

**COC090**  
**Investigation report Appendix 12**  
**REDACTED**

**Code of Conduct complaint against Councillor Ewen Sinclair COC090**

**Note of Interview with witness Councillor Tony Bradford ('TB') on 29 October 2024**

- The interview was conducted by Deborah Nickson ('DN'), Senior Governance Lawyer, Herefordshire Council, by telephone call on 23.10.24.
- DN asked TB to confirm that he is a witness in relation to a complainant by DT in this matter, which he did. DN explained that the interview was part of the Code of Conduct complaints process, concerning DT's complaint about Councillor Ewen Sinclair ('ES'). TB was aware of the complaint, having been told about it by ES. Having been a councillor for many years, TB confirmed his understanding of the process within which the case is being considered.
- DN explained that she had been asked by the Monitoring Officer of Herefordshire Council to investigate the complaint. DN highlighted that the Code of Conduct complaints process is confidential but if the matter proceeds to a hearing before Standards Panel, TB's evidence, including this note of our conversation, may be required and made public, which TB confirmed he understood.
- DN said that she would like to ask TB about the incident that happened on 17.09.24 when he was walking through the town with ES.
- TB said that he had bumped into ES when they were each leaving The Feathers Hotel just before 5pm on Tuesday 17.09.24. TB explained that he uses the hotel's meeting room for meetings relating to his councillor duties, on a daily basis. He had not been with ES until they met as they were leaving The Feathers. TB said that ES is a fellow councillor and acquaintance rather than a personal friend.
- TB and ES proceeded to walk along New Street in Ledbury; TB told DN he was on his way to see a constituent. As they drew up to **REDACTED** shop, TB saw the complainant, DT, along with a female colleague; they were outside the shop and appeared to be in the process of closing the shop for the day.
- When ES and TB were in front of the shop, ES said something about going to The Barn, which is a pub in Ledbury. TB said that DT immediately took offence and shouted at ES, calling him names, including a 'big twat'. TB recalled that DT's colleague told him to calm down. ES and TB walked on and turned off New Street.
- TB said that he then heard what he thought were running footsteps and then DT came round the corner and continued to call ES names, before leaving, TB assumed, to go back to the shop.
- DN asked TB what he had said and done during the incident. TB said that he was 'gobsmacked' by what happened and was embarrassed by the event. He told DN that he took the view that it was best to say nothing, he therefore kept quiet as he did not want to get involved.
- DN asked TB whether he had felt threatened by the incident. TB said he hadn't but that, had he not known DT, he would have. However, TB explained that he had known DT as a resident for many years and had supported him in relation to the issues with The Barn.

- DN asked TB whether he knew, when he heard it, that ES's comment about The Barn would upset DT. TB told DN that he did know the history regarding DT and The Barn.
- TB said he supported DT when DT brought the matter to Ledbury Town Council. He recalled a meeting where he supported DT when there was a vote to enable DT to speak for longer than the usual 5 minutes allowed to public speakers.
- TB said that he would therefore expect the comment to upset DT if it was directed at him, but he pointed out that he could not be sure whether the comment was directed at DT; he observed that ES said something in DT's earshot and that DT 'went ballistic'. TB said that he did not recall ES raising his voice but did recall that ES was laughing at DT.
- DN asked TB what he made of the email he received from ES on 19.09.24 headed 'Winding People Up' TB did not recognise this description and did not think he had received this email. DN checked and confirmed the email included TB as a recipient. TB confirmed it was his personal email address. However, TB said he receives hundreds of emails, and he simply hadn't seen this one, therefore had formed no view about it at all.
- DN asked TB whether he had seen DT since the incident and TB said he had, as is usual, when he sees DT in the town centre.
- DN thanked DT for speaking to her and confirmed she will send a note of the meeting for agreement.

I agree that this is a true and accurate record of the above interview dated 29.10.24.

Signed: .....  
Councillor Tony Bradford