

## Quality Parish Council Status



The Quality Parish and Town Council scheme was launched in June 2003 following the publication of the governments Rural White Paper 2000. The scheme was designed to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils and enable them to better represent the communities they serve. The scheme also aims to give enhance relationships between local councils principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organizations.

In order to achieve Quality status parish and town councils must demonstrate that they have reached the standard required by passing several tests. These tests are summarized below:

- Electoral Mandate
- Qualifications of the Clerk
- Council Meetings
- Communications
- Annual report
- Accounts and
- Code of Conduct

The tests exceed the statutory duties of parish and town councils and represent the standards that an efficient well run parish council should achieve.

Bleadon Parish Council are the 124<sup>th</sup> Council out of 9500 Town and Parish Councils throughout England & Wales to secure this status. The important date recorded is the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004 which will last for four years. A notable achievement for such a small Parish Council.