

Stephen Rickitt

From: Jonathan Owen <Bulletin@nalc.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 April 2017 16:07
To: NalcMailbox
Subject: Chief Executive's Bulletin 16 - 28 April 2017
Attachments: NALC letter three big questions to political parties April 2017.pdf

Importance: High

To: National Council Representatives

To: County Associations

To: Direct Access Councils

To: All Committee Members

To: Staff at 109

Dear Colleagues,

General Election manifestos

- Today we called on the political parties to consider how they can best put communities in control in their General Election manifestos. [Three big questions have been put to the leaders of the political parties](#) in the attached letter from our chairman Cllr Sue Baxter: How will devolution be maximised with powers and responsibilities devolved to the lowest and most local level? How will proposals encourage more people to get involved and engaged in their local communities, building resilience, empowering neighbourhoods and engaging more people in local democracy? How will proposals ensure key local discretionary services from public conveniences to children's centres, from libraries to local festivals continue to be provided during this continuing period of financial austerity?
- I would be grateful if county associations, councils and councillors could support our call by asking these three big questions of local candidates as well as promoting our proposals contained in the letter. If you have any questions or need any help please contact our head of policy and development Justin Griggs via justin.griggs@nalc.gov.uk or 0207 290 0317.

New Good Councillors Guide

- The [new Good Councillors Guide was launched](#) at this week's Spring Conference by our chairman Cllr Sue Baxter, who echoed her welcome in the guide by saying: *"This latest edition of the guide is available at a crucial time for communities where there are significant opportunities available and*

some of these are around being local councillors and making a real difference in your neighbourhood. I would urge you to use this guide as introduction into the work local councils and the part you could play as a councillor in the tier of local government closest to the people". The electronic version of our most popular publication ever is available in the members area of the website, details of how to order hard copies have been circulated to county associations.

Bills given Royal Assent

- Two Bills we have been actively involved in were given Royal Assent yesterday as part of the prorogation of Parliament. Prorogation marks the end of a parliamentary session and is the period between the end of a session and the State Opening of Parliament beginning the next session. The prorogation announcement set out the major bills passed during that session and other measures which have been taken by the government; this included the Neighbourhood Planning Act and the Local Audit (Public Access to Documents) Act. Other Bills of interest such as the Local Government Finance Bill, Defibrillators (Availability) Bill and Parish Council Governance (Principles of Public Life) Bill – [introduced by Mims Davies MP last week](#) with mentions in her speech for the Hampshire county association and their National Council representative Cllr Colin Mercer as well as for NALC and the Good Councillors Guide – have fallen but may be introduced again at some point in the new Parliament.

Branding

- As you will have noticed we have started to roll-out the new NALC logo on new and emerging materials. The costs incurred in developing the new logo were met by [CCLA](#) and we will be issuing advice and guidance around the use of the logo shortly.

Media coverage on parish elections

- Given the prominence of the General Election in the media it's encouraging the forthcoming parish elections in some areas are attracting some attention. Our head of policy and development Justin Griggs gave an interview to [BBC Wiltshire's breakfast show](#) last Saturday (01.13.00 – 01.18.46 in, limited availability) on the upcoming local elections in Wiltshire and how there is a positive story to tell about the important work of local councils and we should be celebrating our 80,000 councillors who are unsung hyper local heroes, calling for the government and other organisations to work with NALC on a programme to support and strengthen local democracy.

New legal guidance

- [LTN 28 – Basic Charity Law](#) has been updated to include references to the procurement regulations (the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) and to situations where there are insufficient managing trustees for a charity to operate; you will need to login to access this revised legal topic note.

NALC website

- You may have noticed our website was out of action yesterday, this was due to a cyber-attack on our servers. I'm pleased to say this has been fixed and the website is now working fine, apologies for any inconvenience.

Good Councillors Spring Conference

- And finally on Wednesday we held our inaugural Good Councillors Spring Conference in Farnborough, Hampshire. Special thanks goes to [AON](#) for hosting and sponsoring the event, as well as to [CCLA](#) and [Blachere Illumination UK](#) for exhibiting. Subjects covered included health and ageing, planning and neighbourhood planning, the De Montfort University/theMJ Councillor Commission and NALC's Diversity Commission and devolution as well as an open mic session; speaker presentation slides will be available on the website shortly. Given this was our first ever event of this kind for councillors I was very pleased indeed with feedback as over 95% of delegates rated the conference overall very good or good and I also wanted to share some of their additional comments: *'Very knowledgeable day for me, good presentations'*, *'Empowering, educational and enlightening'*, *'Excellent conference, good subjects covered'*, *'Very informative sessions – more please!'*. You can read more about the event on the [Twitter hashtag #nalcevents](#). Our next event is [Digital Councils](#) on 25 May 2017 in London.

Have a great Bank Holiday weekend!

Jonathan

JONATHAN OWEN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



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