

Biddulph Town Council



Statement from Biddulph Town Council- online abuse of Councillors (July 2026)

Biddulph Town Council unequivocally condemns the online abuse, harassment and intimidation directed towards elected members, including the creation and distribution of false AI-generated images, videos and other manipulated content designed to mislead, defame or cause distress.

Councillors, regardless of their political views or the decisions they make, have the right to carry out their public duties without being subjected to abuse, threats or malicious attempts to damage their reputation. While healthy debate, scrutiny and disagreement are fundamental to democracy, there is a clear line between legitimate criticism and behaviour that is abusive, intimidating or deliberately deceptive.

The increasing use of artificial intelligence to create fake videos and other fabricated content presents a serious threat to public trust and to those who serve their communities. Deliberately creating or sharing such material with the intention of harassing, intimidating or misleading others is unacceptable.

Biddulph Town Council will not tolerate any form of harassment or abuse directed at its councillors, officers or volunteers. Where appropriate, the Council will:

- Report incidents to Staffordshire Police and work closely with them in investigating potential criminal offences.
- Seek legal advice and pursue civil or other legal remedies where appropriate to protect individuals and the reputation of the Council.
- Preserve evidence of abusive communications and manipulated content to support any investigation or legal proceedings.



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- Support councillors and staff who are affected by online abuse and encourage them to report incidents promptly.

We urge everyone engaging in public discussion, whether online or in person, to do so respectfully and responsibly. Those who disagree with decisions made by the Council are entitled to express their views, but they are not entitled to intimidate, threaten, harass or deliberately spread false information.

Democracy depends on people being willing to stand for public office. No one should be deterred from serving their community because they fear abuse or targeted campaigns of misinformation.

Biddulph Town Council remains committed to protecting those who serve the community and to working with the police and other relevant agencies to ensure that unlawful behaviour is addressed robustly.



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