

From: Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>
Sent: 05 February 2019 14:19
To: Stephen Rickitt
Subject: NALC Enews 5 February 2019

[View this email in your browser](#)



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews
5 February 2019

Emails to Member Councils

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

- Parish Councils & Community Companies - 30 Jan 2019
- CPSL Ethics Report - 30 Jan 2019
- The County Council's Town & Parish Liaison Working Group - 5 Feb 2019

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

Vacancies for Clerks

Two Member Councils have vacancies

Alnmouth

Alnmouth Parish Council is looking to appoint a Clerk, to work around 30 hours per month, paid according to the NJC hourly pay scale. This varies according to experience, but from April 2019 will be in the region of £9 to £10 per hr (+ expenses).

The position requires good financial, administrative, organisational, computer and communication skills. The Clerk will work from home, apart from 11 evening meetings per year. Previous experience of Local Government or Parish Council work is not required.

If you would like to more information, please call Shaun Whyte (Chair) on 07717 448354

If you wish to apply, please send your CV and covering letter to:-
shaunwhyte851@gmail.com

Longhirst

Longhirst Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk. The Council meets 6 times a year and Longhirst is a small rural parish with around 500 residents.

Applicants are invited to contact the Chairman, Catherine Farrell at catherinefarrell@live.co.uk by Friday 7 March enclosing details of experience and qualifications, etc..

VAT - Making Tax Digital

Member Councils and their Clerks may have come across reference to HMRC moving to on-line only forms and revised software being required. As far as we know this only will apply to those Councils who are registered for VAT.

Those Councils who submit the claim for a VAT refund using Form 126 do not need to obtain new software. The caveat above is that at some stage in the future HMRC may change the Form 126 system but I have not seen any hint of that at the moment.

Election Staff

The County Council's Election Team are seeking staff for the Mayoral Election on 2 May 2019 and have asked that I draw the details below to your attention. Many Councils may have been sent this direct.

On Thursday 2 May, the North of Tyne Mayoral Election will take place.

This is a combined authority election for the The North of Tyne Combined Authority that covers the local authority areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

The Elected Mayor will chair the board of the North of Tyne Combined Authority and will have a number of specific powers. These relate to being able to:

set up Mayoral Development Corporations to support delivery on strategic sites across the North of Tyne; some compulsory purchase powers; and the power to set a council tax precept to pay for the Elected Mayor's work (in agreement with the local authorities).

Ahead of this election, we are recruiting for a full suite of paid roles including polling station staff, verification staff and postal vote staff.

We need:

Conscientious polling station staff to work in all the towns and villages within Northumberland all day on election day.

Fast and accurate counters to work overnight at the verification of votes in Blyth.

Efficient staff to help with verifying postal votes in Morpeth.

Click here <https://sites.google.com/northumberland.gov.uk/cam-election-staffapplication/home> to find all information you will need to apply, including full job and the application form.

Kind regards

Nicola Milne

Elections Assistant

Northumberland County Council

County Hall, Morpeth

Northumberland, NE61 2EF

The Child Trust Fund

The following may be a useful item for newsletter which are circulated in your community.

The Child Trust Fund was a Govt. scheme which ran from 2002 to 2010. If money was placed in the scheme, then some children will be coming to an age when they could take control of the account.

Details are at <https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds>

Commonwealth Day

The National Association of Civic Officers have circulated the details below, flags are now inexpensive and can be obtained from a number of sources

Commonwealth Day this year falls on Monday 11th March. In common with Commonwealth countries around the world, the Commonwealth flag will be flown that day on civic buildings across the United Kingdom.

If your Council is planning a flag raising ceremony you may wish to have a few words by way of background that can be kept in mind when thinking about speeches.

