

267 Ware Road  
Hertford  
Hertfordshire  
SG13 7EL

The Deputy Monitoring Officer - Jeff Hughes  
East Herts Council  
Wallfields  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8EQ

17<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Re: Complaint Against Councillor Beryl Wrangles**

Dear Mr Hughes,

This letter forms the explanation section of my complaint against Councillor Beryl Wrangles. The complaint is in relation to an email that was issued to the Planning Office of East Herts District Council which I have included with this letter. I have also included a copy of my email response to Councillor Wrangles.

Below I have quoted and highlighted in bold the sections from the Councillors Code of Conduct that I believe have been breached, along with my comments.

“As a member or co-opted member of East Hertfordshire District Council I have a responsibility to **represent the community and work constructively with our staff and partner organisations** to secure better social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.”

I feel Councillor Wrangles has not represented the community, and her comments are not constructive to assessing the planning issues related to my application.

“**SELFLESSNESS**: Holders of public office **should act solely in terms of the public interest**. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.”

Councillor Wrangles does not appear to have acted solely in terms of the public interest, her email represents only the personal interests of the sole objector.

“**OBJECTIVITY**: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, **holders of public office should make choices on merit**.”

I do not believe Councillor Wrangles has been objective in her decisions. She has failed to engage with me, and has demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the documents and plans provided with my application.

“**OPENNESS**: Holders of public office should **be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take**. They should **give reasons for their decisions** and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.”

I do not feel that Councillor Wrangles has explained or qualified the reasons for her decisions adequately. Councillor Wrangles has not been open at all. I have attempted to engage Councillor Wrangles about her email (please see the attached email) but have simply received a two line reply:

“Thank you for your email  
The contents of which I have noted.”

I do not believe this is an appropriate response.

“Championing the needs of residents – **the whole community** and in a special way my constituents, including those who did not vote for me - and **putting their interests first.**”

I do not feel Councillor Wrangles has championed the needs of the whole community, nor put their interests first. The personal interests of the single objector are the only interests represented.

“**Dealing with representations or enquiries from residents**, members of our communities and visitors **fairly, appropriately and impartially.**”

I do not believe Councillor Wrangles has acted fairly, appropriately or impartially in her original email, or in her response to me.

“**Listening to the interests of all parties**, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, **taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.**”

Councillor Wrangles has not listened to the interests of all parties. Councillor Wrangles has not taken all relevant information into consideration. Councillor Wrangles has not remained objective. I do not believe her decisions are based on merit.

“**Being accountable for my decisions** and co-operating **when scrutinised** internally and **externally**, including **by local residents.**”

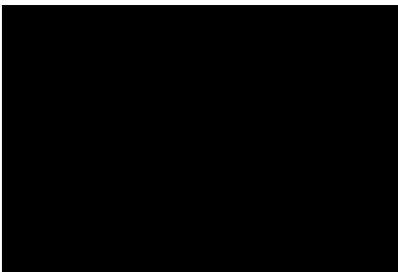
Councillor Wrangles has refused to engage with me about this issue.

“Contributing to making this authority’s **decision-making processes as open and transparent** as possible to **enable residents to understand the reasoning behind those decisions** and to be informed when holding me and other members to account but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it”

I feel that Councillor Wrangles has not been open or transparent about the decisions made, nor has she enabled me to understand the reasoning behind those decisions.

To conclude I would like to clarify that I welcome Councillor Wrangles, local residents and any other interested parties involvement in my planning application. My complaint is solely related to Councillor Wrangles conduct.

Yours sincerely



Chris Sheail