

REPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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(all correspondence to Ticknall)

13 February 2002

J.M. Eatough
Legal & Members' Services Manager
South Derbyshire District Council
Civic Way
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 0AH

Dear Mr. Eatough

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

I refer to your letter of 18th January 2002 and your request for comments on the Model Code of Conduct.

The Parish Council has studied the 'Model Code of Conduct' and has the following comments to make:

The Councillors feel that the code is a slur on the integrity of Parish Councillors. It seeks to impose rigid framework in a small area of community service, when similar measures have manifestly failed to maintain the integrity of MPs.

Imposition of this type of compulsory undertaking will make it even harder to recruit Councillors (who are not remunerated, and do not receive expenses.)

Apart from the overall objections, specific comments as follows

1. The General Obligations are those, which should be observed by any organisation as a matter of course. The imposition of a Code is unnecessary.
2. The proposed burden of General Obligation 6 is both untenable and objectionable, and this clause should be deleted. This is an attempt to legislate for other people's behaviour, and could even lead to unnecessary law suits
3. The extent to which personal interests extend to related parties is ridiculously wide (Personal Interests clause 7.)
4. The requirement to declare financial interests and property ownership under clause 12 - there can be no reason for this kind of blanket disclosure, and this will deter many useful members from coming forward, particularly in small parishes.
5. Register of Gifts and Hospitality (clause 15.) As drawn, this clause imposes obligation to give notice of any gift or hospitality over the value of £25. This is totally unreasonable.

Yours sincerely



Celia A Bunston
Clerk to the Council

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| SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S | |
| RECORDED TO | |
| ADMITTED TO | |
| DATE REC | 15 FEB 2002 |
| COPIED TO | |
| TO BE SENT | |
| SERIAL NO | |