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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
2 December 2021**

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Briefings

The briefings over the next few months are shown below. Please book using the appropriate link. All are by Zoom and start at 7.00 pm

[Planning - Neighbourhood Plans - Lessons Learnt](#)

Wednesday 8 December 2021

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planning-neighbourhood-plans-lessons-learnt-tickets-185687725987>

Tuesday 14 December 2021

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planning-conservation-areas-tickets-185690093067>

[Planning - Enforcement](#)

Monday 24 January 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planning-enforcement-tickets-185693774077>

[Planning - Highway and Rights of Way Issues](#)

Tuesday 8 February 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/planning-highway-and-rights-of-way-issues-tickets-185681758137>

[Standards for Parish, Town & Community Councils](#)

Thursday 10 February 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/standards-for-parish-town-community-councils-tickets-216137712717>

Storm Arwen

Just to repeat the mail address for contacting the County Council which was in the Enews sent out on Tuesday 30 November

stormarwen@northumberland.gov.uk

Coronavirus and the Omicron Variant

(LGA), the national NALC and other local govt. bodies are pressing DLUHC to reintroduce formal powers to allow digital meetings. As and when any substantive information is received we shall endeavour to include links in an Enews or Member Council update.

If any Council is involved with retail sales, then they should look at the new masking guidance via

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Young People

The national NALC has today (2 December) launched a new suite of resources on young people, including a dedicated web page and a case study publication.

The case study publication highlights the excellent work that local (parish and town) councils are doing to support young people within their communities. These case studies are an invaluable resource for local councils and county associations as examples of best practices and demonstrate the types of work they can do within their boundaries. Included are examples on several topics such as consulting young people, funding youth groups, youth clubs and youth services, to name a few.

The dedicated webpage will act as a hub with valuable information, links, and resources.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/young-people>

The case studies are available via that page or at

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/young-people/3626-young-people-case-studies/file>

If your local council is actively working with young people in the community, let NALC know at policycomms@nalc.gov.uk.

Northumberland Archives and Storm

The Archives have said

"We hope everyone is keeping safe after the devastation that Storm Arwen brought to the county on Friday night. The last time we can remember chaos like it was the storm in 1987, and we know that today will be a day of taking stock and carrying out maintenance for so many.

It has been an historic event which is why we are wanting to collect photographs, video footage and written recollections of the experiences of the people of Northumberland during Storm Arwen and its aftermath. We want to add these to the Archive as a permanent record of what the county and its people experienced.

If you have photographs (jpeg format) and video footage that you would like us to add to the Archive, please email them to us at archives@northumberland.gov.uk & if you have kept a diary of the events, or would like to write up your experiences and deposit them with us, you can contact us at the same email address.

This is a step into contemporary collecting for us, something we are keen to do much more of in the future - every day we are living through history."

National NALC Events in the Spring

Levelling up the nation and our communities

26 January 2022 — 12.00 - 13.15

NALC member: £30 – Non-member: £40

Sponsors: BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA

At the 2019 general election, the Conservative Party manifesto included a commitment to "levelling up every part of the UK – not just investing in our great towns and cities, as well as rural and coastal areas, but giving them far more control of how that investment is made".

Fast forward two years and the prime minister's driving mission of the government arguably still lacks detail, despite significant pots of funding being announced. But the white paper on devolution widely

cabinet reshuffle, levelling up is centre stage, now featuring in the name of a rebranded government department along with a new levelling up minister.

Find out what levelling up will mean for local councils? Will England be parished? What services, assets and new powers will councils be eligible to take on?

Join us to learn all about the white paper and the government's plans for levelling up and further devolution.

Speakers: Will Tanner, director at Onward and Vidhya Alakeson, chief executive, Power to Change

Working together to make communities safer

30 March 2022 — 12.00 - 13.15

NALC member: £30 – Non-member: £40

Sponsors: BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA

According to the Office of National Statistics, the pandemic affected patterns of crime and decreases across individual crime types such as theft offences were offset by rises in fraud and computer misuse offences, resulting in no change in overall levels of crime. Just 26% of the public say the government are doing a good job on dealing with crime, according to recent polling by IPSOS Mori.

So just how safe do communities actually feel? How are the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) working with communities to reduce crime and improve community safety? And what part can local (parish and town) councils play using their existing powers and funding?

What are the implications for the public and local councils if crime levels remain unchanged and the country's pandemic status is reduced to an endemic (reduced) level?

You will hear more about the role and work of the PCCs since being first elected in 2012 to replace police authorities, how they are engaging and working with communities and local councils, and about the important role police and crime panels play in scrutinising

Speakers: Cllr John Gilli-Ross, chair of Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel and Caroline Henry, Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire

More details and booking via

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events>

Civility and Respect

The national NALC are working with SLCC and others and have formed a working group to seek to address the growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment and intimidation is having on our councils, councillors and staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils.

The primary aim of the project is to coordinate a programme of work designed to promote civility and respect in public life, including good governance, positive debate and to support the well-being of councillors, professional officers and staff.

Their first project newsletter is at the link below

Key points covered in the newsletter include:

- Civility and Respect Project Mission
- Overview of the project
- Anti-bullying petition
- Local Government call for evidence regarding the abuse and intimidation of Councillors
- Bullying and harassment statement

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/3a41da58-b31c-1e9e-c551-a6afa9a07053/CR_Newsletter_Nov21.pdf

Reports and other articles of possible interest

The Law & Religion blog has a useful article of the possible changes at

http://Burials,_groundwater_activities_and_related_surface_water_discharge_activities

If enacted, the changes to the regulations may affect other activities too.

[Fly-Tipping](#).

There's an alarming report on the extent and the involvement of organised crime at

<https://eq3pi6tq2z7.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/An-Independent-Study-into-Fly-tipping-and-Unregistered-Waste-Carriers-in-England-FINAL.pdf>

[Blogs on the national NALC's website](#)

There are two new posts on the NALC blog which I'd encourage you to check out. Onward researcher Jenevieve Treadwell writes about their recent report, Double Devo: Extending Town and Parish Councils, which sets out the case for devolution beyond the regional level and giving more power to local councils. And John Fagan from Scribe shares his insights on using spreadsheets for managing local council finances.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-blog/entry/1925-it-is-time-to-level-up-town-and-parish-councils>

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-blog/entry/1921-dangers-of-using-spreadsheets-for-managing-parish,-town-and-community-council-finances>

Adult Social Care White Paper

we will implement over the next 3 years."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper>



*If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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or

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