

**From:** Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 October 2018 10:05  
**To:** Stephen Rickitt  
**Subject:** NALC Enews 9 October 2018

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## Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews  
9 October 2018**

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### **Parliamentary Briefings**

The House of Commons Library has produced two lengthy briefings which may be of interest

[The Agriculture Bill - 83 Pages](#)

The Agriculture Bill provides for a range of enabling powers to ensure "stability" for farmers as the UK exits from the EU's Common Agricultural

Policy and compliance with the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture. It also introduces new measures to change the way in which farmers and land managers are supported in the longer term.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8405>

What next for Planning in England - 94 pages

This briefing examines some of the main changes in the updated National Planning Policy Framework (published in July 2018), focussing primarily on the questions Members most often raise with the Commons Library.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8260>

## **Complaints to the Ombudsman**

The Ombudsman produces a weekly email giving summaries of their cases, including those which they will not investigate.

The latest summary refers to some planning complaints submitted by Parish Councils in other parts of the country which are not being investigated as the law does not allow the Ombudsman to investigate complaints submitted by public bodies.

It's a useful reminder as Local Councils are occasionally asked to submit complaints.

## **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)**

DEFRA has produced guidance, including details of any restrictions on how income from FPNs can be spent.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fixed-penalty-notices-issuing-and-enforcement-by-councils>

## **Flood Friday Videos**

Insurance is the subject of the latest Flood Friday video produced by the Environment Agency.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrvUOmcUp2g>

## **The national NALC and SLCC**

The national NALC met representatives from the Society of Local Council Clerks last week. The national CX has written to say

"NALC and the SLCC met on 27 September to discuss a range of mutual interests including:

- A discussion of the future of the sector post-Brexit Britain, recognising that local (parish and town) councils had a great opportunity to help the country respond to current challenges as the first tier of local government
- Consideration of the need for a workforce development strategy to underpin these developments, with an agreement, agreed to consider this further through the Improvement and Development Board
- Noting good joint working between the organisations, particularly on improvement and audit, with a number of areas for closer collaboration identified for further consideration
- Exploring how to improve behaviours in the sector and the following statement was agreed: "NALC and SLCC are concerned that relationships in some councils between clerks and councillors, and sometimes between councillors, are not what they should be in the first tier of local government. We recommend our members consider this seriously and take steps accordingly. We will be

jointly issuing guidelines and supporting material, in advance of next year's elections, identifying key steps that need to be taken to help ensure that these relationships are as positive as they can be enabling councils to focus on meeting the needs of their communities. These steps will include positive values, up-to-date procedures, effective recruitment and retention, and a commitment to continuous improvement."

## **CCTV and GDPR**

The Information Commissioner's Office have placed a webinar on YouTube at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuK32A\\_uEAs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuK32A_uEAs&feature=youtu.be)

## **Publication of Northumberland's 2019 Electoral Register**

The County Council's Elections Office have written to say

"Due to a number of parish by-elections and local planning referendums, earlier in the year we made the decision to postpone the publication of the revised register, due on 1st December. The revised register will now be published on 1st February 2019 (RPA 1983, section 13(1A),13(2) and 13 A(1)).

If you receive monthly register updates from us, please be aware that there will be October & November updates as a result of this and no publication on December or January.

Parish Clerks wishing to request a copy of the register may do so by submitting a register request form, which is available from the Elections Office."



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

