

Dear Councillor Schlesinger,

You will have received correspondence from me concerning the outcome of the complaints into Cllr Streatfield, as you were one of a number of the complainants.

I am now writing to you in your capacity as Chair of Northiam Parish Council (NPC).

As you are acutely aware, the issues surrounding the purchase, current and future uses of the St. Francis Field site in Northiam has caused significant divisions within NPC resulting in copious complaints and counter-complaints.

Rother District Council has a role in putting in place arrangements for dealing with complaints against town and parish councillors across the district and has now spent a disproportionate amount of time, resources and money in trying to resolve and handle the complaints against individual Northiam Parish Councillors stemming from this matter.

Whilst Councillor Streatfield has been found in breach of the code of conduct, this matter is now for NPC to manage and conclude under local resolution. Councillor Streatfield will no doubt need to reflect on whether or not he wishes to remain a Parish Councillor, in light of the findings, however, this is a decision that only he can make and there is no available sanction to force his hand in that regard.

Should Councillor Streatfield remain a Parish Councillor, in the interests of bringing this matter to a swift conclusion for the sake of all parties, I recommend that NPC seeks support from the East Sussex Association of Local Councils and others for training and specialist mediation to help all parties move forward. I can assist with sourcing appropriate specialists that may be able to assist NPC, but this will be at NPC's expense. Councillor Streatfield has been asked to confirm whether he would be willing to do this.

I do hope for the sake of all NPC councillors and the residents that you serve that this unfortunate episode can be brought to an end.

Lorna Ford

Deputy Chief Executive

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