

## **Member Champion – Member Development**

**Name: Ann Liverton**

### **Key activities involved with since 2009 annual council/appointment**

My aim when accepting this role was to enhance the contribution Members can make to the Council and to ensure that they are used whenever possible to utilise their skills, talents, experience and qualifications for the benefit of everyone.

We have applied to be accredited for the South West Member Development Charter and have been successfully assessed. I was delighted that we achieved 100% take-up on the personal development plans and we are busy working on the follow-up.

### **Conferences/Workshops - if attended and their benefits**

I have attended a day conference on working towards the Charter mark at Sedgemoor and found that at EDDC Council Members and officers work very positively together – this is not the norm by any means. We are fortunate in having Members and officers committed to improving the services that the Council provides and understanding their respective roles.

### **Partnership Working:**

(This could include working with officer teams, other authorities, outside bodies).

I was recently asked by the Service Delivery/Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set up a Task and Finish Forum to look into the communication/involvement between the Council and its members. This will deal with communications, good practice, sharing skills and the best way to improve for the future.

### **Future plans – what are your aims/work programme for the year to come:**

There is still room for improvement in involving Members in the work of the Council and while some sections are good at such involvement, others need to be reminded occasionally that Members are a resource and not a hindrance. It is all our interests to deliver the best possible services to our community and this can best be achieved by Members and officers working in harmony and recognising each others' talents.