

Yarkhill News



See Page 2 for updates on the Stokebridge Road situation.



This photograph shows quite clearly why the Stokebridge Road is closed. The bridge is seriously damaged. Negotiations are under way to impose a weight limit on the bridge.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Coronation Celebration

Please join us for tea on Sunday 7th May at Yarkhill Village Hall, from 3-5pm, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. There will be delicious food and drink, children's activities and a raffle in aid of Yarkhill Church. Fancy dress is optional! All are welcome. Donations of cakes and other food are very welcome.

There will also be a celebratory service at Yarkhill Church at 11am on Sunday 7th May.

The Yarkhill Produce Show will take place on Saturday 29th July. Look out for list of classes and entry forms in future issues of the newsletter.

Letter received from Network Rail



Community relations
Baskerville House
Centenary Square
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2ND

03457 11 41 41

Tuesday 28 February 2023
Our ref.: Stoke Edith

Dear neighbour,

I wanted to get in touch to apologise sincerely for the continued inconvenience caused by our work on the railway bridge on the C1148 road, between the A438 and Stoke bridge, and the associated road closure in the Stoke Edith / Yarkhill area since late last year.

In November last year, an inspection of this bridge revealed significant water damage affecting the bridge's structural integrity. This major safety concern led to the joint decision with Herefordshire Council to close the road where the bridge is located until repairs to the bridge were complete, despite the impact we know that additional journey times would have on road users in the area.

We understand local people would expect us to complete this critical work within the timeframe that was originally agreed, but unforeseen issues with water management have meant that work is taking longer than expected to complete. I know that this falls well below the expectations of local residents and this must be increasingly frustrating for road users in the area.

Though much of the work taking place is not visible to the public as the majority of the work must be carried out within the watercourse itself, please be assured that we are working hard to get the road re-opened as soon as possible.

Because of the safety risk caused by the damage to the bridge, the full road closure must remain in place while we carry out the remaining work. We hope to complete work fully by the middle of April, when we will be able to fully re-open the 'C1148 From A438 to Stoke Bridge' in both directions.

I want to apologise again for the inconvenience and disruption this work continues to cause, that the rest of the repairs can be completed on time. All staff and contractors are briefed on working responsibly in the local community, as we expect staff to be considerate, polite and courteous at all times.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the work taking place, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our 24-hour national helpline and I will get back in touch with you as soon as possible. Our helpline can be reached by phone at 03457 11 41 41 or online at www.networkrail.co.uk/contact.

I hope that this update is helpful, and we appreciate and thank you for your patience with us while this vital work takes place.

Yours sincerely,

Delroy Hall

Community relations executive

From: Williams, Ashley (02) <Ashley.Williams2@balfourbeatty.com>
Sent: 20 February 2023 08:51
To: yarkhill@live.co.uk <yarkhill@live.co.uk>
Subject: RE: C11148 Road Closure Stoke Edith

Good morning Sallyanne,

I hope you have had a good weekend.

Last week we had a meeting with Network Rail for an update on the works on Stoke Edith bridge. Due to the safety of the bridge and the works that are required to be carried out, the closure has been extended to the 9th April 2023.

We have requested that they contact all the major stakeholders with a more detailed update as soon as possible. I have made sure that you are included in these communications.

In the meantime we have directed them to add more specific signage to advise road users of the reason why the closure is in place, along with assurances that the site is being checked at least twice a day to keep the site safe.

Best wishes,

Ash Williams

Permit Compliance Officer | Balfour Beatty Living Places

Email received from Balfour Beatty in response to concerns about signage and safety.

Chairman's Update

Planning & Enforcement

There have been two recent planning applications in Yarkhill:

Whitwick Manor – Application 224156. The owner has submitted plans for a remodelling of the exterior frontage of the property and the installation of a pool house for a sunken and covered swimming pool at the rear. The PC made a site visit on 17th January and is supportive.

The Paddocks – Application 223485. The owners of this traveller's site adjacent to the Newtown Inn have applied for an enlargement of the day room that was approved by Herefordshire council last year and which has yet to be built. The PC visited the site as part of the original application and supports the amendment.

Update on Anaerobic Digester – Planning Application 222728. Herefordshire Council's planning determination date for this application has been moved forward to 31st March this year. There are currently over 170 comments available to view on the website of which the vast majority are in objection to the proposal with the most comprehensive being that submitted this month by CPRE (The Countryside charity for Herefordshire) supported by an external consultant's report. It runs to 20 pages and is well worth a read.

