

Robert Thompson Charities

(1194270)

Complaints Policy

The aim of the policy is to ensure that the complaints process is flexible and responsive to the needs of individual complaints. The policy seeks to ensure that:

- residents/hirers who complain are listened to and treated with courtesy and empathy
- residents/hirers will never be disadvantaged as a result of making a complaint
- complaints are investigated promptly, thoroughly, honestly and openly
- apologies are given as appropriate
- complaints handling will comply with confidentiality and data protection policies

Complaints may be made by residents, their carers and families or a representative of a resident or a hirer of the Saltwood Village Hall.

The Robert Thompson Charities will not be able to deal with an issue through the complaints process if:

- a complaint relates to a legal matter that is already being dealt with by a solicitor
- the complainant is anonymous unless there is sufficient documentary evidence to substantiate the complaint.

Residents should be encouraged to raise minor complaints informally in the first instance, preferably verbally, as this can lead to better understanding and very often to a quick resolution of the issue.

If the complaint cannot be solved quickly or if the complaint is more serious, it should be made in writing. A written complaint should include sufficient detail to enable the charity to investigate.

Complaints should be made to the Clerk in the first instance or to the Hall's Admin (for the hirers of the Village Hall), who will acknowledge receipt of a written complaint within a reasonable amount of time. This acknowledgement will indicate the next course of action and the anticipated timescale. The charity will seek to resolve the complaint as a matter of urgency.

If the complainant is still not satisfied with the outcome they have 14 working days to submit a written appeal, and the appeal will be dealt with by the chair of trustees who will convene a special meeting with a reasonable amount of time of the appeal being submitted.

The chair of trustees will respond in writing to the complainant in a reasonable period of time advising of the action taken to resolve the complaint.

The decision of the trustees will be final.

If you remain dissatisfied with the trustees' decision, you have the right to take your complaint to the Housing Ombudsman Service whose address is:

Housing Ombudsman Service 81 Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN

Telephone: 0300 111 3000

Email: info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk.

You will need to give the Ombudsman your full name, address and telephone number and set out the details of your complaint. The Ombudsman will only be able to consider your complaint if he/she is satisfied that the charity's own procedure for handling complaints has been exhausted.

If a complaint is pursued unreasonably or where a resident's actions or behaviours are deemed to be unreasonable, Robert Thompson Charities reserves the right to close the complaint. A complainant who displays threatening or abusive behaviour or language (whether oral or written), that causes staff or trustees to feel threatened, abused and/or continues to contact the charity with unreasonable demands during/following a complaint investigation, may have their appointment set aside.

In cases where Trustees consider a complaint is being unreasonable and overly persistent and decide to bring the complaint to an end, they will inform the complainant of their reasons.

This policy has been approved for issue by the board of trustees of Robert Thompson Charities

Signature:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....