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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
26 May 2020
Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Coronavirus Information

The following sources of information are available

The national NALC

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk>.

The Govt's Coronavirus page

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Health & Safety Executive

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/index.htm>

The City Council

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus.aspx>

Community Action Northumberland

<http://ca-north.org.uk/supporting-individuals/covid-19>

Office for National Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases>

Loosening Lockdown

On Monday, the government announced a series of dates for loosening of the lockdown restrictions that apply to retail see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-timeline-for-retail-to-reopen-in-june>

This is accompanied by **updated** guidance on how to assess and manage risk to be able to re-open shops and branches. This guidance includes a list of the types of shops that will be able to re-open which includes a number that many local councils may run or manage such as gift shops and retail spaces in theatres, museums, libraries, heritage sites and tourism sites, indoor and outdoor markets and craft fairs. The guidance is at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/shops-and-branches>

Vacancy for a Clerk

Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish Council are seeking a new clerk. Details at the link below.

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/1c0f9f1e-2fe5-4f10-ae74-ce4a067ff7de/WCAPC_vacancy_for_clerk.docx

Vacancy for a Clerk

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/04d1f08f-97fc-4d32-b658-2596fb7b9ac6/Vacancy_for_Eglingham_Parish_Council_clerk_.docx

The national NALC's LCR Spring Edition goes digital

The Spring edition of NALC's flagship magazine, *LCR*, is now available to read, for free, online

at <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1480-spring-edition-of-nalc-lcr-magazine-goes-digital%20>

So, you can now scroll through the issue to study must-read information and practical advice.

Included in this issue is a special section related to the coronavirus, with articles on:

- how to manage your volunteers,
- how you have been responding to and leading on the pandemic, and
- how to keep your momentum going while you are working from home.

Plus, you can gather tips and inspiration from our other articles, including ones on:

- councils that are successfully engaging with their young people,
- councils making strides on the climate change emergency, and
- our comprehensive round-up of what you believe needs to be done to encourage more candidates to stand for local election.

There's so much more for you to read, so take a look.

Planning in Northumberland

Local Councils in Northumberland are currently only receiving details of planning applications by email. The County Council's Director of Planning has asked that if a Council receives such an email, then they should let the case officer know if they have any comments or not.

One possible phrase to consider is

"The XYZ Parish Council have no matters that they wish to draw to the attention of the local planning authority" with the title of the email giving the application number and site address.

It also helps the case officer if the title also includes words to the effect "Parish Council Comment", "Parish Council Support" or "Parish Council Objection".

In the next few days we hope to be sending Member Councils more details of the County Council's procedure for dealing with applications during the pandemic.

Fire Safety Training

CAN are organising an on-line 30 minute course at 2.00 pm on Thursday 4 June 2020. Details are below. To express an interest, please email christinenicholls@ca-north.org.uk

We are working with the fire service to deliver a 30 minute training session on fire safety aimed at our Warm Hub buildings. This training is free and is available live and online using Google meets. Joining instructions will follow for those interested but it is a very straight forward and secure process, we will ensure everyone is set up prior to the course. The topics to be covered are listed below. There will be time for a questions and answer session after the presentation. Please have a pen and paper handy so you can make a note of any questions during the presentation. The fire service will be happy to follow-up with any organisations who need additional support after the course.

Date: Thursday 4th June 2020, the session will start at 2 pm prompt, check in time will be 15 minutes prior to the start.

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- raising the alarm in the event of a fire
- training if necessary
- testing and maintenance
- fire risk assessment

Please can you let me know if you are interested in taking part and we will ensure we get you connected, there is no restriction on numbers, so we would love to extend the invitation to anyone who works in a community building, please feel free to circulate.

Diverting Public Rights of Way

There's an interesting legal note at the link below setting out the legal criteria for seeking a diversion of a public right of way.

<https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/property/313-property-features/43741-the-power-to-make-a-public-path-diversion-order>

The Financial Ombudsman

The national NALC have circulated the note at the link below saying "

"Please find attached a helpful note from the Financial Ombudsman Service which sets out some of the relevant tests for a complaint to be considered within the jurisdiction of the Financial Ombudsman Service.

FOS say it is difficult to say exactly whether a complainant will be within its jurisdiction until it is tested in the individual case.

Hopefully this note will be a useful reference tool."

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/eccb7dd7-77a0-49d9-ab88-8810fbca8072/FOS_jurisdiction_note.pdf

The Newcastle & Northumberland Local Council of the Year 2020

We are repeating the challenge again this year, particularly with all the excellent work being done during the current National

We are anxious that good practice is recorded and shared, as well as being rewarded. Too often Local Councils are the subject of adverse comments and this is one way of redressing the balance.

The closing date is 30 September 2020.

There is no set format but please use email to set out your entry, and/or to attach further information. You should say why you consider your Council should be the Council of the Year.

The process is set out below

- A. Invitations are invited
- B. A panel of five is convened from members of the Committee, excluding any Councillor who is a member of one of the candidate Councils
- C. That the Panel awards Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes by 31 October 2020
- D. A modest trophy is given to each Council, being presented at one of their meetings by a senior member of the Committee
- E. Every Entry is given a certificate

Annual Leave

Just to say that I shall be on leave for the week commencing 1 June 2020, returning to "the office" on Tuesday 9 June.

Stephen



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

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