Community Charter

In an effort to forge a closer working relationship with parish councils, West Mercia Police created a new Community Charter in 2021 and allocated an officer to each parish. The intention was, and remains, to tackle those areas of criminal behaviour which most concern local residents. We were asked to update our priorities for 2023 and we cited the following areas:

Road safety and speeding drivers

Ad hoc theft, especially from outbuildings and gardens

Fly tipping

Litter Pick

It was unanimously agreed at the last PC meeting, that larger community litter picking no longer works and several alternative ideas were proposed. It was decided that it would be more effective to ask for volunteers to litter pick much smaller areas, and possibly ones local to them, on an ad hoc basis and with all equipment supplied by the PC. We are especially grateful for the work Caroline Borley has undertaken on this including the division of the parish into twelve manageable sections and the production of a map and flier for circulation. It is pleasing to report that a number of residents have already volunteered and we hope that this will prove a far better way of helping to keep Yarkhill tidy and an attractive place to live.

Monkhide Sewage Treatment Plant

After Welsh Water undertook remedial work on the plant several years ago after our complaint, this topic has reared its head once again. We have received reports that the treated waste water flowing into the River Lodon is murky in colour whilst also generating an unpleasant smell. It was agreed that the PC would take the matter up with Welsh Water and also look at water testing at the outflow point to determine whether there is an ongoing problem that needs resolving.

Lengthsman

After the large amount of work undertaken to dig out culverts and replace pipework in Monkhide last year to reduce the flood risk, we will ensure that maintenance work continues to be undertaken while also using the Lengthsman wherever we can especially where grant funding is available to us. Please let us know of any projects you feel are appropriate remembering that the Lengthsman is only able to work on C and U routes as well as footpaths and bridleways.

Traffic Accident on A4103

Following the recent accident near the crossroads, the PC is seeking a meeting with West Mercia Police and Balfour Beatty to discuss what safety improvement options are open to us. Last year, we were advised that there was no budget available to fund any such work, but we believe something needs to be done before another serious accident occurs. Most of these are due to excessive speed and drivers misreading the twisting nature of the carriageway.

Milk Vending Machine

Finally, congratulations to the Clay's from Showle Court for opening their new milk and milkshake vending machine in the purpose-built wooden chalet adjacent to the village hall. They have had to negotiate the formal planning process and plenty of red tape, but thanks to their persistence, we now have a valuable addition to Yarkhill. Please do give it a go.

Jeff Hughes - Chairman

Comments from the Parish Clerk



The milk shakes from the vending machine in the Village Hall car park are absolutely lovely—I get one every time I go up there.

Theft from outbuildings seems to be on the increase again so do make sure your sheds and other outbuildings are securely locked—day and night.



Please remember to protect these little chaps by keeping your dogs on leads when passing through livestock fields.

Horse Riders Please Read

The suggested width for a Bridle Way is 3 metres but this is NOT a law. It is left to the discretion of the landowner. There is one horse owner in our Parish who sees fit to ignore all my pleas for considerate use of bridle ways and who still continues to ride over the crops and fields adjoining bridle ways.



Because of this horse owners selfish disregard for one landowner, he has decided to close off a path which he previously allowed horse riders to use . We were able to skirt his field and leave via a gate onto Watery Lane. Because a particular group of horses has seen fit to stray a long way from the path and on to the field we have lost this very generous facility.

It is worth remembering that Landowners have the right to ban a particular animal, whether it be a dog or horse, if he considers it is damaging his land—this applies even if it is a Bridle Way or Footpath.



Burglary Dwellings

Rural Ledbury (CRADLEY, WELLINGTON HEATH, BROMYARD) have seen three burglary dwellings in the past 7 days. These have been brazen daytime burglaries where the offender/s have broken into the property by forcing a windows or patio door and stealing jewellery.

Following police investigation/s the following vehicles are of interest;

A (ROYAL) **BLUE FORD TRANSIT**

A (METALLIC) **BLUE FORD TRANSIT**

A **WHITE VAUXHALL CORSA (van)**

A (DARK) **BLUE RANGE ROVER** (old style, 'murky' coloured)

If anyone has any information that could assist police with our investigation, then please contact me at ledbury.snt@westmercia.police.uk and ryan.davis@westmercia.police.uk



FRAUD BANKING APP PHONE THEFTS - EMERGING TREND

In the last two weeks West Mercia Police have seen an emerging trend of fraud banking app thefts across the force area.

