

Standards Committee 14th November 2006

Report of the Parish Liaison Officer

On the 4th October TDBC held the Annual Meeting with Parish Councils and, as agreed, the Code of Conduct was an agenda item.

Parishes were reminded of the importance of the Code and the availability of training for individuals or whole Parish Councils by the PLO.

Anticipated changes to the Code were outlined and training was promised both for new Parish Councillors after the May elections and more widely when the new Code came into effect.

In the meantime the PLO continues to monitor ethics and probity in regular attendances at Parish Council meetings.

A dispensation has recently been granted, at their request, to 7 members of Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council to remove any disability by reason of possible prejudicial interests existing as a result of the proximity of their houses to the major development proposed for the old Matthew Clarke cider factory in the village. It was made clear that the dispensation was solely granted in respect of the ownership/occupation of property and would not extend to any other interests that might exist as a result of the development. The dispensation was granted for a period of 1 year and covered both a specific planning application at present before the planning authority and any subsequent applications for the same site. (This dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee in accordance agreed procedures).

It should be noted that the development would have little or no material affect on these properties greater than that affecting the wider community. The Parish Council, however, wished to be in a position to give full attention to the planning application without the risk of an allegation of any breach of the Code of Conduct, however remote.

David Greig
Parish Liaison Officer
14th November 2006