

Blackmount Community Council

Social Media Policy

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Blackmount Community Council Social Media Policy

1. Purpose and Scope:

This policy governs the use of the private Facebook group for the Blackmount Community Council.

It applies to all members and administrators of the group.

2. Content Guidelines:

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that the Blackmount Community Council's Facebook group remains a safe, respectful, and neutral platform for community engagement.

a. Relevance to Group's Purpose:

- All posts should directly relate to the interests, activities, or concerns of the Blackmount Community Council and its community.
- Avoid off-topic discussions to maintain focus and relevance.

b. Political Neutrality:

- Refrain from posting political opinions, endorsements, or statements.
- Focus discussions on community issues without political bias or influence.

c. Respectful and Inclusive Language:

- Use language that is respectful and inclusive of all community members, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Avoid stereotypes, slurs, and any language that could be perceived as discriminatory or offensive.

d. Prohibition of Harassment and Hate Speech:

- Strictly prohibit any form of harassment, bullying, or hate speech.
- Take a strong stance against comments or posts that intimidate, threaten, or harm others.

e. Accuracy and Truthfulness:

- Encourage the sharing of accurate and verified information.
- Discourage and correct the spread of misinformation or unsubstantiated rumours.

f. Privacy and Confidentiality:

- Respect the privacy and confidentiality of all group members and individuals.
- Do not share personal information, photographs, or any content without explicit consent.

g. Sensitivity to Controversial Topics:

- Approach sensitive topics with caution and a focus on constructive, non-confrontational discussion.
- Avoid polarizing debates that could lead to community division.

h. Compliance with Legal Standards:

- Ensure all content complies with local and national laws, including those related to libel, slander, and public decency.

i. Empathy and Understanding:

- Promote empathy and understanding among members.
- Encourage perspectives that foster community solidarity and mutual respect.

3. Behaviour and Conduct:

- Respectful and constructive dialogue is expected at all times.
- Harassment, discrimination, and hate speech are strictly prohibited.
- Avoid posting content that could be considered defamatory or libelous.

4. Legal Compliance:

- Adhere to the laws of Scotland and the guidelines set by South Lanarkshire Council.
- Respect copyright laws; do not share copyrighted material without proper authorization.
- Comply with the UK's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for handling personal data.

5. Conflict Resolution:

- Any conflicts or disputes should be resolved amicably, respecting the opinions of all parties.
- The administrators reserve the right to remove posts that violate group guidelines and to address conflicts as they arise.

6. Moderation Policy:

- The group administrators will monitor content to ensure compliance with these guidelines.
- Posts may be removed if they violate the policy, and repeat offenders may be removed from the group.

7. Reporting Mechanism:

- Members can report posts that they believe violate this policy directly to the administrators.
- Complaints will be reviewed and addressed in a timely manner.

8. Review and Amendments:

- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure compliance with legal and council requirements.
- Members will be notified of any significant changes to the policy.

9. Administration and Accountability:

- Only officeholders, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, are authorized to act as administrators on social media platforms. Exceptions can be made for individuals specifically nominated by the Blackmount Community Council.
- Administrators are responsible for enforcing the social media policy.

This addition ensures that the group remains a politically neutral space, focusing solely on community and council-related matters. As with the original policy, it's advisable to consult with a legal expert to ensure compliance with local laws and regulations.

APPROVED