Offenders arrange to meet individuals via Facebook Marketplace, with the agreement to purchase high value items that the individual has advertised for sale; such as mobile phones.

Offenders then use a fake banking app, which shows the victim that the money transfer has been successful when in fact it hasn't. Goods are then taken from the victim fraudulently.

We advise that you always follow guidance by you service provider, and ALWAYS check that the funds are in your account before you hand any items over.

YARKHILL PARISH



VOLUNTEER TO KEEP OUR ROADS CLEAN

Parishioners, we are sure you'll agree that we live in a most beautiful county. However, this is sadly blighted by people who choose to discard or throw litter out of their car windows, regardless of the impact on our roadsides and environment.

In an ongoing effort to keep Yarkhill tidy and make litter picking a quick and easy task, we have divided the parish's roads into 12 manageable stretches and are asking people to look after one of these sections. This will take approximately 1-2 hours of your time and can be done when it best suits you. When finished, Balfour Beatty will collect the bags of litter left by the roadside via the **what3words** app. All equipment is provided, including hi-viz vests.

Most roadside verges are wide and do not pose any danger. We do not expect anyone to take risks.

After 6 months, we will be asking for new individuals to take over the same stretches of roadside so that we may rotate the workload, but we will of course welcome anyone who would like to volunteer again or help out on an ongoing basis. Just let us know at any time.

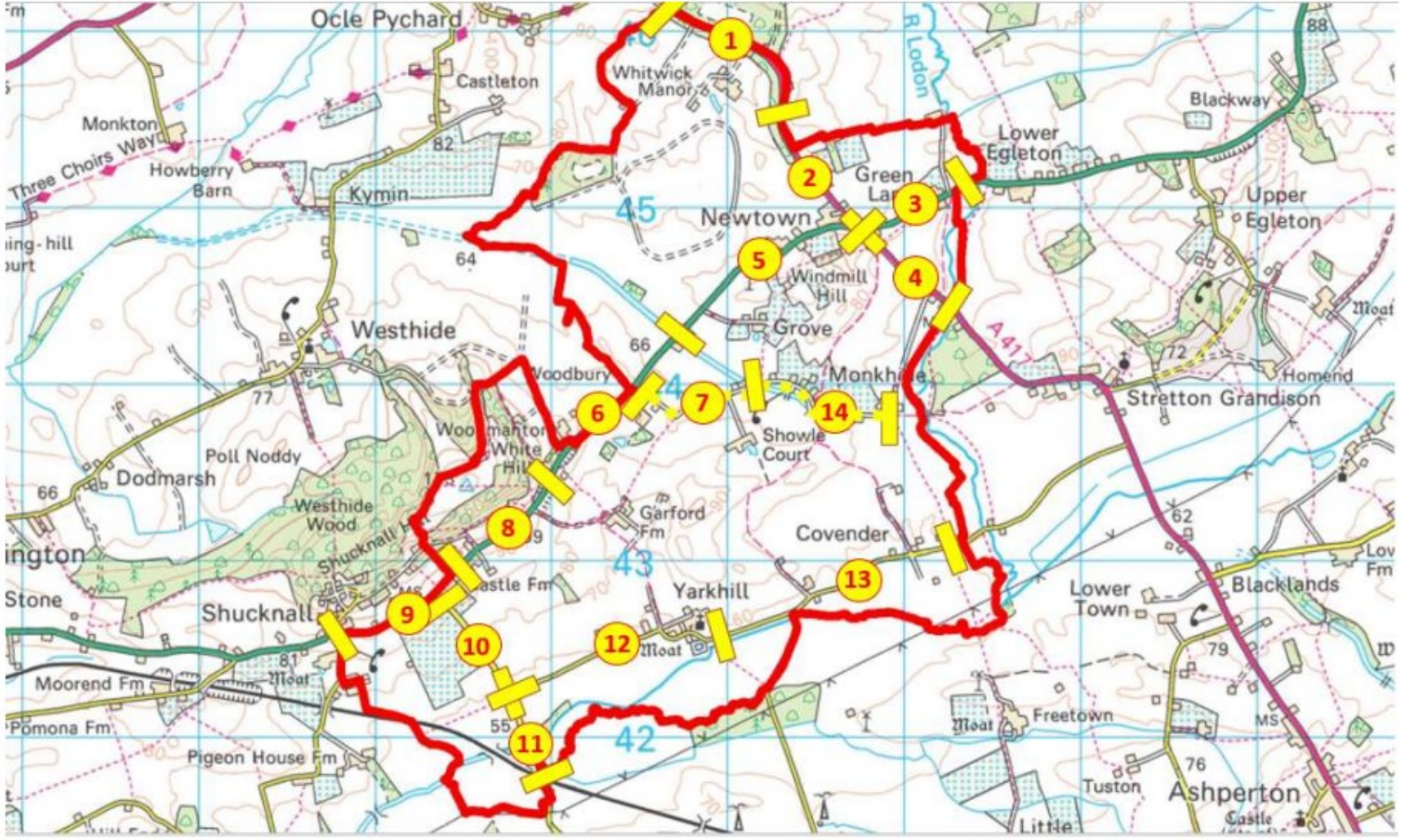
The scheme will commence 1st March – 31st August and then 1st September to end February.

