APPENDIX 2

Mr. Jonathan Wigmore
Ethical Standards Officer
The Standards Board for England
Fourth Floor
Griffin House
40 Lever Street
Manchester M1 1BB

Tel No: 01732 227245
Ask for: Christine Nuttall

Email: christine.nuttall@sevenoaks.gov.uk

My Ref: CN/saw/SBE 19802.07/

19803.97/19804.07 Your Ref:

Date: 18th March 2009

Dear Mr. Wigmore,

Re: Reference SBE 19802.07, SBE 19803.07 and SBE 19804.07 - Direction

I enclose a copy of the original Direction dated 24th January 2008. You will see that the Direction resulted from allegations made by Councillor against Councillors and Implementation of the Direction was delayed due to the division of Swanley Town Council and the creation of the new Hextable Parish Council.

On the 5th September 2008 a Code of Conduct and Conciliation Workshop took place for Hextable Parish Council in order to partially comply with the requirements of the above Direction. I enclose a copy of the Register of Attendance. All Members of the Council attended including Councillors and and conciliation was well received and was undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee.

On the 18th February 2009 a similar session took place for Swanley Town Council and again I enclose a copy of the Register of Attendance. This session was not as well attended although Councillor did attend. However, Councillor was absent from the meeting along with many of the other Labour Councillors. Again the training and conciliation was undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee.

A lot of anger was expressed at the Swanley Town Council Meeting especially towards the ruling party who were mainly not in attendance. The Monitoring Officer and the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee stressed the importance of trying to let go of the past and to try and draw a line and move forward. There was a view that this was extremely difficult although it was recognised that the atmosphere had improved following the division of Swanley Town Council and the creation of the new Hextable Parish Council.

I hope that this explains the situation to date. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Nuttall Monitoring Officer

STANDARDS AND ETHICS

CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONCILIATION WORKSHOP for HEXTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Friday 5th September 2008 commencing at 6.30pm

Sevenoaks District Council offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

Name	Signature
Cllr Tony Austin	Young aust
Cllr Barbara Ayres	Basone Ayros.
Cllr Darren Kitchener	DAL.
Cllr Roger McInnes	L'uca-
Cllr Mrs Dee Morris	Mee Monis.
Cllr Roger Neaves	Roge Dlaves.
Mr Jan Rexwinkle (Parish Clerk)	1 de bermal
Cllr David Russell	
Cllr Elizabeth Smith	2 Suth
Clir Ken Varnham	

Workshop taken by Christine Nuttall, Monitoring Officer of Sevenoaks District Council, assisted by Alan Riddell, Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council's Standards Committee

STANDARDS AND ETHICS

CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONCILIATION WORKSHOP for SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 18th February 2009 commencing at 7.00pm Swanley Town Council Offices, St. Mary's Road, Swanley

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

Name	Signature
Cllr Leslie Ayres Swanley Christchurch Ward	20 Des
Cllr John Barnes Swanley Christchurch Ward	J. Bames
Cllr David Coates (Deputy Mayor) Swanley White Oak Ward	
Cllr Kathleen Coates Swanley White Oak Ward	
Cllr Gillian Fittock Swanley St. Mary's Ward	
Cllr Tony Henley Swanley Christchurch Ward	13 Hartes
Cllr Dr Stephen King Swanley Christchurch Ward	Mit .
Cllr Connie Lee Swanley St. Mary's Ward	E.J. Lie
Cllr Michael Mahy (Mayor) Swanley St. Mary's Ward	
Cllr Ray Morris Swanley Christchurch Ward	
Clir lan Rashbrook Swanley St. Mary's Ward	
Cllr Janet Sargeant Swanley White Oak Ward	J. Sargiant
Cllr Tony Searles Swanley Village Ward	H. 1910.

Name	Signature
Cllr Carol Theobald Swanley White Oak Ward	
Cllr Robert Woodbridge Swanley White Oak Ward	
Cllr Terri Woodbridge Swanley White Oak Ward	
Brian Daley (Town Clerk)	Fre Central
Chris Drake (Assistant Town Clerk)	C.W. Dake

Workshop taken by:

Christine Nuttall, Monitoring Officer of Sevenoaks District Council, assisted by Alan Riddell, Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council's Standards Committee



PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Christine Nuttall
Monitoring Officer
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

Fourth Floor Griffin House 40 Lever Street Manchester M1 1BB

T: 0161 817 5300 F: 0161 817 5499

Minicom: 0161 817 5449

enquiries@standardsboard.gov.uk www.standardsboard.gov.uk

24 March 2009

Dear Ms Nuttall

REFERENCE: SBE19802.07; SBE19803.07 & SBE19804.07 - Direction

Many thanks for your letter and accompanying documents, received today setting out the outcome of your work in implementing Mr Kingston's direction.

I acknowledge the difficulties faced by monitoring officers and standards committee members in dealing with entrenched factions in town and parish councils. My colleague here, Jennifer Rogers has been pulling together examples of good practice from monitoring officers nationally and we aim to issue guidance this May based on this.

In your implementation of Mr Kingston's direction I note that all 10 members of Hextable Parish Council attended on 5 September and just over half the members of Swanley Town Council attended last month.

I would like to commend your approach to the latter meeting in particular and would welcome any comments on how you and your Standards Committee Chair achieved the buy-in that you did.

I wish you well in your further efforts in Swanley and thank you again for your update and positive approach.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Wigmore

Ethical Standards Officer