

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2015

AGENDA ITEM 9

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER ‘D’

Councillor Crofton and I served as magistrates for a number of years. This also involved attending social occasions, and some of which I hosted at my home. This was separate from Council duties.

Councillor Crofton attended social engagements with my father who, until he passed away in June 2014, was a partner in my farming business which was the same business that submitted planning applications which the DM Committee considered and Councillor Crofton was a member of. The DM Committee of 6th November 2013 being one of them.

Councillor Crofton and my father sponsored a racing driver. Through this activity they became socially acquainted and attended racing meetings where hospitality was provided.

In addition I have referred to the Stop Benington Wind Farm Group. Councillor Crofton was an active member of this group who raised a complaint against me as the then Chair of DM Committee. Whilst this relationship is not a social one, it nevertheless put strain on the relationship which was once a personal one as described above. Not only was Councillor Crofton party to the complaint made via the Stop Benington Wind Farm campaign, he also made attempts to change my view and on number of occasions these took place in the Members retiring room.

The complaint made against me was not upheld and since, Councillor Crofton has unfortunately made it clear as to the relationship with including my father (who had no opinion on the wind farm). On 6th November, Councillor Crofton made his opinion clear with regards to my planning application. Without repeating his comments which were publicly documented via the web cast, it was clear that Councillor Crofton's intention was for an thorough investigation to take place.

It is believed that Councillor Crofton should have declared his previous relationship with me in his capacity as a magistrate with me, his relationship with my father and as a member of the campaign which had submitted a complaint against me. That same declaration should have been made as a member of the Standards Sub Committee and in his case as chair of that committee.