

Stephen Rickitt

From: Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>
Sent: 17 November 2020 11:55
To: Stephen Rickitt
Subject: NALC Enews 17 November 2020

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**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**

NALC Enews

17 November 2020

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Emails to Member Councils

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

29 October 2020 containing the following items.

1. Food Vouchers
2. Briefings
3. Climate Change Survey
4. The CAN AGM
5. Annual Leave

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

Covid-19 Lockdown

The national NALC's website is kept as up-to-date as possible with advice .

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/coronavirus-page>

Vacancy for a Clerk

Thirlwall Parish Council are seeking a new clerk, details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/0fac3e6f-2a07-4dfb-b5c0-e1c8640a98b5/Vacancy for a clerk Thirlwall PC.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/0fac3e6f-2a07-4dfb-b5c0-e1c8640a98b5/Vacancy_for_a_clerk_Thirlwall_PC.pdf)

Standards

There's an interesting speech by Lord Evans, the new Chair of the Committee for Standards in Public Life, at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-hugh-kay-lecture-are-we-in-a-post-nolan-age>

As an aside, he was the head of the Security Service (MI5).

Council Tax & Precepts in Northumberland

On 31 October, all the clerks to Northumberland Town, Parish and Community Councils should have received an email setting out the process for passing details of the 2021/2022 precept to the County Council. The email included details of the Council Tax Base for each parish as this varies from year-to-year.

At our request, the table includes illustrations showing what the difference to the BAND D taxpayer would be if the same precept is levied.

If your clerk did not receive the email, please contact Precepts@northumberland.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Email Fraud

We've been alerted to a scam aimed at our sector by a clerk who says

I just wanted to let you know that there appears to be a co-ordinated campaign of email fraud aimed at Parish Councils. All three of the Councils I Clerk for have been targeted.

The common theme seems to be using the name of the Chair, starting with a general email asking the other Councillors to get in touch, and then

progressing to asking those individuals to buy something online (it would appear, something that has been discussed in an earlier meeting). The email addresses are not genuine, but are somewhat plausible, and that discrepancy could go unnoticed. A couple were worded badly (eg using "Hello Cllr Anne" and signing off from "Cllr Jane"), but some read quite normally. Very sadly, one Councillor I am aware of has been defrauded of some money. It's not hacking from what I can see, but it is using info that is publicly available to impersonate the Chair.

Just thought I'd make you aware as it seems to be co-ordinated, not random; I suspect it's happening all over the country.

National Safeguarding Adults Week

Northumberland and North Tyneside are joining in a nationwide conversation to raise awareness about safeguarding adults, as part of National Safeguarding Adults week.

The national awareness week, which takes place from Monday 16 November until Sunday 22 November, aims to remind people the vital role they play in helping prevent abuse by spotting the signs, and the actions that should be taken if they are concerned about someone.

Please find attached North Tyneside and Northumberland's Safeguarding Adults Board plan outlining the key themes and resources (national and local) to be promoted during the week. Please can you promote and circulate this information within your organisation and networks.

The plan is at

<https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/c4ebf995->

[b3b6-401e-ab62-](#)

[ccf4bec1e7bc/Safeguarding Adults Week Plan 2020 FINAL.pdf](#)

The Police & Crime Commissioner

Her latest Newsletter is at

[https://indd.adobe.com/view/ed348492-fd4d-43db-8052-81d15600a611](#)

Please consider completing the survey if you and your Council have not already done so.

Planning Legal Articles

When it comes to building new communities, writes Ian Doolittle, does local authority housing hold the key?

[https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/housing-law/315-housing-features/45181-rebalancing-the-housing-system](#)

Owain Rhys James looks at an inspector's jurisdiction under section 195 of the Town and Country Planning Act.

[https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45238-reconsideration-or-review](#)

Sevenoaks District Council has failed in a Planning Court challenge to an inspector's finding that it had failed to comply with the duty to cooperate when preparing the Sevenoaks District Local Plan for its administrative area.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/401-planning-news/45364-district-council-fails-in-planning-court-challenge-to-finding-it-failed-to-comply-with-duty-to-cooperate>

Richard Harwood QC considers the means of challenging planning and related decisions and suggests possible reforms.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45300-planning-court-not-so-fab-four>

The Planning Court has dismissed a challenge to a decision granting planning permission for relocation of works at a nuclear power station within an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). Leanne Buckley-Thomson analyses the ruling.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45358-areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-and-the-exceptional-circumstances-test>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

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Our website is at <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>

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