

Wendover Parish Council wins National award

Wendover Parish Council has won the prestigious award for Much Improved Council of 2010. The award from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was sponsored by Standards for England.

Chair Cllr Sue Toft-Hunt and Clerk Fiona Lippmann travelled to the awards ceremony in London to receive the award, which consists of a Crystal trophy, certificate and £500 to the council for a local project. The trophy will be seen proudly displayed at the Clock Tower in Wendover.

The award recognises the work done by WPC since 2008 when the council all but collapsed, to rebuild all aspects of the council to establish the effective and efficient council that is in place today. This was achieved by team work of both Councillors and staff who recognised the need to change and modernise.

Today Wendover Parish Council (WPC) is an efficient and effective Parish Council, operating to modern policies and procedures to serve the community. The Council is policy-lead and is a model for other PCs around the country who regularly request advice. The Council has been rebuilt and overhauled, there is open communication and consultation with the public and projects are progressing again.

In announcing the awards it was stated that the judges found the nomination to be 'inspirational'.

Cllr Sue Toft-Hunt said 'we are absolutely delighted with the award. It recognises the work that has been done by every-one at the Council in embracing the changes. The key criteria for the award were the improvement in operation and process and also how we have improved our work and representation for the Parish. It shows that we have stopped being inwards looking and are now able to truly focus on the local community' Cllr Toft-Hunt has also been invited to speak at the annual Assembly for Standards in the Autumn about the Wendover experiences.

Clerk Fiona Lippmann said 'this is fantastic recognition for all our hard work and commitment to making Wendover Parish Council a truly model council.'

2nd place was Hertford Town Council

3rd place was Winslow Town Council

About NALC

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) represents the interests of town and parish councils in England - a total of around 8,500 councils.

The councils that NALC represent serve electorates ranging from small rural communities to major cities, and are all independently elected. Working with, and for our member councils, NALC is

actively involved in lobbying government at a national level to advance and protect the interests of these councils, and their communities.

NALC provides support and advice to our members directly through a network of county associations.

NALC is committed to developing the role of town and parish councils, in order that they can represent the communities which they serve effectively and be at the forefront of community leadership.

About Standards for England

The Code of Conduct and the Standards Board for England were introduced in the 2000 Local Government Act, in response to the Nolan report and high profile standards failings in local government. Since July 2009 the Standards Board for England has been operating under the new name: Standards for England.

Standards for England is a strategic regulator, responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of behaviour among members of authorities in England, and has independent oversight of the conduct of those members. These arrangements bring increased public confidence in the accountability of local politicians. SfE is a non-departmental public body, accountable to Parliament and funded through our sponsoring government department, Communities and Local Government.

There are over 80,000 elected, co-opted and independent members of these authorities, all of whom must comply with a Code of Conduct which is approved by Parliament and governs their behaviour.

For more info contact The Standards Board for England, 0845 078 8181