

### **Standards Hearing Sub-Committee**

At its meeting on 13 May 2009 St Albans City & District Council Standards Consideration & Hearings Sub-Committee considered the following complaint:

That on 17 July 2008 Wheathampstead Parish Councillor Begg sent an email from his private email address to each member of Wheathampstead Parish Council's planning committee at their private email addresses, taking issue with the contents of a letter of objection to a planning application made by Councillor Begg for permission for an extension to his property, contrary to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

After considering the evidence and oral submissions of the subject member the Sub-Committee found:

- (1) That Councillor Begg had sought to influence fellow members and that by so doing Councillor Begg failed to comply with paragraph 6 (a) of the Wheathampstead Parish Council Code of Conduct, in that he used his position as a member improperly to secure an advantage for himself.
- (2) That Councillor Begg's conduct could not reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute and did not therefore amount to a failure to comply with paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct.

The Sub-Committee ordered that Councillor Begg be censured.

Councillor Begg has the right to apply for permission to appeal to the President of the Adjudication Panel for England within 21 days of receiving full written notification of the decision.

**Dated 28 May 2009**

**M Lovelady, Head of Legal & Democratic Services**