

Stephen Rickitt

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Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

NALC Enews

22 May 2018

One Community

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has worked with the Local Government Association (LGA) to launch a new guide setting out how principal and local councils can work more effectively in partnership. What is especially pleasing is that one of our members, Choppington Parish Council, is a case study.
<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1016-nalc-launches-one-community-guide-with-the-lga>

Training in June 2018

Three events are planned, all being An Introduction to Local Councils. Despite the title, longer-serving Councillors may find it of assistance in keeping up with the changes in recent years. All start at 7.00 pm. Please use the links below for more information and booking.

11 June 2018 - Powburn

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-introduction-to-local-councils-north-northumberland-tickets-44226974070>

14 June 2018 - Bedlington Station

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-introduction-to-local-councils-centralsouth-east-northumberland-tickets-44227100448>

20 June 2018 - Wylam

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-introduction-to-local-councils-west-northumberland-tickets-44227363234>

Standards

1: Dr Jane Martin, one of the members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, has written an article on the current review of local government standards.

https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35337%3Astandards-matter&catid=59&Itemid=27

2: There has been a very recent High Court judgment dealing with the relationship between the standards regime in the Localism Act and a parish council's internal grievance and other procedures. I expect both the national NALC and the SLCC will be issuing guidance when they have had the opportunity to read it carefully. The case involved Ledbury Town Council, Herefordshire.

Brownfield Sites

There have been two recent inspector's decisions which may be of interest as they deal with when does a brownfield site change its status

1: **Wartime demolition does not justify green belt home:**

An inspector has rejected plans to 'replace' a house near Solihull that was demolished in 1941 as part of the war effort with a new dwelling, finding unacceptable harm to the green belt.

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3193029&CoID=0>

2: **Historic hospital site in green belt not 'previously developed':**

An inspector has refused a residential scheme on the site of a former isolation hospital near Barnsley because the land has been 'given over to vegetation' and cannot be considered 'previously developed'.

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3194996&CoID=0>

Data Protection

The Bill is still in the "ping-pong" stage between the Houses of Commons and Lords. It does seem that the Lords may have deferred to the Commons on the Leveson Inquiry issues.

The Bill should therefore receive the Royal Assent later this week, thereby finally confirming that Parish Councils do not have to appoint a data protection officer.

Access to Elected Office for Disabled People

There was a written statement to Parliament last week. Extracts are below and the link is to the full statement

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-05-17/HCWS695>

The Government Equalities Office, together with the Office for Disability Issues and the Cabinet Office, will consult with disability stakeholders to undertake a programme of work over the next 12 months to help both major and smaller political parties best support disabled candidates.

While this work is ongoing we want to ensure that disabled people can run for office, so we are announcing a fund of up to £250,000 to support disabled candidates, primarily for the forthcoming English local elections in 2019. We will set out further details about the scheme in the near future and any measures taken to ensure such costs are not considered to be part of a candidate's election expenses.



If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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