



Committee and Date
Standards Committee

1 July 2010

Item

8

Paper

TRAINING FOR PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS 2010

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Summary

This report provides some feedback on training offered to members and officers of Parish/Town Councils in Shropshire, as part of a rolling programme, during the spring and summer 2010.

Recommendations

- A. That the report be noted and that the production of a DVD as a tool in connection with training for parish/town councils be endorsed.

REPORT

1. Members will recall that at the last meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that further training in ethics and probity for all parish/town councils should be provided as part of a "rolling programme" across Shropshire. Furthermore this training would be arranged on a "cluster" basis in certain geographical areas and/or with those parish clerks who were responsible for more than one council.
2. The "rolling programme" of training for parish/town councillors resumed in February 2010 across the County, with some eight sessions being held over a five month period.
3. The information shown below gives dates, venues and attendance figures for each of the training sessions held. The training sessions were conducted by the Monitoring Officer and/or the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Monitoring Officer's staff and covered ethical governance and decision making; the Code of Conduct and its implications for parish/town councillors; and the procedures to be followed in the local assessment of complaints about member conduct.

(i) Maesbrook Village Hall – 3rd February 2010

This session was held primarily for development management training but it also provided the opportunity for monitoring office staff to give a presentation on the Code of Conduct for members.

Llanymynech & Pant Parish Council	-	2 Members
Oswestry Rural Parish Council	-	6 Members
Kinnerley Parish Council	-	6 Members
Knockin Parish Council	-	2 Members
Great Ness & Little Ness Parish Council	-	2 Members

(ii) Culmington Village Hall – 23 March 2010

Ludlow Town Council	-	1 Member
Ludford Parish Council	-	2 Members + Clerk
Richards Castle Parish Council	-	Clerk
Ashford Carbonnel Parish Council	-	None
Bromfield Parish Council	-	None
Bitterley Parish Council	-	1 Member
Caynham Parish Council	-	4 Members + Clerk
Culmington Parish Council	-	8 Members
Craven Arms Town Council	-	1 Member + Clerk

(iii) Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley – 20 April 2010

Barrow Parish Council	-	None
Broseley Town Council	-	6 Members + Clerk
Buildwas Parish Council	-	None
Cound Parish Council	-	None
Cressage etc Parish Council	-	None
Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council	-	2 Members
Much Wenlock Town Council	-	3 Members

(iv) Shirehall, Shrewsbury – 27 April 2010

All Stretton etc Parish Council	-	6 Members + Clerk
Baschurch Parish Council	-	3 Members
Hadnall Parish Council	-	2 Members
Longden Parish Council	-	5 Members
Ford Parish Council	-	Clerk
Great Ness/Little Ness Parish Council	-	3 Members
Leebotwood Longnor Parish Council	-	3 Members
Montford Parish Council	-	None
Cound Parish Council	-	1 Member

(v) Edinburgh House, Wem – 13 May 2010

Wem Town Council	-	7 Members
Wem Rural Parish Council	-	3 Members
Whixall Parish Council	-	4 Members
Cheswardine Parish Council	-	2 Members

(vi) Cheswardine Parish Hall – 26 May 2010

Cheswardine Parish Council	-	3 Members + Clerk
Childs Ercall Parish Council	-	4 Members
Hinstock Parish Council	-	4 Members
Hodnet Parish Council	-	5 Members
Stanton-upon-Hine Heath Parish Council	-	3 Members
Stoke-on-Tern Parish Council	-	None

(vii) Castle Hall, Bridgnorth – 7 June 2010

Bridgnorth Town Council	-	12 Members
Alveley & Romsley Parish Council	-	4 Members
Claverley Parish Council	-	4 Members
Chetton Parish Council	-	None
Tasley Parish Council	-	4 Members
Quatt Malvern Parish Council	-	3 Members
Astley Abbots Parish Council	-	1 Member
Cound Parish Council	-	2 Members

(viii) Public Hall Bishops Castle – 23 June 2010

Bishops Castle Town Council
 Clun & Chapel Lawn Parish Council
 Bedstone & Bucknell Parish Council
 Bettwys-y-Crwyn Parish Council
 Newcastle Parish Council
 Llanfairwaterdine Parish Council
 Mainestone & Colebatch Parish Council
 Lydbury North Parish Council

NB At the time of despatch of the Agenda for the Standards Committee the above session had not been held. There will be an oral update at the meeting.

(ix) Shirehall, Shrewsbury – 22 July 2010

Astley Parish Council
 Atcham Parish Council
 Uffington Parish Council
 Upton Magna Parish Council
 Berrington Parish Council
 Withington Parish Council
 Shawbury Parish Council
 Wroxeter & Uppington Parish Council

4. A representative of the Association of Local Councils was invited to attend each of the above mentioned training events.
5. With regard to the training sessions in (ii) – (vii) above personal invitations were sent to all parish/town councillors and clerks for each of the 40* parish/town councils listed. This totalled some 423. Actual attendance figures amounted to 146 for these six sessions.
6. Persons attending the various training sessions have commended the Monitoring Officer and her staff for the seminar content and quality which they found to be enlightening and relevant to their roles as parish/town councillors.
7. During this month it is the intention, in accordance with the wishes of the Committee, to produce a DVD for training purposes. Copies of the DVD can then be distributed to all parish/town councils for their use at meetings/dates suitable to them. This should assist in reaching an even larger audience for ethical governance issues.

Staff of the monitoring office will still be available to deal with any queries and/or provide advice on the Code of Conduct Ethical Governance and the procedures for dealing with complaints about member conduct.

(*The figure of 40 represents those parish/town councils invited to the relevant events, some parish councillors attended alternative training sessions if they were unable to attend their own).

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Attendance lists for members/clerks at training sessions and seminar material.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The proposals within this report are to be adhered to voluntarily

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

It is vital to ensure high standards of conduct from elected and co-opted members of parish/town councils. A failure to do so will undermine the public's trust in their local councillors and Councils.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

N/A

Cabinet Member

N/A

Local Member

All areas of the County.

Appendices