

Your Reference:  
Our Reference:  
Enquiries to: Mrs L Tremble  
Direct Dial: (01768) 212249  
Email: dcls@eden.gov.uk  
Date: 7 October 2021



Town Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7QF  
Tel: 01768 817817

By email

Councillor Joan Raine  
Dalefoot  
Crosby Ravensworth  
Penrith

Dear Councillor Raine

### **Complaint under the Code of Conduct**

I refer to the Code of Conduct complaint submitted against you by Mr David Graham regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. Please accept my apologies for the delay in notifying you of the Panel's decision.

An Assessment Panel was held on 16 September 2021 to consider the complaint and your response to it.

In summary the complaint raises allegations about your behaviour set out under the following headings within the complaint

1. Trees
2. Bolton Annual PC Meeting
3. 'Have we really lowered ourselves to playground mentality?'
4. Maulds Meaburn Coffee Van
5. 'Letter posted to my wife'
6. Lyvennet News Article
7. Third party conversation

The Panel agreed that the complaint satisfied tests a), b) and c) set out in Appendix 1 of the Local Initial Assessment Procedure in that:

- a) the complaint is against a named member of Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council and Eden District Council;
- b) you were in office at the time of the alleged conduct and the Code of Conduct was in force at the time; and
- c) the complaint, if proven, would be a breach of the Code under which you were operating at the time of the alleged misconduct.

The complaint set out various incidents to evidence your alleged behaviour and the Panel decided to take a holistic approach to the consideration of the complaint and looked at the allegations regarding your general behaviour over the incidents referred to in the complaint.

The Panel also took account of your response to the complaint.

In terms of your behaviour the Panel were concerned about the tone and content of some of the emails attached to the complaint and also the level of respect shown within those emails. The tone and content of the emails does not demonstrate the high standards of conduct expected of an acting Councillor and does not demonstrate a level of respect for fellow councillors and members of the public.

The Panel considered the following parts of the Code of Conduct had been breached:

‘You must treat others with respect and promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and be treating people with respect, regardless of their sex, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. You should respect the impartiality and integrity of the Council’s statutory officers and its other employees.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your office.’

The Panel also considered the release of the Bolton Parish Council resignation letter. From the information provided in relation to this it was not clear to the Panel where the letter originated from or how you had obtained it and the Panel could not therefore find a breach of the Code in this respect. The Panel did, however, ask that I remind you about the confidentiality of correspondence and keeping separate your roles on Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council and Bolton Parish Council.

In summary the Panel was of the view you are an experienced Councillor and can be expected to promote and support the principles of conduct by acting in a way that secures or preserves public confidence and that of your fellow councillors.

### **Decision of the Panel**

The Panel decided that there is sufficient evidence within the correspondence attached to the complaint to identify the following breaches of the Code of Conduct:

‘You must treat others with respect and promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and be treating people with respect, regardless of their sex, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. You should respect the impartiality and integrity of the Council’s statutory officers and its other employees.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your office.’

The Panel has instructed me to take the following action in relation to this complaint:

1. To ask you to consider how your conduct, and the tone and content of your email correspondence has affected Mr Graham and to offer an apology to Mr Graham;
2. To arrange for you to meet with the Monitoring Officer and that I remind you of your responsibilities in relation to the Code of Conduct and the principles of conduct.

I will contact you to arrange a meeting as requested by the Panel and I will forward a copy of this decision letter to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Tremble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lisa Tremble