

PSOW Reference	Type of Council	Councillor	Complainant	Alleged breach	Outcome by stage		
					Gatekeeper	Investigation	Hearing
2022/00603	County	A	Public	Failure to declare on register of interest that the Cllr is a Clerk of a T&CC	PSOW did not investigate - no breach of the Code found. Satisfied that the Cllr has made the necessary declaration. This has also been confirmed by the MO.		
2022/01136	County	B	Councillor	Post on Social Media seen as a slur on the Councillor's character. Comments are allegedly contrary to para 6 (bring the Council into disrepute)	Investigation ongoing		
2022/01184	County	B	Town Councillor	Messages sent to complainant that they felt were threatening in nature.	Investigation ongoing		
2022/01509	County	B	Public	Disrepute, bullying, failure to declare interest, disclosure confidential information	Investigation ongoing		
2022/02457	Community 1	C	Public	Alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by allegedly ignoring the policy regarding the election of a Chair/Vice Chair	PSOW did not investigate - the act complained of was the action of the Council not an individual. PSOW willing to consider whether it is a service complaint		
2022/02713	Town 1	D	Public	Alleged in appropriate posts on social media including use of bad language.	PSOW did not investigate. Swearing in the FB post was not directed at any specific person & was an attempt to raise awareness of a community issue. Post was therefore protected political expression		

2022/04701	Community 2	E	Public	Alleged bullying at a meeting towards a member of the public.	PSOW did not investigate - because complaint duplicates another complaint about the same Councillor.		
2022/05038	County	F	Public	Alleged interference with the planning process and putting pressure on the Planning Officer to refuse an application and making false statements	PSOW did not investigate - complaint is unlikely to amount to a breach of the Code. The councillor is entitled to have a view on the application, no evidence they would benefit from this view. No evidence to suggest the comment put any pressure on the Planning Officer.		
2022/04846	County	B	Public	Complainant alleged no formal response was received from any Members to an e mail requesting help. They also alleged the Member reported on social media that Members had been advised by the Legal Team not to respond and Members should not be taking instructions from the Legal Department.	PSOW did not investigate - the evidence is not suggestive of a breach of the Code.		
2022/04748	Community 2	E	Public	Alleged bullying at a meeting towards a member of the public.	PSOW did not investigate - evidence suggested poor behaviour and rudeness towards a member of the public during the meeting. (see complaint reference 2022/04701)		

2022/05046	Community 2	E	Public	It was alleged that when the complainant was invited to speak at the Council meeting, the Member shouted at the complainant and spoke to them in a "disgusting and degrading" manner and made accusations about them in the meeting and acted like a "terrorising bully"	PSOW did not investigate - the alleged remarks can reasonably be said to fall within the realms of freedom of expression, and whilst they may have been unpleasant and may have caused offence to the complainant and others, the evidence does not suggest language or behaviour which is likely to amount to a breach of the Code or to lead to a sanction being imposed.(see complaints 2022/04701 and 2022/04701)		
2022/05644	Town 2	F	Councillor	Self referral - Councillor may have brought his Office or Authority into disrepute as he had received a conditional discharge relating to a public order offence	PSOW did not investigate. At the time of the conduct complained of the member was not acting as a Councillor but as a private individual. While the Code of Conduct applies at all time in respect of whether the member has brought the Council, or the office of member, into disrepute, there is no evidence to suggest that the incident is in any way related to Council business.		

2022/06095	Comm 1	G	Public	<p>It was alleged that the Member broke the code of practice by organising support for a planning application. Evidence was provided that the Member posted on social media their intention to have the planning application called in and the reasons that people should focus on if they intended to make objections</p>	<p>PSOW did not investigate. Complaint unlikely to amount to a breach of the Code. Members are elected to represent their constituents and therefore, they can raise concerns which may affect the area they were elected to represent. No evidence has been presented to suggest the Member had a personal interest or a prejudicial interest. The evidence presented does not indicate that the Member arranged support for or against the application rather than they used social media to respond to queries and to advise constituents on how they could submit any objections which they are entitled to do. Any concerns about the decision taken should be made through the planning process.</p>		
2022/05508	Town 2	H	Public	<p>It was alleged that the Member breached the Code of Conduct by entering into a contractual agreement, without the permission of the Council. It was alleged that this incurred unauthorised expenditure to the Council.</p>	<p>PSOW did not investigate. Entering into a contract without the knowledge of the Council and incurring costs to the Council, if proven, may be suggestive of a breach of the Code of Conduct. However, cost was small and no evidence that the Member sought to personally gain from their actions.</p>		

2022/07521	Town 2	H	Public	It was alleged that the Member assisted in providing a contract, after obtaining quotes as part of their role on a Working Group. It was alleged that the Member is in a relationship with a person who works at the company, therefore the Member has misused public funds for the benefit of their partner.	PSOW did not investigate. Evidence has not been provided to substantiate key elements of the complaint e.g there was no proof that the councillor and company employee were in a relationship or that he benefitted from her actions.		
2022/08386	Town 3	I	Public	It was alleged that the Member is recording calls and will ultimately use them to expose the behaviour of others. The complainant said the member also recorded a personal call between them when they argued over the behaviour of the Member's dog.	PSOW did not investigate - At the time it is alleged the Member recorded the call with the complainant they were not acting as a Councillor but as a private individual. The PSOW was of the view that the code did not apply and this was a personal discussion about a personal matter. The complainant had indicated that the member has shared recordings they have taken when at Council meetings but no evidence was provided to support this. No evidence was provided to suggest that any recordings have been made for anything other than personal use. Further it is likely that the information is already in the public domain.		

2022/08536	Town 3	J	Public	It is alleged that the Member has brought the Council into disrepute and breached Section 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct by appearing in Court over several offences.	Under investigation		
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2023/00482	County	A	Public	<p>It was alleged that the Member called the First Minister “Fuhrer” on Facebook and this was a slur comparing the Labour party with the Nazi party. It is alleged that the Member’s claim that he simply used the German word for leader was not credible.</p>	<p>PSOW did not investigate. The Member clearly identified himself on Facebook as a Councillor therefore the PSOW was satisfied that the Code of Conduct was engaged.</p> <p>The language used by the Member, calling the First Minister “Fuhrer”, is offensive and not language that the Ombudsman would condone. Given the context, the explanation that it was a simple translation of the word “leader” lacks credibility. It is likely that the language used is suggestive of a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the Code of Conduct. An investigation into this matter would not be in the public interest.</p> <p>It is not uncommon for elected members to say things about political opponents which others may consider to be rude or offensive. However, it is not the purpose of the Code to inhibit free speech and the robust expression of political differences.</p>		