



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews
13 April 2022

**Please forward to all
Councillors and Staff**

Briefings

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

General Introduction to Parish, Town and Community Councils

Tue 7 June 2022 1900

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/general-introduction-to-parish-town-and-community-councils-tickets-305416116827>

Finance for Parish Town and Community Councils

Wed 15 June 2022 1900

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

Public Rights of Way

Mon 11 July 2022 1900

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

Audit of the 2021/2022 Accounts

All Councils should have received an email from PKF Littlejohn with instructions and links for the audit of the accounts.

If your Council has not received the email please contact PKF Littlejohn as soon as possible using sba@pkf-l.com

The forms and guidance are available via

<https://www.pkf-l.com/services/limited-assurance-regime/submission-requirements>

In particular the new edition of the Practitioner's Guide is available at

<https://www.pkf-l.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Practitioners-guide-2022.pdf>

or on the SAAA website at

https://saaa.co.uk/PractitionersGuide_2022.pdf

The Guide contains useful charts detailing the documents to be sent to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors for our area.

The national NALC's website has a blog by the secretary to the Internal Auditors Forum covering the expansion of the IAF and what's new in the guide.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-blog/entry/2053-practitioners-guide-2022%E2%80%93more-interesting-than-you-thought%20>

Vacancy for a Clerk

Pegswood Parish Council are seeking a new clerk. Details are at

<https://www.pegswood-pc.gov.uk/vacancy/>

The Annual Meetings

In the past there has been some confusion regarding roles of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The link is to a note prepared in 2019 setting out an explanation.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/69e2c8e4-6c73-b2d0-18d7-d402723903d3/Annual Meetings Oct 2019.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/69e2c8e4-6c73-b2d0-18d7-d402723903d3/Annual_Meetings_Oct_2019.01.pdf)

Street Names

The DLUHC have started a consultation on proposals which they say "will strengthen local democracy by ensuring that councils in England get agreement from local residents in advance of any street name changes".

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-residents-to-have->

[final-say-on-proposed-changes-to-street-names](#)

The Northumberland National Park Authority's Management Plan

The Park Authority are reviewing their Management Plan for the Park. This Plan sets out the priorities for the National Park as a place, and covers all aspects of the environment, heritage, life and work which, together, create this unique and special landscape.

Everyone who lives or works in the National Park, or chooses to spend time here, has a valuable connection to the Park as a place and the Park Authority would very much like to hear your thoughts on the future for the National Park.

While the Management Plan lasts for five years, they would like this Plan to set out our strategic approach for the next 25 years and have been working on this with a wide range of partners and have developed a draft which features five key themes. These are:

- * Nature recovery
- * Climate action
- * Valuing culture and heritage
- * Welcoming Park for all
- * Thriving communities

Details are at

<https://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/about->

[us/committees-and-plans/management-plan/northumberland-national-park-management-plan-draft-for-consultation/](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/committees-and-plans/management-plan/northumberland-national-park-management-plan-draft-for-consultation/)

The Northumberland Local Plan

This has now been adopted and is available via

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Plan.aspx>

Neighbourhood Plans

Grants are available to assist local communities prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Details are available via

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/>

The Star Council Awards

The national NALC are running their Star Council awards with a number of categories. Entries are particularly encouraged by this Association.

Details are at

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/starcouncilawards>

NALC's Star Council Awards are the only awards in England that recognise local (parish and town) councils' contributions to their communities.

The long-running awards celebrate the positive impact local councils, councillors, young councillors, clerks and county associations make on their communities.

News from the national NALC

Some of the following are in the Members' Area of their website <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/>

Details of the log-in are available by emailing this association at info@northumberlandalc.uk

The Financial Times article is available on the NALC website for free

The national NALC have been able to make The Financial Times (FT) big read on local government, "The hyperlocal governments entrusted with reviving the English state", available to read without an FT subscription. This really positive article covers the Levelling Up the United Kingdom white paper and its proposals for community empowerment, highlighting the current and potential future role of local (parish and town) councils, including interviews with Arundel Town Council in West Sussex and Shrewsbury Town Council in Shropshire.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/2062-the-financial-times-big-read-the-hyperlocal-governments-entrusted-with-reviving-the-english-state>

Civility and Respect Project

NALC representatives attended the Assurance Board for the Civility and Respect Project on 5 April which focused on a review of the delivery proposals for the first phase of the project. The proposals are the result of several months of gathering requirements, uncovering and understanding issues related to bullying and harassment, the causes, effect and impacts of poor behaviour across our sector, and represent the first stage of the proposed action to start to tackle the issues. Phase one of the delivery proposal was unanimously approved by the project board, which is made up of representatives from NALC, Society of Local Council Clerks, One Voice Wales and county associations. Michelle Moss, project manager, will now start to work with the workstreams to plan the delivery of the tools and training for this phase. You can find out more about the project and read its regular newsletters which provide an update on progress on the project's webpage on the NALC website.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project>

Reports and other articles of possible interest

The 2020/2021 Audit

SAAA have published their report on the audit undertaken last year.

[https://saaa.co.uk/comms/Report on results of auditors work 2020-21.pdf](https://saaa.co.uk/comms/Report%20on%20results%20of%20auditors%20work%202020-21.pdf)

Historic England's Planning Bulletin

The March 2022 issue (and previous ones) is available via

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

Conservation covenants: green shoots or withered vines?

Part 7 of the Environment Act 2021 introduces a new type of local land charge called a "conservation covenant". Tobias Shaw Paul and Trevor Ivory summarise how they work, the operation of similar systems in Scotland and France and how effective they are likely to prove in practice in light of previous experience in these

other jurisdictions.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/50100-conservation-covenants-green-shoots-or-withered-vines>

PAYE References

HMRC have emailed advice on how employers can check that they are giving the correct reference when paying PAYE.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e4c2bdb-063b-3e75-87b0-726d16ec4c3d/HMRC PAYE References.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e4c2bdb-063b-3e75-87b0-726d16ec4c3d/HMRC_PAYE_References.pdf)

Council Tax Levels in England 2022/2023

DLUHC have published the summary which shows that for those areas where parishes charge a precept, there has been an average Band D parish precept increase of 4.3% in 2022-23

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064229/Council Tax Levels Set by Local Authorities in England 2022-23.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064229/Council_Tax_Levels_Set_by_Local_Authorities_in_England_2022-23.pdf)

The National Census 2021

The Office for National Statistics have updated their release plans saying

"Census 2021 first results are likely to include rounded population and household estimates for England and for Wales, at local authority level and cross-tabulated by sex and age. We aim to release these in early summer 2022. We will then begin a staggered release of topic summaries. A topic summary is a set of data and supporting commentary, grouped by a similar theme."

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans>



*If you have any comments or observations, please
contact info@northumberlandalc.uk*

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

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