

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
to the Exmoor National Park Authority meeting of 15 February 2011  
by the Chairman of the Standards Committee**

**1. FUNCTIONS**

The Authority will recall that the functions of the Standards Committee are:

- to provide and maintain high standards by Authority Members
- to assist Members of the Authority to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct
- to advise the Authority on the adoption and revision of a Code of Conduct
- to monitor the operation of the Authority's Code of Conduct
- to advise, train and arrange to train Authority Members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct
- to formulate and recommend changes to protocols dealing with member/officer relationships and the "whistle blowing" protocol

**2. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership comprises 8 Members – 3 Authority Members and 5 independent Members. Exmoor is one of very few Authorities whose Standards Committee comprises a majority of independent Members. This arrangement should bolster public confidence in the handling of any complaints.

**3. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 2010**

I am pleased to report that no complaints have been received that a member has breached the Model Code of Conduct. This is in no small way due to the vigilance of Authority Members in declaring interests and seeking early advice as appropriate. It is also aided by good chairmanship by the Authority's Committee Chairmen and the Authority Chairman himself.

**4. THE ROLE OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

During the past year we have continued to attend the National Park Authority's meetings and remain very impressed by the way in which these are conducted. I like to think that we have built up a good rapport with the Authority's Members which in turn has led to a good working relationship, and any suggestions which we have made have been accepted by the Members.

At the moment the Standards Committee is in a state of limbo. In the early part of 2012 the Standards Board is to be abolished but at the moment we are not sure what, if anything, will take its place. Nigel Stone will, of course, keep you all informed of developments and I will, I am sure, see you all in the forthcoming year.

**Catherine Hodgson  
Chairman**

**January 2011**