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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
3 February 2021**

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Briefings

There are two briefing next week. Please book through the links.

Social Media - Monday 8 February 2021 starting at 7.00 pm

This will look the ways to use or not use social media in our sector, and will include discussion on potential courses of action if Councils, Councillors or Staff Members become the subject of hostile comments.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-media-for-local-councils-tickets-136594338343>

Safeguarding - Thursday 11 February 2021 starting at 7.00 pm

This will provide Councillors and Clerks with an overview and practical guidance.

Councils who may be applying for grant funding should consider attending as we are aware that funders now require evidence of safeguarding policies and practices even for projects not directed at vulnerable adults or children. For example we heard of one parish council who were asked for more details of their safeguarding policies when seeking funding for an externally mounted defibrillator.

The session is being presented by Ian Billham who was the County Council's Community Safety Manager.

[tickets-136593963221](#)

Brexit and North-East England

The County Committee received a very informative briefing from Sarah McMillan (The Assistant Service Director - Policy at the County Council) and we are preparing a note for distribution to Member Councils in the near future.

Local Councils could assist residents by drawing attention to the closing date for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. The limited information available to the County Council may indicate a lower number of applications than expected.

The scheme allows EU, EEA or Swiss citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021.

Applications must be made before 30 June 2021.

There are more details at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The County Council's Monitoring Officer

arrangements for contacting the Monitoring Officer.

Please contact their Democratic Services Team if your Council has not received this information.

Warkworth Neighbourhood Plan

A **Part time Secretary** is required to give administrative support to the Warkworth Village Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, preferably someone with previous Local Government clerical experience, and/or Neighbourhood Plan experience. The position will initially be for 10 hours per month and will be paid at Point 19 of the NJC scale (£25,481 pa full time equivalent). This would be a temporary contract until such time as the NP is completed. If you are interested, please contact Sian Smith (Chair) at siansmith1@hotmail.com or 07817 253954.

Closing date is 15 February 2021.

The 2021 Census

The Govt. has confirmed that the census in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will take place on 21 March 2021. There will be a campaign for on-line completion. The census in Scotland was postponed by the Scottish Govt. and will take place in March 2022.

An overview of the census is available at

[8d8ba-ae07-4d9b-846e-1f8aaf68f10b/Census_2021_Overview.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/document/8d8ba-ae07-4d9b-846e-1f8aaf68f10b/Census_2021_Overview.pdf)

Today's Statement from Govt. is at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-02-03/hcws755>

The Northumberland Line and Other rail issues

As you may be aware SENRUG have been campaigning for better rail links. Their latest newsletter is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/6f264e81-9d5f-4ac0-9b1e-829ca7bfe5f9/21_01_Newsletter_35_email_quality.pdf

Legal Articles of Possible Interest

In February 2020, the Court of Appeal decided that the Government policy on airport expansion at Heathrow was unlawful on climate change grounds. The Supreme Court has now reversed this decision. David Hart QC considers this development.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/45923-when-is-a-policy-not-a-policy-supreme-court-on-heathrow-expansion>

when it suggests that permission “should be refused” for development having a significant adverse impact on a retail centre.

[NB: This is to a Podcast]

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/46007-a-recent-decision-of-the-court-of-appeal-in-asda-stores-v-leeds-city-council>

The conflict between the need for open spaces for recreation and the availability of land for residential development has resulted in another interesting Court of Appeal decision, writes Christopher Cant.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/property/313-property-features/46002-public-open-spaces-and-development>

Annual Leave

Please note that Stephen Rickitt will be on leave for the weeks commencing 22 February and 1 March 2021, scheduled to return to dealing with NALC business on Tuesday 9 March.



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or

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