



# Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Tower Stewardship Committee

## Update for Guild and Association Secretaries 2011

### Introduction

Throughout the past year, the Tower Stewardship Committee has continued to offer guidance in the general areas of tower management within the wider community recognising Church and Common Law. This update gives brief details of work undertaken over the past twelve months.

### Guidance Notes

A key outcome of the Committee's remit has been the production of a set of Guidance Notes. During 2010, a new Guidance Note was added to the collection: "GN7 – Noise and the Environmental Health Officer". This offers practical and common-sense advice regarding noise complaints, abatement notices and working constructively with Local Authorities.

All Guidance Notes are reviewed annually. 2010 updates – revision 4 – are available via the Central Council website, as follows:

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/>

GN1	Insurance and Ringing
GN2	Tower Management
GN3	Child Protection in Towers
GN4	Tower Safety and Risk Assessment
GN5	Church Law
GN6	Fire Risk Assessment and Protection
GN7	Noise, the Law and the Environmental Health Officer

### Child Protection

For more than two years, the Tower Stewardship Committee has been helping to prepare the ringing community for the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This Act had been due to be phased in from October 2009, however the newly-elected Coalition Government announced a review of the legislation in October 2010, the results of which were published in February 2011.

The outcome of this review, along with the publication of a new edition of "Protecting all God's Children" by the House of Bishops, **has necessitated a significant re-write of the Committee's advice.** We are grateful to Chris Mew for his efforts in this area – communicating with a large number of stakeholders, and succinctly synthesizing the complexities of Child Protection for the ringing community. **All relevant advice to ringers is available on the Tower Stewardship section of the CCCBR website,** supported by updates published in the Ringing World.

## Website

Peter Trotman continues to assist in keeping an up-to-date and fresh look for the Committee's work. All Guidance Notes can be found there, along with any supporting documents and guidelines; all Reports to Council are there, and contact details of all Committee members. Cross-referenced links are good, enabling visitors to find our material through a variety of links.

## Other work

- The Committee has offered advice to a number of towers on such subjects as child protection, noise abatement regulations, wireless masts, belfry finances, dealing with complaints and how to complete risk assessments.
- The Committee maintains communication links with other Committees – in particular Public Relations Committee and Towers & Belfries Committee.
- The Committee also maintains communication links with other relevant bodies, such as Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

## Actions for Guild and Association Secretaries

Tower Stewardship Committee is keen to highlight these particular points:

- We would be very grateful if Guild and Association Secretaries could cascade this update to District / Branch Secretaries and thence to individual towers;
- **We strongly urge Guilds to ensure they refer to the most up-to-date versions of our Guidance Notes, and GN3 – Child Protection in particular;**
- We strongly urge Guilds to ensure they have created a role of “Child Protection Officer” or equivalent (Please refer to our website for guidance regarding this role);
- We encourage all towers to take note of advice regarding fire safety (GN6), particularly with reference to the provision of fire extinguishers and emergency lighting.

## Conclusion

The Committee is well served by the wide range of skills, qualifications and experience brought by members. As well as being pro-active in offering assistance, the Tower Stewardship Committee is also very open to suggestions and recommendations from all areas of the Central Council regarding our remit, our communication methods and any other component of our work.

Christopher O'Mahony  
Chairman Tower Stewardship Committee  
April 2011