

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP OF EDDC STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 2009 9.30AM IN DENISE LYON'S OFFICE, THE KNOWLE, SIDMOUTH.

The Group (E Butt (Chair/Convener), Cllr C Richards, Cllr, S Pollentine, R Davison, A Willan) met 'to examine various ways of enhancing awareness and the profile of the Committee amongst the public and all Councillors' (draft minutes of October 2009 SC Meeting). Suggested areas for discussion were provided both by the Committee itself (see attached email November 30 p2 from Jill Sentance and, at the request of the Chair, by Ray Davison (also attached).

The Chair recommended that we discuss matters at this stage without reference to any financial implications and that we look for consensus in our proposals. He asked R Davison to introduce the discussion, as his report on the 2009 Standards for England Annual Conference had been instrumental in the decision to set up the Group. After much constructive dialogue and exchange, in which all members of the Group were fully and constructively engaged, the following recommendations were agreed. R Davison yielded to the invitation to write these up in draft form and submit them to amendment by the Group in time for circulation to the next SC meeting in March.

- to ensure continuity of focus and purpose, SC meetings should be quarterly, possibly scheduled in January, April, July and October. A piece of training should be provided in one of the sessions.
- to enhance Cllr awareness of our procedures, a report of each meeting should be made to the Council and be included possibly as a newsletter in The Knowledge. There should also be regular and possibly quarterly meetings between our Chair, CEO, the Leader of the Council and the Members' Champion. A proposal was entertained that we could possibly use a specific coaster, but not a beer-mat, (for example 'EDDC Standards Committee, Maintaining Standards in East Devon') to designate and promote our presence among Cllrs.
- to enhance further general awareness of our existence, purpose and procedures, the Committees should have a designated, autonomous section of the EDDC website with an independent click-on facility.
- to improve and strengthen further public awareness and understanding of our work and function, EDDC could prepare a mailing to the electorate and this could also serve as an information leaflet to be distributed in libraries and Cabs etc., but NOT Health Centres as patients might consider it to be a Health Service complaints procedure.
- To facilitate, improve and strengthen liaison with the parish councils, the Committee should compose a letter to clerks defining our purposes and emphasising the import of the register and declarations of interests. We could

also declare our willingness to be present by invitation at their Annual Meeting to explain our work.

- to improve communications between Democratic Services and Standards Committee members, the Group resolved, as an annex to the work of the Group, to suggest that a better practice of information distribution, timing and timetabling could be achieved, so that members always knew what was happening, where and when.

RAY DAVISON, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP,  
FEBRUARY 2010