



Lewes District Council

COMPLAINT FORM

1. Your Details

Please provide us with your name and contact details.

Title:	Cllr
First Name:	Andy
Last Name:	Smith
Address:	The Brambles, 8A Chatsworth Close
Daytime Telephone:	01273584484
Evening Telephone:	01273584484
Mobile Telephone:	██████████
Email Address:	cllr.andysmith@gmail.com

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

However, we will tell the following people that you have made this complaint:

- the Councillor(s) you are complaining about;
- the Monitoring Officer of the authority; and
- the Parish or Town Clerk (if applicable).

We will tell them your name and give them a summary of your complaint. We will give them full details of your complaint where necessary or appropriate to be able to deal

with it. If you have serious concerns about your name or details of your complaint being released to the Member about whom it relates, please complete Section 5 of this form.

Please tell us which complainant type best describes you:

- Member of the public
- An elected or co-opted member of an authority
- An independent person of Lewes District Council
- Member of Parliament
- Local Authority Monitoring Officer
- Other council officer or authority employee
- Other (please specify)

2. Making Your Complaint

Please provide us with the name of the Councillor(s) you believe have breached the Code of Conduct and the name of their authority:

Title	First Name	Last Name	Council or Authority Name
<i>Cllr</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Neave</i>	<i>Telscombe Town Council</i>

3. Date of Complaint

Please inform us of any relevant dates concerning your complaints (e.g. when the incident occurred, any relevant meetings dates etc).

At the very end of a De-briefing to discuss Email AS late evening Wednesday 20th September 2017

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheets) what the Councillor has done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Councillor you should clearly explain what each individual person has done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct.

It is important that you provide all the information you wish to have taken into account by the Monitoring Officer when it decides whether to take any action on your complaint. For example:-

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Councillor said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Councillor insulted you, you should state what it was they said.
- 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.
- 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.

That there have been two serious breaches of the Town Councils code of conduct specifically parts 1 and 2. Copy is attached.

The complaint is about the behaviour which as you will read was threatening and abusive. The incident occurred in front of many witnesses.

I was sitting with Cllr Neave on my left and did not get the best view of what went on but directly opposite Cllr Neave was Cllr Gwen Maskell. Cllr Maskell went home and made her own notes and has forwarded them to me to support this complaint. I will corroborate her version of events as a true record.

The complaint is that Cllr Neave behaved in a threatening and abusive manor, exhibiting physical violence with a lot of invasion of my personal space. These and previous actions (texts and emails) are an attempt to bully others for reasons which will become apparent.

Background

The Meeting had been called by me to discuss the Town fireworks event which had occurred on the 2nd September. The debrief started at the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting. The Debrief email I sent out attracted some odd but not unexpected commentary from both Cllr Neave and the Town Clerk Nancy Astley.

I estimate there were around 1500 to 2000 people present for the fireworks being set off.

Nancy Astley had been responsible for planning the event and had assisted in the logistical setting up etc during the day. On the night she had not given herself any responsibilities in the pre and post stages of the event management. She did arrive on the field and chose to assist Cllr Neave with the parking which is several hundred meters from the safety cordons.

The Fireworks on the Tye has become a tradition for the Town and its purpose is to market the Town Council in a positive way. Efforts to offset the costs resulted in a

change of format in 2015 with the Tyefest music event. The planning was considerably ramped up to take account of the changes to the risk assessment. The addition of the paid bar was included and an alternative order was produced. The main change was that the event was moved into the school holidays which made getting volunteers more difficult. It also means that the firing is now later due to the sun setting later.

I could not make the Tyfest event 2016 to an injury which had run into some logistical and volunteer issues.

Councilors agreed subsequently because of these issues that Tyfest would be discontinued and the original fireworks plan which carried fewer risks would be returned to.

An undocumented decision between Nancy Astley and councilors at the end of another Town meeting on the 31st July re introduced a fun fair element of Tyefest but no mention was made of any alcohol being sold. The fun fair, without our knowledge it appears, sub contracted to a bar which spent the day selling alcohol on the field.

With hindsight this decision directly contributed to some of the problems we had to deal with on the night. In effect the wrong plan was in place do deal with the public safety issues I raised in my email. As I had been named in the plan, without my prior knowledge, with key responsibilities, I asked for a debriefing meeting. This I felt was needed to improve the plan for any future events.

Present at this debriefing meeting were the following people; Town Clerk Nancy Astley, Deputy Town Clerk Stella Newman and Councillors; Gwen Maskell, Tim Armour, Brian Page, David Wright, Joanna Wilkins (Mayor), Darryll Brindley (Deputy Mayor), Andy Smith, Job Harris and David Neave. Public: Stan Newman (helper).

Initially I offered the Town Clerk NA the opportunity to informally resolve my complaint. I am not now looking for an informal resolution of this matter I consider it to be too serious. My association has been kept up to date on this incident also.

Councillor Neave will need to explain the reasons for his outburst and why all Town Councillors on this Town Council have in the past received abusive emails and some texts from him. For the purposes of the debriefing meeting, Cllr Neave made no comment and its business passed in a constructive and professional way. His out-burst at the end of the meeting I suspect is to do with the close friendship which exists between himself, his wife and Nancy Astley.

Cllr Neave has on previous occasions become overly defensive when he perceives criticism of Nancy. No overt Criticism was levelled at Nancy at this meeting.

Cllr Neave and I are also members of the District Council for this area. The complaint concerns Cllr Neave's duties as a Town Councilor for Telscombe Cliffs.