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# **Councillor behaviour & the adoption of the Councillors' Code of Conduct BDAPTC 29 September 2022**

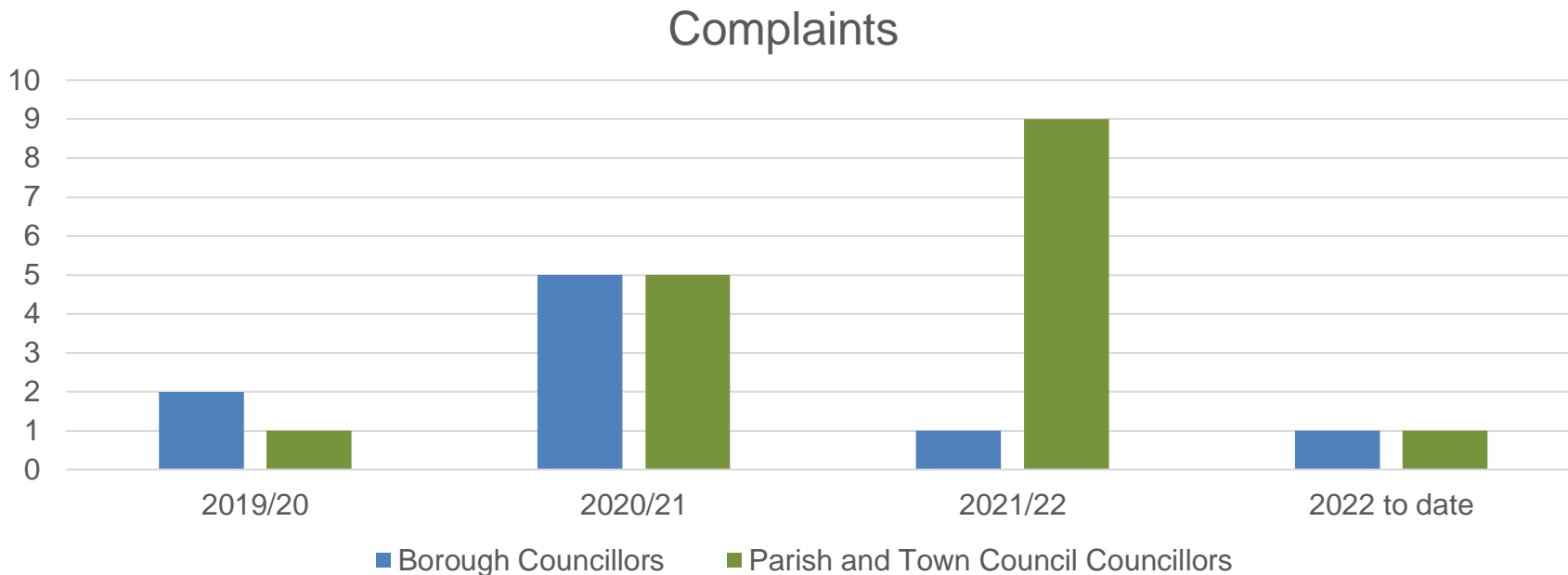
**Fiona Thomsen**

**Head of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer BDBC**

# Complaints against Councillors

- All Parish and Town Councils are required to adopt a Code of Conduct which may be the same one as the Borough Council but does not have to be.
- All complaints about councillor conduct are determined by the Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council with the assistance of Independent Standards Assessors and Independent Persons.
- Standards Committee of the Borough Council has oversight of complaints against councillors and the complaints process.

# Review of complaints 2019 - 2022



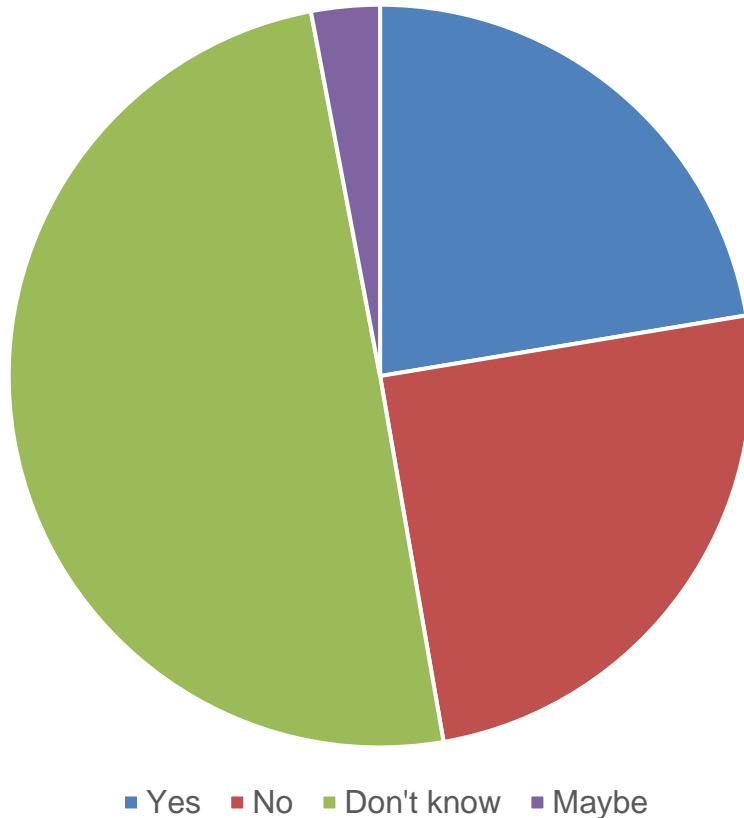
- 1 breach of conduct
- Most concern allegations of disrespect and/or bringing the council into disrepute

# Since your last annual meeting:

- Consultation on the new model code of conduct produced by the LGA.
- Standards Committee reviewed the LGA code and Social Media Guidance for councillors - both recommended for approval
- BDBC Council approved new Code and Social Media guidance in March 2022 (coming into effect following the local elections in May 2022)
- All parish and town clerks notified in April 2022
- Standards Committee considered the Government Response on Local Government Ethical Standards Committee recommendations, which included:
  - Consideration that sanctions will be strengthened for cases where there is serious incidents of bullying or harassment or disruptive behaviour
  - Parish and Town Councils do **not** have to adopt the same Code of Conduct as the principal authority.

# Adoption of new Code

New Code?



## Benefits of one code:

- Consistency across the Borough and Parish and Town Councils
- Twin hatted councillors (borough and parish/town councillors) only have one code
- Complaints can be dealt with more effectively (one code and LGA guidance which assists with interpretation)
- Training can be delivered by MO on one code

# Current Work

- The complaints process is being reviewed.
- Training on new Code of Conduct:
  - Borough Councillors receiving training
  - Offer to role out to those Parish and Town Councils who have adopted the new Code

# Request for feedback:

- Are there particular reasons for not adopting the new code?
- Are some Parish Councils still considering adopting the new code?
- Would training on the new code from BDBC be of interest?
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