

# BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Dealing with Media Requests for Information

On occasions, particularly after the occurrence of a newsworthy local event or in response to a contentious planning application, the media will make contact with the Council with a view to soliciting normally a verbal, but sometimes a written comment.

All such requests should be referred in the first instance to either, the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Clerk, but if none of these is available then a Councillor may comment on behalf of the Council, if they so choose.

The Council's policy in such matters, regardless of by whom the comment is made is as follows:

- Where the issue has been discussed at a meeting of the Council or one of its Committees and there is a known, agreed policy or decision, then that policy or decision can be conveyed to the enquirer
- Where the matter has not been discussed at a meeting of the Council or one of its Committees and consequently where there is no policy or decision, then the enquirer should be informed of that and no further comment should be made at the time.

Councillors have a duty to comply with The Code of Conduct,\* (2012) and must take care not to express an individual opinion or comment, whether it is supportive or runs contrary to Council policy. Furthermore, the principles of good corporate governance require that Councillors together with Officers and Council employees are bound by the decisions of the Council.

See : <http://www.northantscalc.gov.uk>