

1. Public Speaking at Planning Committee

The decision of the Planning Committee held on 5th January 2009 to extend the public speaking arrangements to parish councils was ratified by the Council at its meeting on 22nd January 2009.

An amended guidance leaflet, entitled 'Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings', has been published; a copy of which is attached for information.

2. Certificates of Lawfulness Applications - Consultation with Parish Councils

At its meeting held on 2nd March 2009, the Planning Committee considered the deferred report in respect of extending the role of parish councils in the consultation process involved in certificates of lawfulness.

It was agreed that parish councils will be entitled to participate in the process with effect from 1st April 2009 in the following way:

- (i) details of applications for 'Certificates of Lawfulness for an Existing Use or Development' [also known as CLEUDs] will be posted on the Council's website;
- (ii) parish councils will be entitled to provide information to the Planning Enforcement Officer within 14 days; and
- (iii) the parish council's comments or representations must relate to matters already known to the parish council and should therefore take the form of one of the following:
 - formal minutes of a meeting of the parish council (or one of its formally constituted sub-committees) at which the application site has previously been discussed; or
 - copies of correspondence between the parish council and another party relating to the application site

(The Planning Enforcement Officer will have a discretion whether or not to further investigate any representation.)

3. Training Programme on Ethical Governance issues

The development of a training programme on ethical governance issues for the parish councils is to be considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 31st March 2009 (brought forward from 2nd April 2009).

The Forum's views (from its last meeting) were to be considered by the Standards Committee arranged for 5th February 2009, but that meeting was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Therefore, any further information in respect of this matter will be reported to the Parish Councils' Forum meeting to be held on 23rd June 2009.