

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

April 2023 (next review due April 2025)

Finchampstead Parish Council is committed to providing a quality service to all those living in, working in or visiting the Parish. The Parish Council endeavours to resolve any issues or complaints promptly and without the need for further recourse, but in order to cover all eventualities has adopted the following complaints procedure.

1. Finchampstead Parish 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 Council employees have 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 a Council employee and the Council as employer. These matters are dealt with under the Council's disciplinary and grievance procedures.
 - 3.2 Complaints against Councillors. Complaints against Councillors are covered by the Code of Conduct for Members adopted by the Council on 15 December 2021 and, if a complaint against a Councillor is received by the Council, it will be referred to the Standards Committee of Wokingham Borough Council. Further information on the process of dealing with complaints against Councillors may be obtained from the Monitoring Officer of Wokingham Borough 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. The Council also provides the opportunity to raise your concerns in the public participation section 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 Clerk. You may do this in person, by phone, or by writing to or emailing the Clerk. The addresses and numbers are set out below.
6. Wherever possible, the Clerk will try to resolve your complaint immediately. If this is not possible, the Clerk will normally try to acknowledge your complaint within five working days.

7. If you do not wish to report your complaint to the Clerk, you may make your complaint directly to the Chair of the Council who will report your complaint to the Finance and General Management Committee of the Council or to the full Council as appropriate.
8. The Clerk or the Finance and General Management Committee of the Council or the full Council (as appropriate) will investigate each complaint, obtaining further information as necessary from you and/or from staff or members of the Council.
9. The Clerk or the Chair of the Council will notify you within 20 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 Finance and General Management Committee of the Parish Council or to the full Council (as appropriate) and (usually within eight weeks) you will be notified in writing of the outcome of the review of your original complaint.

Contacts

Clerk to Finchampstead Parish Council

Address: FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North
Finchampstead, Berkshire RG40 4ES

Telephone: 0118 908 8164

Email: clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Chair of Finchampstead Parish Council

Address: FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North
Finchampstead
Berkshire RG40 4ES

Telephone: 0118 973 0199 / 07802 5402484

Email: simon.weeks@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Further information on the handling of complaints by local authorities can be provided by the Local Government Ombudsman and can be accessed from the publications page of the LGO website (www.lgo.org.uk).