

FOI Ref
12271

Response sent
14 Feb 23

(CCC) FOI contested history in council areas

I am interested in issues of race in the built environment

For the last year up to date, but inclusive of information and documents from work which may have begun before this period and is still being pursued by the council.

(For example, a project to identify monument may have begun in 2020, but the list compiled from this project may still be used by the council now)

1. Could you please provide any list or review/research/report/survey of locations (streets/buildings/parks), or public art (such as statues), plaques, commemorations, graves, memorials that the council has produced in relation to slavery, colonialism, empire/British Empire, racism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, decolonising, racial justice.

In question form: "What in the built environment has the organisation, or a group working on its behalf, identified as being linked to racism, slavery, colonialism: that is, contested history?"

2. Could you please provide details of what being done to highlight, reinterpret, redisplay, or rename aspects of the environment in the council area identifying in part 1 of this request

In question form: "What work (such as adding interpretation, or information boards, or plaques close to contested monuments) has been undertaken by the council to address these legacies?"

3. If applicable, can you please provide information on what is being done to address issues of slavery, colonialism, empire/British Empire, racism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, decolonising, racial justice in council museums?

For example, what information boards have been added, what has been taken off display or put on display, what new plaques have been erected?

4. The same as for part 3, but can you provide information on how council libraries have addressed these issues

For example, have any books been specifically banned or removed from the library? Has a system of trigger warnings been established for sensitive topics?

(This can be broad, I do not need an full check of all items in the library; please do not get bogged won in this if it is likely to go over the limit)

5. For the above work to address contested history, can you please provide information any grants received by the council to pursue this work, or any payments or grants made by the council to pursue this work (for example, to a

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local anti-racism group tasked with identifying contested history)

6. Can you provide information on any schools in the council area that have applied to change their name in relation to issues of contested history

Response

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Cambridge City Council has only been involved is the renaming of Riverside Bridge to the Equiano Bridge. This was a county council led piece of work, initiated by the local community, including the Cambridge African Network. We were tangentially involved.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=593640245841655&set=pb.100068371525025.-2207520000>.

Cambridge bridge renamed in honour of abolitionist Olaudah Equiano | ITV News Anglia

In pictures: Crowd watches as Cambridge bridge is renamed after abolitionist Olaudah Equiano (cambridgeindependent.co.uk)

5. For the above work to address contested history, can you please provide information any grants received by the council to pursue this work, or any payments or grants made by the council to pursue this work (for example, to a local anti-racism group tasked with identifying contested history)

For the year 2020-2022, no community grant funds have been awarded for projects or activities relating to contested history, colonialism or black history. I

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can confirm Cambridge City Council have not applied for funding related to these topics.

For the following questions we ascertain the Council does not hold the information you seek. You may wish to direct your request to Cambridgeshire County Council. info@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

3. If applicable, can you please provide information on what is being done to address issues of slavery, colonialism, empire/British Empire, racism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, decolonising, racial justice in council museums? For example, what information boards have been added, what has been taken off display or put on display, what new plaques have been erected?

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| Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk |
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