

Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Complaints Procedure

1. Ross-on-Wye Town 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 the Council has 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 the Council as employer and a Council employee. These matters are dealt with under the Council's disciplinary and grievance procedures. If your complaint relates to an individual employee you may be assured that it will be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.
 - 3.2. complaints against Councillors. Complaints against Councillors are covered by the Code of Conduct for Members adopted by the Town Council. If a complaint against a Councillor is received by the Town Council, it will be referred to the Standards Committee of Herefordshire Council. Further information on the process of dealing with complaints against Councillors may be obtained from the Monitoring Officer of Herefordshire 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 is also the opportunity to raise your concerns in the public participation session 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 Town Clerk. You may do this in person, by phone, or by writing to or emailing the Town Clerk at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5HL, admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk or 01989 562373.
6. The Town Clerk will normally try to acknowledge your complaint within five working days and wherever possible will try to resolve your complaint within a further ten working days.

7. If you do not wish the Town Clerk to deal with your complaint or if you do not wish to report your complaint to the Town Clerk you may make your complaint directly to the Chairman of the Council who will report your complaint to the Policy & Management Committee of the Council.
8. The Town Clerk or the Policy & Management Committee (as appropriate) will investigate each complaint, obtaining further information as necessary from you and/or from staff or members of the Council.
9. The Town Clerk or Chairman of the Committee will normally notify you within twenty 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.
10. If you are dissatisfied with the response to your complaint, you may ask for your complaint to be referred to the Full Council for review and (usually within eight weeks) you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the review of your original complaint. The Council's decision is final.