

Stephen Rickitt

From: Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2022 11:22
To: NALC Info
Subject: NALC Enews 7 January 2022

[View this email in your browser](#)



**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**

**NALC Enews
7 January 2022**

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

**Emails to Member Council / Electronic
Survey**

The Chairmen of Member Councils have been sent a link to a short survey on the relationship of our sector with the County Council. This should take about 4 minutes to complete.

The answers will be used as part of refreshing the Charter with the County Council.

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

Coronavirus and Digital Meetings

There is no information on whether Govt. is to introduce legislation to formally permit digital meeting for Local Government.

There was a formal Written Answer in the Lords on 31 December 2021 but this seems to just state the current position.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-15/hl4983>

The national NALC, along with other local govt. bodies continue to press Govt.

Briefings

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

Planning - Neighbourhood Plans - Lessons Learnt
Thu, 20 Jan 2022 19:00

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

Planning - Enforcement
Mon, 24 Jan 2022 19:00

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

Planning - Conservation Areas
Wed, 2 Feb 2022 19:00

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

Planning – Highway and Rights of Way Issues
Tue, 8 Feb 2022 19:00

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

Standards for Parish, Town & Community Councils
Thu, 10 Feb 2022 19:00

[http:// https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/standards-for-parish-town-community-councils-tickets-216137712717](http://https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/standards-for-parish-town-community-councils-tickets-216137712717)

Climate Change

DEFRA have announced new schemes to support nature recovery and climate action by rewarding farmers in their local area, alongside sustainable and profitable food production.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-to-restore-300000-hectares-of-habitat-across-england>

Permitted Development Rights

With thanks to the County Council, the latest bulletin from Historic England has the following

[Permitted Development Rights \(PDR\)](#)

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No.3) Order 2021 has introduced a number of changes to permitted development rights, which will take effect on various dates in January 2022:

References to the National Planning Policy Framework in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 will be updated with effect from 11 January 2022.

New and amended provisions in relation to moveable structures come into effect on 2 January 2022: these are addressed in more detail below.

- An amended provision in relation to the holding of markets by or on behalf of local authorities comes into effect on 11 January 2022. Originally introduced in June 2020, this PDR allowed markets to be held for an unlimited amount of days, including the provision of moveable structures related to this use: the measure will now be made permanent. It excludes markets on sites designated as Scheduled Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- A provision in relation to emergency development by a local authority or health service body comes into effect on 1 January 2022.
- Provisions relating to development by the Crown on a closed defence site (to allow development by or on behalf of the Crown constituting the erection, extension or alteration of buildings used exclusively for defence purposes on closed defence sites subject to conditions, limitations and restrictions) come into effect on 11 January 2022.

A minor amendment to The Town and Country Planning (Compensation) (England) Regulations 2015 also comes into effect on 11 January 2022.

The new provisions in respect of moveable structures permit the following without the need for planning permission:

- Unlisted pubs, cafes, and restaurants (not in the curtilage of a listed building) can put up one moveable structure on a permanent basis
- Listed pubs, cafes, and restaurants, and 'historic visitor attractions' can put up one moveable structure for up to 120 days in a 12-month period.

For both of these provisions, there are restrictions relating to scheduled monuments, and to minimising impacts on surrounding communities (including limits to size, height, and distance to residential boundaries). For moveable structures associated with listed buildings, further provisions include requirements for land to be reinstated to its original condition, prior approval from the local planning authority in relation to siting and the method of installation, and consultation with Historic England.

The full bulletin is available via

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/planning-bulletin/> i

It also includes details of how to ask to be included on the mailing list for their alerts.

Hauxley Parish Council

Hauxley Parish Council urgently require a temporary clerk to provide maternity cover. If interested, please email them at

hauxleypc@gmail.com

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council

The Town Council are seeking a temporary clerk to provide maternity cover. If interested, please email them at

TownClerk@newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk

Full details are at

<http://www.newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk/2021/12/21/vacancy-town-clerk-responsible-financial-officer-maternity-cover/>

Spam Emails

A number of Councils report receipt of emails purportedly from their Chairmen asking for assistance whilst in a meeting. These seem to be clear examples of spam.

It's opportune to remind colleagues to be vigilant. The writer was nearly caught out by one which appeared to be from DropBox.

Reports and other articles of possible interest

[Dualling the A1](#)

Highways England have announced that the Secretary of State is not expected to make a decision on the proposed Morpeth - Ellingham scheme until early June 2022.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHIGHWAY/bulletins/303dead>

[The National NALC's December 2021 Legal Update](#)

We thought we'd take the opportunity to give a brief update and wish you a merry (and Covid free) Christmas and a restful break after what has been a busy year, particularly in respect of Covid related matters.

Covid guidance

We issued two sets of guidance following the Prime Minister's announcement on 8 December of a move to Covid Plan B in England. Given the increase in cases, the prevalence of the Omicron variant and the inability for local councils to hold remote meetings, we advised councils to consider not meeting in December if possible. At the time of writing it appears there will be no further changes pre-Christmas. We will update in the New Year if there are further developments or restrictions introduced which have an impact on the sector.

Fit notes

Employees can now self-certify sickness for up to 28 days (previously seven days) under the Statutory Sick Pay (Medical Evidence) Regulations 2021. Employees only need to attend a GP for a fit note if they have been ill for more than 28 days and have taken sick leave. This includes non-working days, such as weekends and bank holidays. The measure is intended as a short-term one to relieve the burden on GPs. The Regulations only apply to periods of sickness which either start during the period 17 December to 26 January or which commenced prior to 17 December but which have not lasted more than seven days on that date (and hence the requirement to provide medical evidence has not yet arisen).

Councillors attending meetings as members of the public?

We were asked recently if a councillor could attend a council meeting in a non-councillor capacity as a member of the public. Our answer was no. Councillors attend meetings as councillors and cannot attend their council's meetings as a member of the public or as a councillor and a member of the public.

Recent activity

In addition to the Covid guidance of this month, we updated and reissued a number of LTNs last month. They are LTN 65 (Closed churchyards and disused burial grounds), LTN 31 (Local council general powers) and LTN 5 (Parish and community council meetings). LTN 5 has been separated in to LTN 5W for Wales and LTN 5E for England.

With best regards.

NALC Legal

[Better design, greener outcomes?](#)

Alastair Lewis and Sarah Wertheim outline the latest National Planning Policy Framework changes and explain how future developments will be impacted by the new rules.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/sharpeedge/808-sharpeedge-planning/48979-the-revised-national-planning-policy-framework-better-design-greener-outcomes>

[The Environment Act 2021](#)

The Environment Act 2021, which received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021 following extensive debate in Parliament, introduces important requirements and changes for planners and developers, writes Ruth Keating.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/environment/767-environmental-features/49120-the-environment-act-2021>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact info@northumberlandalc.uk

NALC website: <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>

If you no longer wish to receive emails from NALC & CAN click this unsubscribe link:

[Unsubscribe from all emails](#)

If you want to choose which of our newsletters to receive click the update profile link:

[Update profile](#)