

With regret I have to write that I am resigning from the Conservative Party.

I have been a member of the party for more than 10 years and have always supported the party.

Last year I got elected as a Councillor and was looking forward to working with the rest of the group. I have helped my residents with local issues. I got involved with local groups in my ward, including the Ashford residents association and the food bank in Stanwell, who cater for the needy with food, run youth centres and cultural days for local residents and businesses.

Surgeries in Stanwell Library started so that people can walk in with their issues. In December I was offered a position in the Cabinet as Housing portfolio holder, covering homelessness, emergency accommodation, key workers and affordable homes, a subject close to my heart

However, the atmosphere in the group is toxic. Since my promotion there have been personal attacks creating an unfriendly atmosphere, constant disruption and bad behaviour from certain people within the group. Lots of negativity exists and the bitching goes on. My complaints to the Conservative Councillors Association were brushed under the carpet and ignored. Very disappointing.

There were 2 new councillors appointed in the cabinet at the same time as me - both white. I was the only one attacked because of being an Asian woman
This is pure discrimination

While the country is going through difficult times due to the pandemic, some councillors are focused on their personal interests and gossiping.
Sad to see this.

With a sad heart I wish to leave the Conservative group
I will still serve my residents and the community. I can do this in a better and more productive way outside the Conservative group.