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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews 30 September 2020 Please forward to all Councillors and Staff

Emails to Member Councils

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

Monday 21 September 2020 containing

- North-East Local Lockdown
- North-East Local Lockdown Sources of Information
- Local Council Meetings

Thursday 24 September 2020 containing

- The Association's AGM
- Coronavirus
- Briefings
- Website Accessibility
- CiLCA

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

The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks. Please use the appropriate link for more information and booking.

Tuesday 13 Oct 2020 - Budgets, Precepts and Finance

This will look at how to set a budget, what this means for the precept and other financial issues

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/budgets-precepts-and-finance-tickets-119216382409>

Thursday 22 Oct 2020 - Introduction to Planning

This will provide an overview of the Town & Country Planning system, how to respond to planning applications and enforcement.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-planning-tickets-119216755525>

Tuesday 27 October - Being the Chairman of a Smaller Parish Council

This will consider the role of the Chairman, their relationships with fellow Councillors, the clerk and staff.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-the-chairman-of-a-smaller-parish-council-tickets-119217222923>

Wednesday 25 Nov 2020 - Freedom of Information

This will provide a general introduction to FoIs, including how requests can be managed and what to do with persistent requesters

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/freedom-of-information-tickets-119217592027>

Coronavirus and Gatherings

At the time this Enews was prepared (0745 Wednesday 30/9) the latest regulations have been published overnight and the Govt.'s website shows that the North East Specific guidance has just been updated.

The Guidance is at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-east-of-england-local-restrictions>

On an initial look, business meetings seem to be permitted but only if participants do not mingle with others from outside their household or linked households AND the meeting is not at a private dwelling.

If a business meeting does take place then there is guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support>

Please note that some of the matters set out on those pages will be enforceable under the Health & Safety legislation.

I anticipate that the City & County Councils' websites will be updated during the day.

Member Councils who run community centres will need to consider the detailed rules and guidance to determine which of their activities may continue.

Page 5 of the latest Regulations has an exception for meetings of Support Groups. The Regulations set out examples but appear to be drafted in a way which gives a fairly wide interpretation to what is a support group. Six examples are given and organisers need to consider whether their particular group fits alongside one of the examples.

As ever, it is a changing picture with changes being announced at short notice, but the detailed regulations and guidance appearing some time later.

The advice from this Association and the national NALC remains that digital meetings should be held instead of physical ones.

The AGM

Our digital AGM is on Saturday 3 October 2020 at 1000. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be leading the debate.

Ticketing details are in the Member Council updates and the meeting is open to Councillors, Clerks and Staff from Member Councils

Healthwatch Northumberland

Please use the link for the Healthwatch Northumberland Quarterly report for Q1 2020/21. This report presents a summary of patient and carer feedback we received between April-June 2020/21.

[c6290dd7bcb4/Healthwatch Northumberland Quarterly Report Q1 2020 21.pdf](#)

Planning White Paper

We recently came across the Briefing Paper prepared by the House of Commons Library, it's long (60 pages) but has some useful information.

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/f70b1496-ceb4-44a5-b389-e5760bc6f041/HoC_Briefing_Planning_White_Paper_Aug_2020.pdf

The planning consultancy, Lichfields, have used the proposed algorithm to produce the indicative figures for housing. The link is below but we have extracted the figures for our region.

<https://lichfields.uk/grow-renew-protect-planning-for-the-future/how-many-homes-the-new-standard-method/>

North East

LPA	Current Local Plan requirement	Average delivery (last 3 years)	Current Standard Method	Proposed new Standard Method
North East	5,237	10,095	6,262	7,288
Darlington	434	414	165	253
County Durham		1,400	1,266	1,140
Hartlepool	347	274	180	246
Middlesbrough	1,321	1,812	817	1,192
Middlesbrough	410	495	256	354
Redcar and Cleveland	234	486	89	392
Stockton-on-Tees	677	831	472	445
Northumberland		1,570	651	1,172
Tyne and Wear	3,135	4,625	3,182	3,284
Gateshead	425	275	445	494
Newcastle upon Tyne	850	2,282	1,036	774
North Tyneside	790	930	803	884
South Tyneside	325	330	341	435
Sunderland	745	809	558	697

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The Rural Coalition has published [Rebuilding Rural: Growing Back Better](#), setting out its priorities for a successful recovery by seizing the potential social and economic opportunities across rural England.

More details are at

<https://acre.org.uk/news/2020-09-23-call-for-government-to-level-up-rural-areas-to-support-englands-economic-recovery-from-covid-19>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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