

FOI request – proposed Pither Pavilion

1. What was the process by which Charles Gillespie was contracted to be the Architect?

For instance, was there competitive tendering for the job? Which other architects were approached? Was the contract openly advertised and if so where and on what date? Given that the drawings submitted at the March 2023 public meeting were vastly different from those submitted to the Planners, was Mr Gillespie appointed on the basis of price, design-produced or what? Were any other proposal drawings submitted?

1. A tendering process was completed in 2022 to appoint an Architect

2. Who were the signatories to the contract with Charles Gillespie and on what date? Could you please send me a copy of the contract or tell me when I can view it.

2. There is an Architects Project brief but that is not signed

3. Who were the councillors who drew-up the specification of the pavilion from which Mr Gillespie drew his design?

3. The specification / project brief was produced by the Pavilion Project group which included representatives from Castle Cary Town Council, Ansford Parish Council, Castle Cary Football Club and Castle Cary Cricket Club. Nigel Begg (previously an Ansford Parish Councillor and a retired architect) led on the Architects brief.

4. Whose signature(s) appear on the planning application sent to Somerset County Council?

4. The planning application was submitted by Charles Gillespie Architecture.

5. There is no mention of any 'after-hours' social function included in the proposal description - are you able to explain why this is the case?

5. Although the application form does not mention the social function specifically, the planning statement submitted with the application references events as part of the use of the building.

6. Who ultimately will be the contracting authority between the builder and client? - will it be Castle Cary Town Council alone, CCTC together with Ansford Parish Council, or a Charitable Trust created specifically for the project? If the latter what is it's registered address and chief trustee?

6. The contract for any works will be with Castle Cary Town Council.

7. Ultimately who will be the Owner of the Pither pavilion?

7. The Pavilion is owned by Castle Cary Town Council

8. What calculations have been factored into employment costs to caretake and clean the pavilion in its first year of operation, and who will be classified as 'the employer' of such staff?

8. There will be a business plan but this has yet to be agreed

9. Who will be the body that insures the Pither Pavilion, both buildings and public liability?

9. The Pavilion is insured by Castle Cary Town Council

10. Does Castle Cary Town Council have a plan or expectation to raise money towards the Pither Pavilion by means of a surcharge on the Precept/council tax to be used directly or in order to pay interest to a bank or loan facility such as the PWLB?

10. The Pavilion will be funded through Section 106 contributions, grants and fundraising. There are no plans to increase the precept or look at a Public Works loan.

11. In line with Mr Oats' declared intention to provide "transparent" governance, will the Council undertake not to hold any referendum, votes or 'vox populi' in the 28 day period from December 10. in any year ?

11. I will pass this on as appropriate for the Town Council to consider.