If you or any member of your family feel that they can spare 1-2 hours, please would you contact Sally-Anne (Parish Clerk) on yarkhill@live.co.uk before the end of February. We will then issue equipment and details for **what3words**.

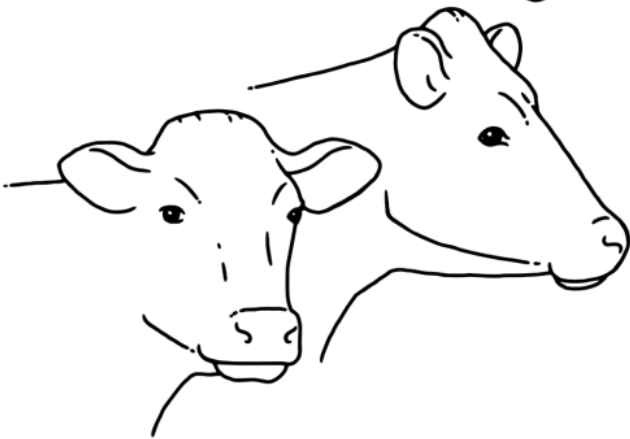
**PLEASE DO HELP TO KEEP OUR PARISH A TIDY AND ATTRACTIVE PLACE
TO LIVE**

Please be advised we have all the equipment, including litters pickers, gloves, and hi viz. We can also supply road signs for added security. See overleaf for the map showing the sections.

Yarkhill Litter Pick 2023-24



Showle Dairy



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Yarkhill Village Hall
Old School Lane ,
Yarkhill,
HR1 3ST

Follow us on Facebook @Showledairy

The
Electoral
Commission



Herefordshire
Council



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



Booklets explaining the new voting procedures are available from the entrance lobby of the Village Hall. Further information will be sent to all parishioners in due course. In the meantime please email or call the Parish Clerk on 07801 108789 if you require any further clarification.



Don't risk a drink or drug drive conviction

Motorists across the region are being reminded of the dangers of driving under the influence of drink or drugs as part of a national police enforcement operation.

With the football World Cup due to start this weekend and with the run up to Christmas, opportunities are present where people may be socialising more with friends and family and might be tempted to drink more than usual. This police operation serves as reminder of the dangers of driving under the influence of drink and drugs and the consequences that this can lead to.

Find out more;

[Don't risk a drink or drug drive conviction | West Mercia Police](#)

Enforcement is taking place 24/7.

Don't risk drinking if you are driving. #OpLimit





Message Sent By
Road Safety Team



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MARCH 2023

DAILY EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join any of the acts of worship that take place at the cathedral. Services are normally held at the following times:

Monday – Saturday

8 am – Morning Prayer

10.30 am – Eucharist (*8.30 am on a Saturday*)

5.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

Sunday

8 am – Holy Communion

10 am – Cathedral Eucharist (*this service is also live streamed*)

11.30 am – Matins or Morning Prayer

3.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

EXHIBITIONS**Bound To Impress**

Monday 23 January to Saturday 22 April 2023*

Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm

This exhibition, in the display cases within the Hereford Mappa Mundi and Chained Library Exhibition, shows a selection of remarkable bindings drawn from the Cathedral's historic collections, from books made locally in the 12th century to expensive and elaborate 19th-century luxury bindings.

