

Stephen Rickitt

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Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

NALC Enews

27 January 2017

Northumberland Elections May 2017

I anticipate that the Elections Team will be sending out further information in the very near future. Our understanding now is that the cost recovery for contested elections will not include staff costs.

Local Councils have been asked to let the Elections Office know ASAP if their regular polling station will not be available please. An example is the Village Hall being closed for refurbishment.

An Undemocratic Planning System

The National Trust and LGiU have released the results of a survey of English Councillors. 72% believe the current system is undemocratic. The Planning Portal has a summary at

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/485/planning_news_-_12_january_2017?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=cfe39093a5-

[Newsletter 12012017 HTML&utm](#)

The full report is available via <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/report/councillors-attitudes-to-the-planning-survey/>

New Green Book

The terms and conditions of employment approved by the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services and known as the NJC National Agreement 'Green Book' has been recently thoroughly updated. I am aware that SLCC Members can access via the password protected area of their website. I am asking the national HQ whether they will be doing the same.

Neighbourhood Plans

There's an interesting article on their growing importance at

http://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29587%3Aneighbourhood-plans--here-to-stay&catid=63&Itemid=31

Royal Garden Party

A reminder to Member Councils that nominees for the ballot for places are required in the Pegswood office by Noon Tuesday 24 January 2017.

Commons and Village Greens

The Government's website now has access to a database showing applications for consents made to the Minister / Secretary of State from the 19th Century to the present day. It's available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commons-and-greens-casework-database>

More on Neighbourhood Plans

Those in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans may wish to read about the plan for a community in Staffordshire which has failed its examination. There's an article at <http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2017/january/expect-more-neighbourhood-plan-challenges-in-2017-says-expert-as-parish-council-plan-fails-examination/>

The Local Planning Authority's website has the full range of documents via <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sandon-and-burston-neighbourhood-plan1>

Staff Holidays

I will be on annual leave for the fortnight starting Sunday 12 February 2017. Colleagues in the Pegswood CAN office will be available to assist where possible.



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

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