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**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**

**NALC Enews
8 December 2021**

**Please forward to all Councillors and
Staff**

Storm Arwen

As recovery continues, many Councils will be thinking of the lessons to be learnt and how they and their communities can be better prepared in the future.

On 7 December 2021 Cllr Glen Sanderson, Leader of the County Council, issued a statement calling for an inquiry. His statement is at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/ead1d152-d2ba-4443-ac93-6c24fad180d0/Storm Arwen Statement by Cllr Sanderson 7 Dec 2021.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/ead1d152-d2ba-4443-ac93-6c24fad180d0/Storm_Arwen_Statement_by_Cllr_Sanderson_7_Dec_2021.pdf)

Our colleagues at CAN will be dispatching the CAN Enews on Friday. This is to include information on designating village and community halls as rest centres in emergencies. Please email info@ca-north.org.uk to be added to the free circulation list.

The County Council's website has a civil emergencies section at

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Fire/Civil.aspx>

The City Council's page is

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-recycling-and-waste/emergencies>

By coincidence, on 24 November the House of Lords Select Committee on Risk Assessment and Risk Planning published their report on Preparing for Extreme Risks

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8082/documents/83124/default/>

We anticipate that future Member Council Updates will be able to provide more information over forthcoming weeks.

Coronavirus

The Govt.'s guidance for office working was updated last week and is at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/offices-factories-and-labs>

Clearly the emergence of the Omicron variant means that legislation and guidance may change at short notice.

The most up-to-date source is

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Briefings

We are sorry that the two briefings scheduled before Christmas have been postponed until the New Year due to County Council staff being involved in the recovery from Storm Arwen.

The revised schedule of briefings is shown below and 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

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

Digital / Remote Meetings

The Chief Executive of the national NALC has said

"We have been working with the LGA and others to lobby the government on remote council meetings. This included meeting officials this week to push them for an immediate response given the increased risks and tightening of restrictions, using examples of concerns raised by councils, including local councils, since the emergence of the Omnicron variant and the recent severe weather in some parts of the country. And I'm pleased that the author Emma Kennedy, who became a local councillor in May, is supporting the campaign and, as a local constituent of Michael Gove MP, met with him today to press the case. I will provide a further update on these meetings next week. However, in the meantime can I urge councils and councillors to consider using two model letters for councillors and councils to highlight the support of remote council meetings to your MP and ministers; these can be adapted and include examples of your own experiences."

The two model letters are at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/0f202ed9-e8ec-8141-e5dc-fc1afa952bab/Model_virtual_council_meetings_letters.docx

Rural Road Safety

Colleagues may be aware of the NFU campaign promoting safety of rural roads running alongside the Govt.'s consultation of possible changes to the Highway Code.

For the suggested changes, please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders>

For the NFU campaign, please see

<https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/campaigns/rural-road-safety/>

Reports and other articles of possible interest

Brownfield Land

CPRE have published a report on the state of brownfield in England which has found that previously developed land could accommodate over 1.3 million new homes – an increase of almost 10% on 2020.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/new-research-shows-recycled-brownfield-land-being-ignored/>

Affordable Housing Occupancy Conditions

Following a homeowner's Section 106 "conspiracy" claim, how can registered providers avoid risks when buying affordable housing? Suzanne Smith and Jennifer Eng explain

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/housing-law/315-housing-features/48959-purchasing-properties-bound-by-affordable-housing-occupancy-restrictions>

Man-shed Miscalculated

The Court of Appeal recently rejected an appeal by the owner of a building dubbed 'Britain's biggest man cave' over a ruling that he was in contempt of court of an injunction issued in 2018. Roderick Morton analyses the judgment.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/48909-man-shed-miscalculated>



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