

HIP inspectors get to work, finally

THEY started training last year, had their careers put on hold for two months and protested in Whitehall – but the town's home inspectors have finally started work.

A team of home inspectors and domestic energy assessors celebrated the introduction of Home Information Packs (HIPs) on Wednesday, August 1, with a kick-off event.

Seventeen members of the 3Counties Local Home Inspector group attended the event at the Red Lion in Market Place.

Home inspector Mel Bury, of De Vitre Green, said: "It has been a long road since many of us started training at the College of Estate Management, Reading, in March 2006 as home inspectors.

"Over 18 months later, we



The HIP inspectors' launch event at The Red Lion. W073157e.

can all now serve our clients as we had intended.

"It is very frustrating that Government first of all made the mandatory property survey – the Home Condition Report – voluntary, then delayed the launch of HIPs from June 1 to

August 1.

"We are glad to get started. It's a great relief."

The group received its first instruction for an Energy Performance Certificate for a property in Reading at the event.