

**Stephen Rickitt**

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## Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews**  
**12 September 2017**

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### **LC AGM**

Association's AGM is being held Saturday 7 October 2017. The agenda and annual report are being sent to Member Councils today.

The meeting will include a discussion on Localism, with Jonathan Owen (the national NALC Chief Executive) in the chair. There is no charge but we're encouraging bookings through the Eventbrite link below, so we can judge the number of teas and coffees.

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-agm-pegswood-tickets-37905940689>

## ining

reminder of the Training being held on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 7.00 pm in Dinnington.  
s and booking is through the following link

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-introduction-to-local-councils-newcastle-tickets-37414416527>

## ad Charging

government proposals would allow local authorities to charge utility companies by the hour to carry  
on selected routes, encouraging them to avoid busy roads and peak times, and incentivising them  
together when they do need to dig up congested routes.

details are at the link

<http://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-proposals-to-cut-congestion-on-our-busiest-ro>

## ngemaking

time of intense financial pressures and when central government's mind is on other things, many a  
g themselves where local government goes next. In a think-piece launching NLGN's new vision, Ad  
and Jessica Studdert call for councils to embrace a bold 'changemaking' approach focused on the c  
s of creativity, collaboration and self-determination.

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2017/a-changemaking-vision-for-local-government/>

## Planning Decisions and the involvement of the Courts

court of Appeal recently considered a challenge to a planning decision and made some interesting  
ments about the approach to be taken. The opening part of paragraph 41 is below

Planning Court – and this court too – must always be vigilant against excessive legalism infecting t  
ing system. A planning decision is not akin to an adjudication made by a court (see paragraph 50 o  
ment in *Barwood v East Staffordshire Borough Council*). The courts must keep in mind that the func  
nning decision-making has been assigned by Parliament, not to judges, but – at local level – to ele  
illors with the benefit of advice given to them by planning officers, most of whom are professional  
ers, and – on appeal – to the Secretary of State and his inspectors. They should remember too tha  
g of planning policy is not an end in itself, but a means to achieving reasonably predictable decisio

g, consistent with the aims of the policy-maker."

ull judgment is at <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2017/1314.html>

## Employee's Emails

's been some media comment on a recent decision by the European Court of Human Rights on whether an employer can monitor an employee's emails.

nk is to a legal article

[http://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=32427%3Amonitoring-employees-communications-the-final-word&catid=57&Itemid=25](http://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=32427%3Amonitoring-employees-communications-the-final-word&catid=57&Itemid=25)

## Gypsies and Travellers

House of Commons Library have produced an interesting paper which provides an overview of the issues and policies relating to Gypsy and Traveller communities in England. The paper examines a range of issues including: inequalities, racial discrimination, accommodation needs, illegal encampments, health and education outcomes, employment rates, welfare reform and evidence of over-representation in the criminal justice system.

available via

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8083>



*If you have any comments or observations, please contact*

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