

Stephen Rickitt

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Sent: 10 July 2018 10:03
To: Stephen Rickitt
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Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

NALC Enews

10 July 2018

Office 365

One of the issues which has come to light during our move to Office 365 is sending bulk emails, such as those to the Chairmen and Clerks of Member Council.

Previously, we have been using the MailWasher service installed on a CAN PC.

We have now been advised that it would be better to use MailChimp. Over the next week or so, we will be checking the addresses in Mailchimp but if there have been recent changes of either the Chairman or the Clerk, please let me know.

Freedom of Information

The Cabinet Office have just published a revised Code of Practice for public authorities available at the link below.

On an initial read through the following points struck me

- The right is to information, not to a document - Para 1.6

- Applicants cannot make a valid request using a pseudonym - Para 1.14
- Dealing with vexatious requests - a full chapter - Part 7
- Confidentiality and Contracts - another full chapter - Part 9

I shall be studying the Code and anticipate sending a more detailed note to Member Council over the next few weeks. I would welcome any other thoughts from Member Councils/Councillors/Clerks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/freedom-of-information-code-of-practice>

High Streets

Many Councils are concerned about the problems faced by Town Centres. In 2013 the Grimsey Review, an alternative Future for the High Street, was published.

An updated report has now been issued and is available at the link.

<http://www.vanishinghighstreet.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GrimseyReview2.pdf>

The importance of the study is evidenced by the Comments of the Royal Town Planning Institute who gave a commentary at

<https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/councils-need-powers-to-ensure-high-street-properties-are-not-empty>

The Environment Agency / Flood Wardens

Colin Hall from the Agency is co-ordinating the recruitment of Flood Wardens saying.

"The project aim is to increase the awareness of Flood Resilience and Flood Safety across the North East, with myself as the Community Engagement Officer for Northumberland and three colleagues covering Durham and Darlington, Cleveland and Tyne and Wear. I am currently engaging with numerous local communities across Northumberland to increase their flood resilience by starting a Community Flood Plan and setting up Flood Warden Groups. Flood Wardens are community volunteers who support their communities during flooding incidents – including activating a community's flood action plan, ensuring the most vulnerable in their community are safe and working closely with the Environment Agency. There are Flood Plans and Warden Groups set up for numerous communities in Northumberland, but we are always looking to recruit new wardens and start plans to protect communities that may be at risk of flooding, who are yet to develop a plan. If anyone is interested in volunteering as a Flood Warden or lives in a community that would like support to set up a group and start a Flood Plan, they can contact me on colin.hall@environment-agency.gov.uk or 020 77140547."

There is more in the leaflet at

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e904c8e2-5dfc-467b-b38f-02045e5bdaf3/The_role_of_a_Flood_Warden.pdf

and an application form at

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e1131ca0-b8eb-4e5b-8dd5-5f29eb254464/Interested_in_being_a_Warden_form.doc

CCTV

The House of Commons Library has produced an interesting paper on "CCTV surveillance by your neighbour" available at

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN01803>

Councils with, or considering, CCTV should read the letter sent by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner to the president of the national NALC at

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/5060a2022e1081d67b added9b3a/files/c0dc5110-e549-4266-8169-332066872d4c/NALC_PoFA_2903181_1_.pdf

The draft Northumberland Local Plan

A PDF version of the maps is available at the link. It's 183 pages so please find the ones of interest to you.

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/Northumberland-Local-PLan-Reg-18-Policies-map-Compressed.pdf>

There is an interactive version at

<http://northumberland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4bfd486ae75645bf8a286ef5caf44fc5>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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