

# LAPLEY, STRETTON & WHEATON ASTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Complaints Procedure

1. Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council is committed to providing a quality service for the benefit of the people who live or work in its area or are visitors to the locality. If you are dissatisfied with the standard of service you have received from this council, or are unhappy about an action or lack of action by this Council, this Complaints Procedure sets out how you may complain to the Council and how we shall try to resolve your complaint.
2. This Complaints Procedure applies to complaints about Council administration and procedures and may include complaints about how Council employees have dealt with your concerns.
3. This Complaints Procedure does not apply to:
  - 3.1. complaints by one Council employee against another Council employee, or between a Council employee and the Council as employer. These matters are dealt with under the Council's disciplinary and grievance procedures.
  - 3.2. complaints against Councillors. Complaints against Councillors are covered by the Code of Conduct for Members adopted by the Council on **19<sup>th</sup> May 2022** and, if a complaint against a Councillor is received by the Council, it will be referred to the Monitoring Officer of South Staffordshire Council. Further information on the process of dealing with complaints against Councillors may be obtained from the Monitoring Officer of South Staffordshire Council.
4. The appropriate time for influencing Council decision-making is by raising your concerns before the Council debates and votes on a matter. You may do this by writing to the Council in advance of the meeting at which the item is to be discussed. There may also be the opportunity to raise your concerns in the public participation section of Council meetings. If you are unhappy with a Council decision, you may raise your concerns with the Council, but Standing Orders prevent the Council from re-opening issues for six months from the date of the decision, unless there are exceptional grounds to consider this necessary and the special process set out in the Standing Orders is followed
5. You may make your complaint about the Council's procedures or administration to the Parish Council Manager. You may do this in person, by phone, or by writing to or emailing the Parish Council Manager. The addresses and numbers are set out below:
6. The Parish Council Manager will normally try to acknowledge your complaint within five working days. Please note that the Parish Council Manager is a part time employee.
7. If you do not wish to report your complaint to the Parish Council Manager, you may make your complaint directly to the Chairman of the Council who will report your complaint to the Council.
8. The Parish Council Manager or the Council (as appropriate) will investigate each complaint, obtaining further information as necessary from you and/or from staff or members of the Council.
9. The Parish Council Manager or the Chairman of the Council will notify you within 20 working days of the outcome of your complaint and of what action (if any) the Council proposes to take as a result of your complaint. (In exceptional cases the twenty working days timescale may have to be extended. If it is, you will be kept informed.)

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10. If you are dissatisfied with the response to your complaint, you may ask for your complaint to be referred to the Complaints Committee of the Parish Council or to the full Council (as appropriate) and (usually within eight weeks) you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the review of your original complaint.

### Contacts

1. The Parish Council Manager of Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council:

Address: Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council, FF028, The Business Hub, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE

Telephone: **01902 842556** 07495 789051

Email: [office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

2. The Chairman of Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council:

Email: [w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:w.millington@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

3. The Monitoring Officer for Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council:

Address: South Staffordshire Council, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE

Telephone: 01902 696000

Email: [l.fowkes@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:l.fowkes@sstaffs.gov.uk)

Adopted: 2nd February 2012

Reviewed: 7th April 2016, May 2017, May 2018, September 2019, May 2020, May 2021, May 2022