

COUNCIL MEETING

22 February 2021

PUBLIC QUESTION 1

Name of person submitting the question: Mr Bernard Brown

Member to whom the question is to be put: Councillor Jonathan Vine-Hall

Question (answers in BOLD)

The Planning Inspector allowed the appellants appeal on the case of Outline Planning Refusal at Clavering Walk, Bexhill. (RR/2018/3127/ P). What were total the costs, direct and indirect, to the Council of the Appeal? What was the value of the New Homes Bonus forfeited as a result of the lost Appeal?

**The total costs direct and indirect were £73,387 appeal costs
New Homes Bonus approx. £500,000 (depending on the number of units approved at reserved matters)**

The Appeal by Sea Change Sussex and Westcott Leach the Buckholt Lane Application has now been held but at the time of asking this question the decision has not been announced. What estimates and/or provisions have been made for costs to the Council for:

For the record this appeal has yet to be determined.

1. Worst case scenario: Lost appeal and costs awarded: What is the estimate of appellants and Council's costs to be met by the Council?

A total of £35,500 estimated costs to the Council for defending the Councils case broken down as follows:

**Barrister - £3,500 (hearing only)
Landscape Officer - £7,000 (statement preparation and hearing)
Ecology Officer - £7,000 (as above)
Design Officer - £9,000 (as above)
Planning Officer - £9,000 (as above)**

Whilst the appellant has submitted a costs claim (in principle) as part of the appeal (which was vigorously opposed by the Council at the hearing) the appeal has yet to be determined. Therefore the costs claim also remains yet to be determined and the amount will only be disclosed to the Council by the appellant if the costs claim is successful.

2. Second level scenario: Whatever the result, the Council's own costs having to be met by Council: What is the estimate of the costs to be met?"

As above £35,500.