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**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**

**NALC Enews
9 February 2022**

**Please forward to all Councillors and
Staff**

Standards Briefing - Thursday 10 February 2022

There are still places available for the digital briefing on Thursday 10 February 2022 starting at 7.00 pm.

Please use the link to book a place.

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

Conservation Area Briefing

Our apologies for the cancellation at short notice. This is being rearranged and existing bookings will remain valid.

Vacancy for a Clerk

Whittingham Callaly & Alnham Parish Council are looking for a new clerk. Please use the link for details.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/948af1ae-00e3-07be-8845-439df17f8138/WPC Advert for Parish Clerk 6.02.2022.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/948af1ae-00e3-07be-8845-439df17f8138/WPC_Advert_for_Parish_Clerk_6.02.2022.pdf)

The County Council's Storm Arwen Review

Just a reminder of the review which is seeking evidence. More details at

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2022/Jan/Storm-Arwen-review-gets-underway.aspx>

Submissions should be sent to

nccstormarwenreview@northumberland.gov.uk

Council Tax

The Secretary of State has confirmed that the referendum principles will not apply to parish, town and community councils for 2022/2023.

The national NALC continue to press for a longer term announcement, rather than on a year-by-year basis.

The Secretary of State's formal announcement is at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-02-07/hcws597>

Both the City and County Councils are awaiting details of the Bands A-D rebate announced by Govt.

The Levelling Up White Paper

On 2 February 2022 the long-awaited White Paper was published, long perhaps being an appropriate description as it is 322 pages. The published versions are graphic heavy but we have extracted the Executive Summary from the low-res version and this is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/2cbb2c37-5ddf-f038-a1b2-27b1c828e78e/Levelling_Up_Exec_Summary.pdf

The full range of documents are at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

We are starting to work through the paper, as are the national NALC, but would welcome any comments from colleagues please.

Platinum Jubilee Flags

The National Association of Civic Officers have circulated advice from the DDCMS on flags for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The request was prompted by the variety of

designs currently being marketed.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for issuing guidance to all UK Government Buildings regarding flying the Union flag on designated days, and where appropriate when to fly the Union flag at half-mast.

With regard to your query, I contacted the College of Arms, the Crown body with responsibility for flags and other heraldic matters for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Whilst the Royal Household has said via guidance on its website that the Emblem can be used on flags, the examples included in the guidance shows the Emblem on a plain background.

The College has advised that the version of the Union Flag with Emblem at the centre would first need to be considered by the Garter at Arms (principal adviser to the Sovereign of the United Kingdom with respect to flag-flying, ceremony and heraldry) before being submitted to HM The Queen for approval which is the usual practice with such flags.

The College recommends that the better flag would be the logo on a plain background. Please see guidance regarding the Emblem and its use, which you may wish to share with your colleagues.'

The guidance is at

<https://www.royal.uk/queens-platinum-jubilee-emblem>

Reports and other articles of possible interest

[January Planning Bulletin from Historic England](#)

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

The revised Highway Code

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

The report of an inquiry into rural health and care inequalities

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/images/publications/RuralHealthandCareAPPGInquiryRep.pdf>

Refusal of an application to register land as a village green

The County Council's Tynedale Local Area Council is to consider a report next week with a report recommending refusal of the application. The first 19 pages (of 409) are the officer and inspector's reports which summarise the law and issues.

The report is available via

<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=1470>

Supporting Local Growth/Recovery

The National Audit Office have issued a report considering the lessons learned from a long history of implementing local growth policies. It examines how it has applied these lessons to the one-year UK Community Renewal Fund and the following place-based interventions:

- Levelling Up Fund;
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- Towns Fund; and

- Freeports

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/supporting-local-economic-recovery/>

Assets of Community Value

The High Court has ruled that a council's refusal to list local sports field as an asset of community value was unlawful. Jenny Wigley QC analyses the judgment.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/property/313-property-features/49486-listing-assets-of-community-value>



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

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

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