

**Stephen Rickitt**

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**From:** Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>  
**Sent:** 10 June 2022 07:43  
**To:** Stephen Rickitt  
**Subject:** NALC Enews 10 June 2022

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## Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews  
10 June 2022**

**Please forward to all Councillors  
and Staff**

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**Briefings**

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The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks. Please use the appropriate link for more information and booking. All are held via Zoom

Finance for Parish Town and Community Councils

Wed, 15 Jun 2022 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finance-for-parish-town-and-community-councils-tickets-305418794837>

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Public Rights of Way

Mon, 11 Jul 2022 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/public-rights-of-way-tickets-305421753687>

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Workshop - Climate Change and Parish, Town and Community Councils

Tue, 26 Jul 2022 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-climate-change-and-parish-town-and-community-councils-tickets-305427119737>

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Briefings on the new Northumberland Local Plan are to be held in September. Details are being finalised and should appear in the next Enews.

# The June 2022 Legal Update from the national NALC

## **The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020**

We wanted to draw your attention to the above Regulations, which concern plant protection products (PPP) used to control pests, weeds, and diseases and which recently came to our attention. Examples of PPPs covered by the Regulations include insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides.

The Regulations impose registration requirements on persons placing plant products on the market and persons and businesses using PPPs and any adjuvants in Great Britain in a professional capacity. In our view the Regulations would apply to local councils where there is professional PPP use, e.g. by gardeners and landscaper employees in council parks etc. We do not know if councils would be using PPPs or products not subject to the Regulations and recommend that they speak to their grounds staff to assess if unsure. Councils using contractors can reasonably expect that they comply with such requirements. The Regulations do not apply to amateur PPP use, which we take to mean domestic use.

Users of professional PPPs must register using a gov.uk link by 22 June 2022 - Regulation (5) (2) (b). The government has produced a number of helpful [documents](#) and [guidance](#), which contain the registration link.

## **New legislation – councillor disqualification for sexual offences**

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We notified you in the April bulletin about the forthcoming Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022, which was inserting a new section 81A to the Local Government Act 1972 essentially disqualifying anyone listed on the sex offenders' register from being a councillor or being elected

to a council whilst they are listed on the register. The Act was passed on 28 April and comes into force on 28 June.

As per the last bulletin, we will update LTN 8 with the relevant detail when the provision comes in to force.

### **Declaring casual vacancies**

We were asked about a scenario where a council had not declared a casual vacancy forthwith as required under s.86 of the Local Government Act 1972 further to a person becoming disqualified as a councillor by virtue of the six-month rule under s.85 of the 1972 Act. The question was can that person continue in office because of the lack of declaration. The answer was no. S.85 has automatic effect and cannot be undone.

### **Recent activity**

Since April's legal update we have updated and reissued Model Standing Order 18 to take account of the changes to the procurement thresholds and to bring it in to line with the LTN 87 guidance. We also reissued LTN 80 (Members' conduct and the registration and disclosure of their interests (England)) further to the government's response to the 2019 Committee on Standards in Public Life recommendations and for the purposes of Wales only, LTN 5W and 8.

## **Vacancies for Clerks**

**Hexham Town Council** are seeking a new town clerk to take over on the retirement of the existing clerk.

Details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/6ab35567-402e-baa9-1c71-1e5af87ec5bb/Hexham Town Clerk Vacancy June 2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/6ab35567-402e-baa9-1c71-1e5af87ec5bb/Hexham_Town_Clerk_Vacancy_June_2022.pdf)

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**Meldon Parish Council** are seeking a new clerk to take over on the retirement of the existing clerk.

Details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/d8233baa-6c5d-0e1c-adb4-e09bee1f38f7/Vacancy for a Clerk Meldon June 2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/d8233baa-6c5d-0e1c-adb4-e09bee1f38f7/Vacancy_for_a_Clerk_Meldon_June_2022.pdf)

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**Mitford Parish Council** are seeking a new clerk to take over on the retirement of the existing clerk.

Details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/a8d1170c-f1c8-a74e-5e97-2faee8e2e08d/Vacancy for a Clerk Mitford June 2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/a8d1170c-f1c8-a74e-5e97-2faee8e2e08d/Vacancy_for_a_Clerk_Mitford_June_2022.pdf)

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**Whalton Parish Council** are seeking a new clerk to take over on the retirement of the existing clerk.

Details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/4669e58b-9a5d-403d-7c83-736ce61cc7e9/Vacancy for a Clerk Whalton June 2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/4669e58b-9a5d-403d-7c83-736ce61cc7e9/Vacancy_for_a_Clerk_Whalton_June_2022.pdf)

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## **Storm Arwen**

On 9 June 2022, OFGEM published their review into the performance of the power companies. It is available via

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/ofgem-publishes-full-report-following-six-month-review-networks-response-storm-arwen>

## **The Local Council Award Scheme**

The national NALC are holding a free briefing on 23 June 2022 — 12.00 – 13:15

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) is an accreditation scheme for the local (parish and town) sector to celebrate the successes of councils and provide a mechanism for continuous improvement and development. To ensure all local councils feel confident in applying to the scheme, NALC is hosting this event to provide insights into submitting an award-winning application for each award level. Increasing your chances of achieving the award level hoped for. This event is open to clerks, councillors and council staff interested in the scheme.

Speakers: Anders Hanson, projects manager and Lisa Etchell, projects officer at the National Association of Local Councils.

Booking is via

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-council-award-scheme-preparing-an-award-winning-application-tickets-324104985737>

## **Dualling the A1**

The announcement of the delay to the decision is at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a1-in-northumberland-road-improvements>

This refers to a connectivity study which is at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/union-connectivity-review-final-report>

## **Asset Watch and CCTV**

A number of Member Councils use this company. Details are at the link. Please contact them direct if more information is required.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/9bdc55af-7f10-985c-9dad-a42a1caee368/CCTV\\_Community\\_Safety\\_.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/9bdc55af-7f10-985c-9dad-a42a1caee368/CCTV_Community_Safety_.pdf)

## **Reports and other articles of possible interest**

[The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill 2022-23](#)

The House of Commons Library have produced some background material with links at

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9558/>

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### [Historic England's Planning Bulletin](#)

The May issue is at

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/planning-bulletin/>

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### [Regenerating the High Street](#)

Local authorities will be given rights to let vacant high street premises under new powers contained in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Michael Callaghan looks at the detail of the proposals.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/property/313-property-features/50721-regenerating-the-high-street>

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*If you have any comments or observations, please contact [info@northumberlandalc.uk](mailto:info@northumberlandalc.uk)*

**NALC website:** <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>



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