

**From:** Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>  
**Sent:** 22 May 2019 13:22  
**To:** NALC Info  
**Subject:** NALC Enews 22 May 2019

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## Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews**  
**22 May 2019**

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### **Emails to Member Councils**

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils have been sent the following emails.

- National Park - Draft Local Plan - 8 May 2019
- Census (Reminder) - 9 May 2019
- Events (including Chairmanship and VAT) - 9 May 2019
- Operation London Bridge - 21 May 2019

If your Council has not received a copy, please let me know.

## **Contact Details for the Chairmen of Member Councils**

We like to send emails to both the Chairman and the Clerk of a Member Council. This helps to minimise the danger of emails not getting through.

As we are coming to the end of the Annual Meeting cycle, could I please ask that we are informed the email for your Chairman/Chair/Mayor if they have not received the latest email mentioned above.

I use Chairman as that is the term used in the legislation.

## **New Legal Topic Notes**

The national NALC have updated two

- LTN 21 - Local Council Help to Village Halls
- LTN 24 - Human Rights

Both are available in the Members area of the national website <http://www.nalc.gov.uk>

The log-in and password is available to Member Councils on request. I can also email copies of the LTNs to Member Councils.

## **Precepts**

Earlier this year, MHCLG reported that the average rise in precept for our sector was 5.7% for 2019/2020. This caused some concern that it might lead Govt. to think about introducing the Council Tax "Cap"

on some/all Local Councils.

The figure has now been recalculated as 4.9% falling correction of data from some billing authorities.

The national NALC's CX said

"In short, this means the average increase in our small share of council tax remained the same as last year, clearly showing our councils have continued to invest in communities while demonstrating the "restraint" expected by ministers".

## Spotlight

The national NALC are keen to promote Northern entries for Spotlight.

### NALC Council Spotlight

The local council sector does incredible work each year for their communities and NALC wants it to be celebrated. Being NALC's Council Spotlight gives you the opportunity to see your hard work showcased by the sectors only longest standing national body. Council Spotlight will recognise your council, communities and individuals as well as partners that have championed the great work in the local council sector. From innovative ideas to lobbying for funding, from grassroots projects to getting more control from district councils.

Being NALC's Council Spotlight is a free, simple and quick process. No forms with endless pages. No credit card details. No taking up your lunch break.

1. Simply download the form at <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/councilspotlight>
2. Complete the form with relevant details
3. Email the form to [councilspotlight@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:councilspotlight@nalc.gov.uk)

## Planning Inspectorate Emails - an announcement from PINS

Please be aware that the Planning Inspectorate recently changed its email address. All Planning Inspectorate email addresses now end with [@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Our old email address ending of @pins.gsi.gov.uk will remain live for a period of time and all communications sent to @pins.gsi.gov.uk email addresses will be automatically forwarded to the new address.

In the meantime, we recommend that you update your records and templates with the new @planninginspectorate.gov.uk email address as soon as possible.

## **Challenging Development Proposals**

The Law Society's Gazette recently reported an unsuccessful case brought by Parish Council seeking damages and are now facing a large costs bill.

It's a salutary reminder of the dangers of embarking on litigation.

Details are at <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/council-faces-huge-legal-bill-after-nuns-cleared-over-fraud-conspiracy/5070246.article>

## **Cemetery of the Year Awards 2019**

In 2019, there is a special category for Parish, Town and Community Councils. Details will be at <http://www.cemeteryoftheyear.org.uk> from 31 March.

## **Research and Items which may be of interest**

[1: Hitting Reset - a case for local leadership](#)

This is a report from Localis available via <http://www.localis.org.uk/events/report-launch-hitting-reset-case-local-leadership/>

## 2: Streaming

This is a short item from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Although from an American perspective, I found it of interest. It's on pages 6 and 17

via <https://www.iimc.com/DocumentCenter/View/2412>

## 3: Allotments

Kirklees Council recently lost a High Court Case when they tried to argue that allotments were not "Statutory Allotments". It's an illuminating though technical judgment

at <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2019/1129.html>

## 4: Road Lengths

I came across this statistical information.

Road length statistics for publicly maintained roads in Great Britain.

In 2018, the total road length was estimated to be 246,700 miles.

By road type, there were:

- 31,800 miles of major road, accounting for 13% of total road length
- 214,900 miles of minor road, accounting for 87% of total road length

Statistics on road length do not reflect alterations to the width or number of lanes on sections of road.

Details are via <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/road-lengths-in-great-britain-2018>



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***If you have any comments or observations, please contact  
Stephen Rickitt, NALC Chief Officer [stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk](mailto:stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk)***

or

***Louise Currie, Community Initiatives Officer [louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk)***

***Our website is at <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>***

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