

Addendum to Report to West Berkshire Council in the Matter of a Standards Investigation at Woolhampton Parish Council-NPC1/17 Dated 12th December 2017.

Complaint three

1 Having read the responses from Cllr Renouf, Cllr Spackman and the Clerk Steve Brady which were presented to the Advisory Panel, I decided to interview Councillor Derek Lombardo , the Chair of Midgham Parish Council and the Clerk to Midgham Parish Council Mrs Angela Spoor.

2 I interviewed Councillor Lombardo and Mrs Spoor on Wednesday the 11th January 2018 at the home of Mrs Spoor. Both were very responsive and cooperative and agreed to see me at short notice.

3 Councillor Lombardo informed me that he was not a planning consultant as indicated to me by Councillor Spackman, but an architect. He informed me that as a routine they always consider drainage when debating planning applications. To that end he told me he may have said: "I think it is a bit silly really", referring to the letter, because we always consider drainage matters. Cllr Lombardo had offered an explanation of his comments to Cllr Renouf by email in January 2016. I believe having interviewed all the parties and read the documents, Councillor Lombardo did not say it was a silly letter but probably said this is silly really as set out immediately above. I think it got reported back inappropriately in saying it was a silly letter, rather than this is a bit silly really. I do not change my conclusion in the report of 12th December 2017, having now interviewed Councillor Lombardo and the Clerk. I believe Councillor Spackman's recounting was injudicious and he should have conducted himself differently and nuanced the response better, but I do not find a breach of the code.

Simon Bull

18th January 2018