Normal admission charges apply

**due to essential works in the Mappa Mundi & Chained Library, some areas of the exhibition may be closed during the exhibition. Please visit the cathedral website for more details.*

EVENTS**Toddler Group**

Mondays in term time, 9.30am

Calling all toddlers and their grown ups - join us to play and pray in Hereford Cathedral. Listen to a Bible story, take part in a craft activity and have fun in our weekly drop-in. Suitable for toddlers between the ages of 1-3 years.

Toddler Group is free to attend but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

A Tribute to Hans Zimmer & John Williams by Candlelight

Wednesday 8 March, 6.15 & 8.30pm

An immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and John William's most iconic music with a live chamber orchestra performing an hour and a quarter of cinema's most iconic music in the enchanting candle-lit setting of Hereford Cathedral.

Tickets from £20, more details available on the cathedral website.

Lent Lecture Series

Friday 3, 10, 17 & 24 March, 10.30am – 12noon

The Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer presents a series of lectures this Lent in the Old Chapel. Each lecture will end with a fifteen minute meditation. Attendees are asked to bring a Bible with them, if possible, the NRSV translation.

This event is free to attend – booking is not required

Lent Retreat: With Jesus in the Wilderness

Saturday 11 March, 10.30am – 3.30pm

The Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer will lead a Lent Retreat in the Old Chapel this March. This event is free, but lunch can be pre-ordered from the café for £5.50.

Due to limited spaces, please book your place in advance online or via the cathedral office

Lent Lunches

Wednesday 1, Thursday 9, 16, 23, 30 March & Thursday 6 April, 12.30 pm – 1.45 pm

Join us in College Hall for an informal lunch of soup, bread and water with a speaker discussing what Lent means to them. This event is free with a suggested donation of £2.50

Please book your space online or via the cathedral office

Chorister Open Morning

Saturday 11 March, 9.30 – 10.30am

Hereford's renowned cathedral choir offers a wonderful opportunity for children to receive a unique musical education in a spectacular setting. Boys and girls aged 6–9 are welcome to attend the open morning and learn more about the becoming a cathedral chorister.

Please register your interest in advance via the cathedral website

I feel sorry for the Vicar - a lecture by Clare Wichbold MBE

Tuesday 14 March, 7pm

Join Clare Wichbold for a talk on the history of suffrage and its local links to Hereford and the Cathedral. At the Cathedral, militant suffragettes and peaceful suffragists, often working collectively in the county, ranged against the anti-suffrage activists who were equally passionate about their opposition to women gaining the Parliamentary vote.

Tickets cost £10 from the cathedral website

Afternoon Music

Saturday 11 March, 3.15pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for a short concert of beautiful music played on the Father Willis organ.

Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Spring Garden Opening

Friday 17 March, 10am – 3pm

Explore the gardens of Hereford Cathedral and view all of the hard work that has been undertaken by our volunteer gardeners before the gardens officially open for our summer tours and events.

Tickets cost £6 and can be purchased from the Cathedral Shop or via the cathedral website.

Hereford Choral Society - Monteverdi Vespers of 1610

Saturday 18 March, 7.30pm

Monteverdi's Vespers creates a musical journey, from the mystical to the prayerful, from the happy and exultant to the angry and, surprisingly for a fundamentally liturgical work, even the sensual.

Tickets from £10, please visit herefordchoralsociety.org for more information

The Confessor and The Godfather
Saturday 25 March, 10am

In this Life and Learning talk, Kris Johnston tells a story of four kings, three suns, two bishops and no heirs. What role did the Bishops of Hereford play at the time of the Wars of the Roses and during the dynastic struggle which ended the Plantagenet royal line? Associated local themes feature in the talk, as do survivors at the cathedral and a learned bookworm.

Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased via the cathedral website or by contacting the Library on 01432 374225

Lego Club

Wednesday 29 March, 3.30 – 4.30pm

Enjoy this freestyle Lego session in the South Transept with thousands of bricks and hundreds of mini figures, learn building techniques and make new friends. Suitable for young people aged between 8 and 14. Parents and Carers are welcome to stay, but accompaniment is not required during the session.

This event is free but advance booking is essential via the cathedral website.

