

Appendix 1

Summary of Complaint received

Reference: S589/14/01

The complaint was made about a borough councillor, by a member of the public.

The complainant complains that:

Before a Planning Committee meeting started Councillor X came and greeted (with handshakes and hugs) the neighbours to the complainant's property who were opposing the complainant's planning application. It appeared that they were all good friends.

Councillor X was the lead Councillor to oppose the plan, throughout the session the Councillor kept looking over to the neighbours making gestures of winking and thumbs up, clearly showing that the Councillor favoured their friends and influenced the decision made.

After consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer has decided to take no further action in relation to the complaint.

The fact that Councillor X had greeted a number of parties including neighbours does not amount to a "disclosable interest". There is no evidence that Councillor X had any "interest" to declare and from the information available to me the Monitoring Officer believes that to be correct. Nothing in the complaint shows that Councillor X did not address the planning issues during the debate.

In these circumstances, this is more about a matter of perception rather than evidence of failure to comply with any Code of Conduct.

The complaint is not pursued further but the Monitoring Officer intends to issue some revised guidance to all Councillors reminding them about the rules relating to predetermination and also not giving the appearance of bias.

Reference: S589/14/02

The complaint was made about a borough councillor, by a member of the public.

The complainant complains that:

On the morning of 23rd of June, around 10 o'clock, the complainant entered Gedling Country Park via the access gate on Spring Lane. As she entered she encountered a group of about 6 adults standing just inside the gate. Councillor Y, standing with hands on hips, said "I hope you know you're trespassing

walking your dogs on here". The complainant replied, "Thank you Councillor, I'm aware of that, and a happy morning to you". The complainant then started to walk away and another member of the group shouted a comment at her.

The other adults in the group appeared to be Council employees, as they were wearing identity badges, but none spoke to the complainant.

The complainant has been a regular user of the former pit site, now the Country Park, as she has walked her dogs there for the past 8 years. She has met many contractors on the site and occasionally a Council worker and has never been spoken to in the same manner as Councillor Y. The encounter, in particular, how Councillor Y spoke to the complainant, left her feeling humiliated and upset.

On the 27th June the complainant received a handwritten note card. Whilst the card is meant as an apology, the complainant has interpreted it as an attempt to excuse poor manners and rude behaviour under the pretext of concern about her safety and dog fouling.

After consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer has decided to take no further action in relation to the complaint on the basis that the complaint has not met the threshold to demonstrate a potential breach of the Code.

Reference: S589/14/03

The complaint was made about a borough councillor, by a member of the public.

The complainant complains that:

On the morning of 23rd of June, around 10 o'clock, the complainant entered Gedling Country Park via the access gate on Spring Lane. As she entered she encountered a group of about 6 adults standing just inside the gate. A comment was made by a member of the group and then as she started to walk away and Councillor Z, shouted, "As long as you've got bags to pick up your dog mess".

The other adults in the group appeared to be Council employees, as they were wearing identity badges, but none spoke to the complainant.

The complainant has been a regular user of the former pit site, now the Country Park, as she has walked her dogs there for the past 8 years. She has met many contractors on the site and occasionally a Council worker and has never been spoken to in the same manner as Councillor Z. The encounter left her feeling humiliated and upset.

On the 27th June the complainant received a note card handwritten by Councillor Z. Whilst the card is meant as an apology, the complainant has

interpreted it as an attempt to excuse poor manners and rude behaviour under the pretext of concern about her safety and dog fouling.

After consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer has decided to take no further action in relation to the complaint on the basis that the complaint has not met the threshold to demonstrate a potential breach of the Code.