

[View this email in your browser](#)



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews 23 November 2021

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Briefings

We have arranged for a special briefing on Standards and details are in the next section.

The other 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

[Planning - Conservation Areas](#)

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 starting at 7.00 pm

All those who have already booked should have received a direct email.

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

The Non-Planning Briefings are

[Chairing a Local Council](#)

Thursday 25 November 2021 - open to any Councillor or Clerk

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/chairing-a-local-council-tickets-175314048037>

Standards Briefing - Thursday 10 February 2022 at 7.00 pm

With kind assistance from Northumberland County Council, we delighted to bring Bethan Evans, one of the Country's national experts on Standards, to present a briefing.

For booking please use

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

Bethan's biographical information is at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/aed5660e-c824-90ad-2f8c-0dd85f24d310/Bethan Evans Bio for NALC.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/aed5660e-c824-90ad-2f8c-0dd85f24d310/Bethan_Evans_Bio_for_NALC.pdf)

Personal Safety Webinars for Councillors

The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a series of webinars to help support councillors' personal safety while carrying out everyday activities.

Councillors represent their communities as part of an open and transparent local democratic system. This involves regularly meeting residents, often one-to-one and out in the community.

This event, which is UK government funded, will provide an overview of personal safety as it applies to councillor's everyday activities, including risk assessments and practical strategies for safe working.

The first personal safety webinar will take place from 10:30am – 12:00pm on 8 December.

<https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=461537&eventID=1342&traceRedir=2>

Climate Change

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/new/cop26/>

There are comments and resources available.

Community-led Housing Festival

Booking is now open for the 2021 North East Community-led Housing Festival. Running from Monday 29th November through to Friday 3rd December, the 2021 festival will once again be held online – although with a 'Face-to-Face Friday' networking get-together and panel discussion too.

More details via

[The North East Community-led Housing Festival is back! | News | Community Action Northumberland \(ca-north.org.uk\).](#)

The national Smaller Councils Committee

There are elections for three places on the national Smaller Councils Committee.

Details are available via <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/nalc-committee-elections-21#direct-elections>

To vote, please use <https://hub.ukevot.uk/nalc>

It's always difficult to suggest a candidate, but Cllr Josephine Parish (Corfe Castle) PC has been the vice-chairman of the committee for the past two years and impressed our Chief Officer (Stephen Rickitt) during his time on the committee with her passion and enthusiasm for our sector.

Open Letter

The chairs of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), One Voice Wales (OVW) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have published an open letter to all local (community, parish and town) councils in England and Wales.

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e4538de1-3034-1d97-06cd-3d34499bda36/Open_letter_NALC_OVW_SLCC_161121.pdf

National Issues

The Chief Officers of the County Associations meet on a regular basis. At their meeting on 17 November 2021 a number of issues arose which may be of interest

1: Remote Meetings – some County Associations are encouraging Member Councils to contact their MPs asking that the power to hold digital meetings is raised with DLUHC, given the new ministerial team. We propose to email all six MPs with Member Councils in their constituencies. From past discussions, I think that MPs up here are in favour, some surprisingly strongly so.

2: External Audit – The contracts for the next five-year tranche of external audit work are in the final stages of procurement. An announcement is expected in the next month or so. .

An on-line portal for electronic submission is being considered. This was welcomed provided there is still the capacity for some councils to submit by email or post.

3: Emails from the national NALC – these are now being sent weekly on a topic basis usually on the same day of the week, for example job adverts are in one email every Monday, details of events every Tuesday etc.

If you'd like to sign up to get the emails direct, please go to <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-newsletter>

4: Insurance – One Association reported that some Councils with poor claims records (usually resulting from vandalism) are finding it difficult to obtain insurance. It's not something which has been reported to me, but we'd welcome any information if Member Councils become aware of problems please.

Parades but expect that one of the local authorities will do so. In some areas there are some RBL branches who take this stance, whilst other branches remain willing to be the organisers.

We wondered if there is any indication of this happening in our area? Some areas also had a problem with their local police force being unable to police the Parades. Again, it's not something reported to use, and we wonder if it was partly due to the police presence in Glasgow for COP26.

Reports and other articles of possible interest

Ethical Standards

LLG President Quentin Baker considers whether the renewed focus on the need for augmenting the rules on ethical standards in central government will spill over into local government.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/314-governance-a-risk-articles/48852-ethical-standards>

Employee Conduct Investigations

Julie Bann and James Hughes discuss the importance of fairness in employee conduct investigations, taking a look at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham -v- Mr S Keable case.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/sharpeedge/800-sharpeedge-employment/48743-the-importance-of-due-process-communication-and-fairness-in-employee-conduct-investigations-what-you-need-to-know>

Working from home and planning permission

approach to be taken when considering whether working from home requires planning permission.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/48754-when-working-from-home-requires-planning-permission>

The national NALC's Legal Update November 2021

The latest bulletin is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/ea6e6aea-2bcf-b95c-4013-a2770ef8b630/NALC_Legal_Update_Nov_2021.pdf



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

Stephen Rickitt, NALC Chief Officer stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk

or

Louise Currie, Community Initiatives Officer louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk

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

If you no longer wish to receive NALC E news click here:

{unsubscribe}Unsubscribe{/unsubscribe}

This email was sent to stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Community Action Northumberland · UNIUN Enterprise Building · Front St · Pegswood, Northumberland NE61 6UF · United Kingdom

