

Stephen Rickitt

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Sent: 27 September 2017 10:03
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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews
26 September 2017

NALC AGM Saturday 7 October 2017

Just a reminder of the AGM, when Jonathan Owen, the national NALC CX, will lead a discussion on localism.

Please use the Eventbrite link below to book a free place. We're using Eventbrite so we get an idea of the number of teas and coffees.

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

Free Course - Chairing Meetings

Northumberland CC have a number of free places on Chairing Meetings Master Classes being held at County Hall on Wednesday 4 October. These are being offered to Town and Parish Council Members.

The sessions are: 12.30pm - 2.30pm or 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

There are currently 6 places available for the 12.30pm session and 8 places on the 3.00pm session.

If you are interested, please email Jenienne Hinchcliffe by lunchtime on Monday 2 October 2017. Her email is jenienne.hinchcliffe@northumberland.gov.uk

Transparency Fund

If your Parish Council has a turnover below £25k, then the Council is entitled to apply for a grant from the Transparency Fund. The grant can cover the cost of equipment and staff time in achieving compliance with the Transparency Code. Funds are limited and will not be available after early February 2018, and that assumes the fund has not been exhausted by the.

The type of equipment are computers, scanners and software, and assistance towards costs of a website. It is possible to seek a retrospective application in some circumstances for recent purchases.

More details are at <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/the-transparency-fund>

Housing & Neighbourhood Planning

The national NALC CX has advised us as follows

- Following the publication of their housing White Paper, DCLG has now launched a consultation '[Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals](#)' with proposed changes to planning policy design and legislation. Our [policy consultation briefing in the members area of the NALC website](#) explains more and invites you to tell us what you think about the proposals, so can I urge you to take a few minutes to read and respond.
- Given the starring role our councils are playing in neighbourhood planning – since 2012 over 2,200 groups have started the neighbourhood planning process with over 90 per cent led by our councils – we have continued to press government to provide the support councils need such as grants and technical help. Hence I'm pleased DCLG have just announced a [funding package worth £22.8 million](#) to help communities through the provision of specialist support.

Citizens Advice in Northumberland

All Councils in Northumberland should have received, or will shortly receive, an email from the CAB about changes from 2 October 2017. If your Council has not received a copy, please let me know and I will forward it.

Parks

Colleagues may recall a Select Committee report on Public Parks issued in February 2017. The Govt. has now published a response available via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-select-committee-report-the-future-of-public-parks>

Consultation on Standards

The DCLG have issued a consultation on possibly adding certain types of court order to those which disqualify a person from being a Councillor.

The NALC County Committee will be considering a response at their November meeting and members' views are very much welcomed please.

The consultation is available via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/disqualification-criteria-for-councillors-and-mayors>

Planning and Environmental Law

The Law Society has produced a roundup of notable recent policy developments, appointments, practice guidance and other changes.

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/stories/planning-and-environmental-legislation-update-september-2017/>



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

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