

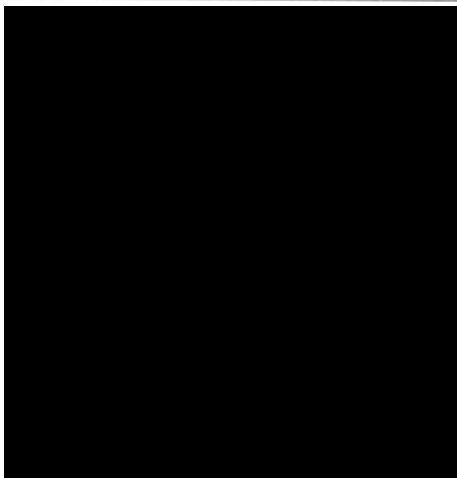


## EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### COMPLAINT FORM : CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

#### A. Your details

1. Please provide us with your name and contact details. Anonymous complaints will only be considered if there is independent evidence to substantiate the complaint.

<b>Title:</b>	
<b>First name:</b>	
<b>Last name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Contact telephone:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date of complaint:</b>	

Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary or to deal with your complaint.

The following people may see this form:

- Monitoring Officer of the Council
- Standards Committee members
- Council's Independent Person(s)
- The subject member(s)
- the Parish Clerk (if applicable)

If you have serious concerns about your name and a summary, or details of your complaint being released, please complete **Section C** of this Form and also discuss your reasons or concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

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Please tell us which complainant type best describes you:

- ☒ A member of the public
- ☐ An elected or co-opted Member of the Council
- ☐ An independent member of a Standards Committee
- ☐ A Member of Parliament
- ☐ A Monitoring Officer
- ☐ Other council employee, contractor or agent of the Council
- ☐ Other ( )

2. Equality Monitoring Form - please fill in the attached form.

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### B. Making your complaint

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3. Please provide us with the name of the Member(s) you believe have breached the Council's Code of Conduct:

Title	First name	Last name
Cllr	David	Andrews

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheet(s)) what the Member is alleged to have done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Member you should clearly explain what each individual person has done, with dates / witnesses to substantiate the alleged breach.

It is also important that you provide all the evidence you wish to have taken into account. For example:

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Member said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Member insulted you, you should state what it was they said or did to insult you.
- You should provide the dates of the alleged incidents wherever possible. If you cannot provide exact dates it is important to give a general timeframe.

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- You should confirm whether there are any witnesses to the alleged conduct and provide their names and contact details if possible.
- You should provide any relevant background information or other relevant documentary evidence to support your allegation(s).

Please provide us with the details of your complaint. Continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form.

My complaint is as a result of the actions of members of the Development Committee Management Committee meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Council Chambers at Wallfields.

Applications 3/14/2292/FP and 3/14/2250/FP

1) The agenda order was changed by the committee, to the benefit of those applying for planning. This was done without warning and resulted in significantly diminishing the value of the carefully prepared speeches by the representative for the residents in opposition to the applications. There was no reason for the switch in agenda offered but it was more than clear that the Chair knew this would benefit both applications – an indication of collusion with those making the application. This had a huge impact on the outcome of the planning meeting and was a strong indication of the committee members association with Dennis O'Sullivan, the Head Teacher of Chauncy School.

2) The Chauncy Head Teacher, on greeting the Chair, showed his familiarity by addressing the Chair as 'Dave'. It was abundantly clear that they were more than just interested parties concerned with a planning application. The Chair should have declared what is a clear "conflict of interest" prior to the meeting and stepped down to allow the meeting to be chaired by another unbiased council member.

3) The claim from those seeking approval that local people will benefit from a Sports Hall was completely unsupported and unsubstantiated and factual information to support the objection was ignored, in fact Wodson Park was mentioned as a community facility but this seemed to be ignored.

4) The Highways Department's initial reaction to the proposal of the new housing development and the Sports Hall was one of total rejection based upon safety concerns, congestion, off road parking issues to an already extremely busy road. For a reason we are yet to have explained to us, the Highways Department made a complete U turn

5) There was no genuine effort of the DMC Chair to address any of the issues that had been raised by concerned and affected local residents, and the discussion was clearly "led" by the chair, and disregarded comments made by councillors against the proposed development, effectively biasing the decision to approve development.

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6) One councillor is currently associated with Ward Freeman school whose head is the wife of the Head of Chauncy school.

7) Cllr Cartwright led a successful objection to a housing development in his own ward yet supported the Chauncy application, "not in my back yard" springs to mind and evidence this Cllr should not hold such a position.

8) Total disregard to the local community and lasting effects on the surrounding area.

I note that Cllr Andrew and other committee members were part of a closed meeting for complaints made against them, is this also anything to do with pre-determined meetings or conflict of interests ?

**(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)**

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### **C. Confidentiality of complainant and the complaint details**

**Only complete this next section if you are requesting that your identity is kept confidential**

5. In the interests of fairness and in compliance with the rules of natural justice, we believe Members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint and the substance of the allegation(s) made against him / her. We are, therefore, unlikely to withhold your personal details or the details of your complaint unless you have good reasons to believe that you have justifiable grounds, for example:
- to believe you may be victimised or harassed by the Member(s) against whom you are submitting a written complaint (or by a person associated with the same); or
  - may receive less favourable treatment from the Council because of the seniority of the Member against whom you are submitting a written complaint in terms of any existing Council service provision or any tender / contract that you may have or are about to submit to the Council.

Please note that requests for confidentiality or requests for suppression of the personal and complaint details will not automatically be granted. The Assessment Sub-Committee will consider the request alongside the substance of your complaint and the Monitoring Officer will then contact you with the decision. If your request for confidentiality is not granted, we will usually allow you the opportunity, if you so wish, of withdrawing your complaint.

However, it is important to understand that - in exceptional circumstances, where the matter complained about is very serious - we may proceed with an investigation (or other action) and may have no choice but to disclose your personal and complaint details, because of the allegation(s) made, even if you have expressly asked us not to.

Please provide us with details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint:

I have a child at the School

**(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)**

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### D. Remedy sought

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6. Please indicate the remedy or remedies you are looking for or hoping to achieve by submitting this complaint.

To have both planning proposals to be reviewed and assessed fairly by a committee with no bias, conflict of interest or hidden agenda, based upon the facts submitted by those seeking approval and those opposing it.

**(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)**

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### E. Additional information

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8. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. Frivolous, vexatious and politically motivated tit-for-tat complaints are likely to be rejected.
9. In line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you if you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing. We can also help if English is not your first language.
10. If you need any support in completing this form, please contact the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

#### **Monitoring Officer Contact details:**

The Monitoring Officer – Simon Drinkwater  
East Herts Council  
Wallfields  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8EQ

## EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Monitoring Form – Local Assessments of Complaints Standards Committee - Assessment Sub Committee

#### Working towards equal opportunities

East Hertfordshire District Council is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity in both employment and service provision. We seek to ensure that no person receives less favorable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, or ethnic origins, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, religion, trade union involvement or political belief or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

#### White

White British  
White Irish  
Any other White  
background

☐

#### Mixed

White and Black  
Caribbean  
White and Black  
African  
Any other mixed  
background

☐

#### Asian

Indian  
Pakistani  
Bangladeshi  
Any other Asian  
background

☐

#### Black

Caribbean  
African  
Any other Black  
background

☐

#### Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese  
Other

☐

\*Categories used are those utilised by  
the Office of Population Censuses and  
Surveys

Do you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability that you wish to declare under the Disability Discrimination Act?

Yes

☐

No

☐