During the past four years Commonwealth Day has, in part, been the occasion on which Councils have remembered the part played by troops from across the Commonwealth in the First World War. As we move forward, the Day now provides an annual opportunity to celebrate the contemporary role of the Commonwealth and the part it plays in world affairs.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states, of which the United Kingdom is one. It is home to 2.4 billion people and includes both advanced economies and developing countries. Thirty-one of its members are small states, many of which are island nations. In its Charter the countries of the Commonwealth have committed to creating and sustaining a Commonwealth that is mutually respectful, resilient, peaceful and prosperous and that cherishes equality, diversity and shared values.

Each year a theme is chosen for Commonwealth Day and this year's theme is A Connected Commonwealth. It focusses on the ways in which the Commonwealth works together to protect our natural environment and the ocean that we share and cooperates on trade to encourage inclusive economic empowerment for all people - particularly women, youth and marginalised communities.

As members of the Commonwealth family we can all seek to collaborate with others in a spirit of goodwill to build a peaceful and abundant future for all Commonwealth citizens.

As Head of the Commonwealth The Queen will issue a Commonwealth Day Message which will appear on the Buckingham Palace Website from 00.01 on 11th March (<http://www.royal.uk>) . The message can be downloaded and read at local ceremonies. If you wish, the Commonwealth Secretary-General's message can also be used and that will appear on the Commonwealth Secretariat website <http://www.thecommonwealth.org>

If your Council is planning to fly the Commonwealth Flag on 11th March, but is not holding a ceremony then do use social media to publicise the fact and feel free to link to The Queen's message.

Ancient Woodland - A press release from the RTPI

Planning has a key role in protecting ancient woodland and trees which are threatened by the cumulative effects of inappropriate developments on their fringes as much as permanent loss and damage.

The RTPI said large-scale housing, intensive agriculture, roads, campsites and golf courses that have been sited inappropriately would have adverse “edge effects” on ancient woodlands and wildlife.

Together with the Woodland Trust, the institute has developed a one-hour training module that highlights planning’s key part in protecting ancient woodland and trees, and what tools are available to planners to help.

The training module applies to the planning regimes in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It emphasises the mitigating measures that can be enforced through strong conditions and legal agreements with developers in order to reduce the effect of indirect impact on ancient woodland. Mitigating measures include:

- Producing an access management plan for the woodland.
- Providing alternative natural green space to reduce visitor pressure.
- Woodland restoration and management.

The Woodland Trust highlights that just 2 per cent of land in the UK is covered by ancient woodland, designated as such because they have been continuously wooded since at least 1600. Government guidance recommends that local authorities should refuse permission for development that result in the loss of ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees, except in exceptional cases. However, the

training points out that ancient woodland is not a formal statutory designation. The evidence used to designate a site as ancient woodland could still be open to challenge by developers and other parties, explains the trust.

Broadcaster and barrister Clive Anderson, president of the Woodland Trust, said: "Ancient woodlands are the most biodiverse in the UK, a critical carbon store and a haven for humans and wildlife. I am proud that the Woodland Trust and the RTPI have come together to work on this important module. Planners work on the front line, shaping the places we live in now and in the future. By understanding the value of ancient woods and trees, I hope planners will give full weight to the benefit trees in general and ancient woodlands in particular are to all of us."

Sarah Lewis, policy officer at the RTPI, added: "There are many case studies in the training module that demonstrate that it is possible for planners to utilise existing legislation, tools and best practice to undertake high-quality developments that respect and protect ancient woodlands and trees. The fact that ancient woodlands and trees are irreplaceable makes it all the more important that we do our part in protecting them."

30 January 2019

Laura Edgar, The Planner



**If you have any comments or observations, please contact
Stephen Rickitt, NALC Chief Officer stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk**

or

Louise Currie, Community Initiatives Officer louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk

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

If you no longer wish to receive NALC E news click here:

{unsubscribe}Unsubscribe{/unsubscribe}

This email was sent to stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Community Action Northumberland · UNIUN Enterprise Building · Front St · Pegswood, Northumberland NE61 6UF · United Kingdom

