend that a response should be made in 20 working days.

If the applicant is still unhappy with the decision, they have the right to appeal against the decision of non-disclosure to the Information Commissioner.

## Information available from Oulton Broad Parish Council under the model publication scheme:

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Cost
<b>Class1 - Who we are and what we do</b> (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only.	Website	Free
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website	Free
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website	Free
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website	Free
Staffing structure	Website	Free
<b>Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it</b> (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) Current and previous financial year as a minimum	Website Accounts available hard copy	Free 10p per sheet + second class postage
Annual return form and report by auditor	Website or Hard copy	Free 10p per sheet + second class postage
Finalised budget	Website	Free
Precept	Website	Free
Borrowing Approval letter	Website	Free
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Website	Free
Grants given and received	Website	Free
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Hard copy	10p per sheet + second class postage
Members' allowances and expenses	Hard copy	10p per sheet + second class postage
<b>Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing</b> (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews) Current and previous year as a minimum		
Annual Report to Parish (available 2018)	Website	Free

<b>Class 4 – How we make decisions</b>		
Timetable of meetings (Council and any committee/sub-committee meetings)	Website	Free
Agendas of meetings (as above)	Website	Free
Minutes of meetings (as above) – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website	Free
Reports presented to council meetings – n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meeting.	Website	Free
Responses to consultation papers	Website	Free
Responses to planning applications	These are included in the Councils minutes and also available on the East Suffolk Council website	Free
Bye-laws	Hard copy	10p per sheet + second class postage
<b>Class 5 – Our policies and procedures</b>		
Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business: Procedural standing orders Committee and sub-committee terms of reference Delegated authority in respect of officers Code of Conduct Policy statements	Website	Free
Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff:  Internal instructions to staff and 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)	Website or hard copy; some information may only be available by inspection	Free or 10p per sheet + second class postage
Information security policy	Website	Free

Records management policies (records retention, destruction and archive)	Website	Free
Data protection policies	Website	Free
Schedule of charges (for the publication of information)	Website	Free
<b>Class 6 – Lists and Registers</b> <b>Currently maintained lists and registers only</b>		
Any publicly available register or list	Website	
Assets register	Website	Free
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)	Website	Free
Register of members' interests	Website	Free
Register of gifts and hospitality	Hard copy from the Town Council offices	10p per sheet + second class postage
<b>Class 7 – The services we offer</b> Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses. Current information only		
Allotments	Website	Free
Burial grounds and closed churchyards	n/a	n/a
Community centres and village halls	n/a	n/a
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Website	Free
Seating, litter bins, clocks, memorials and lighting, CCTV	Website	Free
Bus shelters	Website	Free
Markets	n/a	n/a
Public conveniences	Website	Free
Agency agreements	Hard copy from the Town Council offices	10p per sheet + second class postage
Services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees (e.g. burial fees)	Website	Free

**Contact details:**

Mrs Tina Page, Clerk, Oulton Broad Parish Council, Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9JR

Email: [clerk@obpc.uk](mailto:clerk@obpc.uk). Website: <http://www.oultonbroadparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

**SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

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

<b>TYPE OF CHARGE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>BASIS OF CHARGE</b>
<b>Disbursement cost</b>	Photocopying @ 10p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost incurred by the public authority
	Photocopying @ 25p per sheet (colour)	Actual cost incurred by the public authority
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 <sup>nd</sup> class
<b>Statutory Fee</b>		In accordance with the relevant legislation