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Sent: 14 January 2021 08:33
To: NALC Info
Subject: NALC Enews 14 January 2021

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**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**

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NALC Enews

14 January 2021

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Emails to Member Councils

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils have been sent the following emails since the last issue of the Enews.

7 January 2021 containing

- Coronavirus
- The Annual Meetings
- The May 2021 Elections
- Electronic Meetings
- The National NALC's Legal Update - December 2020
- The Chief Planners Newsletter - December 2020
- Planning in Scotland
- The County Council's Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter Winter 2020
- North Steads and Sisters Windfarm Community Fund
- The Police & Crime Commissioner's Newsletter

13 January 2021 containing

- The Briefing Programme - February - July 2021

If your Council has not received a copy, or if your Chairman or Clerk has changed, please let me know.

The Northumberland Elections

On 13 January 2021, the Minister responded to an Urgent Question and stated that the elections should go ahead in May. The door was left open to review, however, and MPs pointed out the lead-in time for a successful election.

Local Councils should continue to plan for elections being held on 6 May 2021, but be aware this may yet change.

An open letter to all Local Councillors

Cllr Sue Baxter, Chair of the national NALC has written to all Local Councillors and her letter is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/1a78ec6a-592c-40e7-a85f-3ef76e55a71e/Letter_from_Nat_Nalc_Chair.pdf

Broadband

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has published a critical report saying they are

“increasingly concerned that those in rural areas may have to pay more, and may reach gigabit broadband speeds late” and is not convinced that “if and when rural users finally do get gigabit broadband, they will enjoy the same choice of service provider and the same protections as their urban counterparts”.

The report is available via

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/news/138251/digital-inequality-compounding-the-economic-inequality-harshly-exposed-by-covid19/>

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Healthwatch Northumberland have asked that the information available at the link below is circulated. Northumberland's Director of Public Health has also asked us to emphasize that GPs will make contact with patients when they are able to offer a vaccination.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/880b9616-004d-4ed3-a232-5ee035526c37/Healthwatch Covid Jan 2021.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/880b9616-004d-4ed3-a232-5ee035526c37/Healthwatch_Covid_Jan_2021.pdf)

Planning & Other Legal Articles

The following may be of interest

Beware the limitations and conditions of 'Prior Approval' consents, writes Izindi Visagie.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45637-prior-approval-consents>

The Administrative Court recently upheld a conviction for failure to comply with an enforcement notice despite the council losing an Article 4 direction. Roderick Morton looks at the lessons to be learned.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45806-when-you-lose-an-article-4-direction>

The Court of Appeal has confirmed that the use permitted must be limited to that applied for, write Saira Kabir Sheikh QC and Charles Streeten

[Limiting planning permission to that applied for
\(localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk\)](http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk)

Shropshire Council has won a case in the Court of Appeal over what happens when a local authority disposes of land subject to a statutory trust for public recreational purposes without complying with the relevant statutory requirements.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/401-planning-news/45795-council-wins-court-of-appeal-battle-over-fate-of-land-subject-to-statutory-trust-for-recreational-purposes>

A High Court judge has rejected a housebuilder's legal challenge to a decision by East Cambridgeshire District Council to accept the recommendations of the examiner in relation to a neighbourhood plan.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/401-planning-news/45729-council-defeats-legal-challenge-over-acceptance-of-recommendations-of-examiner-of-neighbourhood-plan>

The Court of Appeal has confirmed the correct tests to apply to determine whether: (1) a public body has consulted fairly; and (2) is under a legitimate expectation to consult. Matthew Alderton analyses the ruling.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/314-governance-a-risk-articles/45742-consulting-on-new-policies>

The Local Govt. Bulletin

This is the regular bulletin MHCLG sends out, updating you on the latest government guidance, advice, communications products and other useful information about coronavirus (COVID-19), EU transition and other topics of interest for local government.

To sign up, please use the following link

<https://bit.ly/2Xz9fM3>

A sample copy is at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/2f4f4041-9712-4c5a-a100-bf0385d92328/Local Govt Engagement.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/2f4f4041-9712-4c5a-a100-bf0385d92328/Local_Govt_Engagement.pdf)



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

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