Escape Room

Wednesday 15 & 22 March, bookable sessions available

It is 1890... You have been accused of embezzling money from the Vicars Choral funds and have been shut in the Old Chapel until the police arrive. You have one hour, can you prove that you are innocent? Come along and crack the code of our Escape Room!

Sessions cost £60 and are suitable for groups of up to six people. Booking is essential via the cathedral website.

Scaffold tower for hire

The organisers of the Field to Fork Festival have purchased a scaffold tower from part of the income raised at last year's event which can be hired by anyone living in the village for £15 a week. Terms & Conditions apply. The details of the tower are as follows: Platform size: 1.45Mx 0.5M, Max platform height: 2.73M, Max working height: 5M (approx.) Max. load: 150kg Material: Aluminium. It weights approximately 37kg and is fitted with a pair of wheels to allow the tower to be moved around.

If you would like to hire this equipment please contact Martin Ennis on T: 01432 890486 M: 07831 424667 E: martinennis325@gmail.com

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: Sallyanne Lees 07801 108789 email: yarkhill@live.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL: Wendy Nash 07985353025

CHURCH WARDEN: Ashley Fortey (Ashley4009@talktalk.net)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR: David Thomas 01531 670437

Guidance for Complaints Procedure

It is vital that the public has confidence in the high standards of local government, and that there is transparency about the conduct of councillors and the mechanisms for dealing with alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct. Equally, it is vital that councillors themselves have confidence in these mechanisms, and that investigations into such complaints abide by the principles of natural justice. Under the Model Code of Conduct, councillors are required to cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and respect the impartiality of officers. This is in recognition of the key role monitoring officers have in ensuring what might be contentious and difficult issues are handled fairly. This guidance is to support them in carrying out their duties.

More than 100,000 people give their time as councillors. The majority do so with the very best motives, and they conduct themselves in a way that is beyond reproach. However, public perception tends to focus on a minority who in some way abuse their positions or behave badly. Even where behaviour does fall short most issues are resolved easily through a simple apology or through swift action from an officer, a political group or meeting chair. Reference to the Code of Conduct and a formal complaint are very much the last resort where issues remain unresolved.

Anyone who considers that a councillor may have breached the Code of Conduct may make a complaint to that councillor's local authority, usually via the principal authority's monitoring officer. Each complaint must be assessed to see if it falls within the authority's legal jurisdiction, for example whether the subject member was acting as a councillor or representative of the authority at the time. A decision must then be made on whether or not some action should be taken, either as an investigation or some other form of action.

When a matter is referred for investigation or other action, it does not mean that a decision has been made about the validity of the allegation. It simply means that the authority believes the alleged conduct, if proven, may amount to a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and that some action should be taken in response to the complaint.

The process for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints must be fair and be seen to be fair. The law does not specify how complaints are to be handled. However, in most authorities, initial assessment of complaints that a councillor may have breached the Code of Conduct is usually carried out by the authority's monitoring officer (in our case the Parish Clerk and one other Councillor who is not party to the complaint). Even where the matter is normally delegated to the monitoring officer, they may reserve the right to refer the matter to a committee of councillors, for example where the monitoring officer has a conflict of interest or the matter is particularly high-profile.

Local authorities, including parish and town councils, should publish information on their websites about what can and cannot be considered as a complaint, how to complain (including a standard complaints form if appropriate) and where Code of Conduct complaints should be sent to. They should also provide clear details of the procedures they will follow in relation to any written allegation received about a councillor.

Yarkhill Parish has produced a complaint form which sets out all the information they expect to receive from a complainant. This can be helpful to both the authority and the complainant. The form can be found at the end of this information. Complaints do not have to be made using the form but should include the information requested in the form.

The authority should also make it clear that only in exceptional circumstances would a complainant be granted confidentiality and that as a matter of fairness the complainant's identity would normally be disclosed to the subject member

Under the Localism Act, however, formal complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes electronic submissions, though the requirement for complaints to be submitted in writing must be read in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make adjustments. For example, a complainant may have a disability that prevents them from making their complaint in writing. In such cases, authorities may need to transcribe a verbal complaint and then produce a written copy for approval by the complainant or the complainant's representative.

When a complaint is received by the local authority the relevant officer should acknowledge its receipt and set out the process to be taken to assess the complaint with an agreed timescale.

The full Guidance information can be accessed at [Guidance on Member Model Code of Conduct Complaints Handling | Local Government Association](#)

