



## **(ALMOST!) WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE...**

*To those of you that have missed receiving your weekly E-News update, I apologise. With the LALC Conference & AGM, a trip to the NALC Offices, staff holiday and then attendance at the NALC Conference & AGM we have completely run out of time the last 3 weeks. Therefore, this edition is much larger than usual to cram in all the information over the last few weeks. I hope you find it as informative and useful as always.*

*We are always looking to hear your thoughts on the services we offer, therefore if anyone would like to share their feedback on the news publications we share, we would be happy to hear your comments!*

*Thank you for your patience...*

*-Amy, Katrina & Lindsey*

### **A word from the Chief Executive**

Just a quick word to thank Amy and Lindsey for their hard work which made the AGM & Conference a successful day. