

## Independent Persons

The Localism act 2011 requires the District council to appoint at least one Independent Person following an advertisement and recruitment process. These persons are not members of the Council. The District council has appointed **Stephen Wainwright** and **Mike Wood** to this role.

This new role is to give a check and a balance on the consideration of allegations against members at various stages of the process. Both the Monitoring Officer and the Member the subject of the complaint can seek the views of these Independent Persons during the course of considering allegations. The Monitoring Officer **must** consult the Independent Persons in certain circumstances including where a Hearing Panel wishes to impose a sanction. The Independent Persons are not Members of the Standards Committee.

Clearly this is a new role that will become clearer with time.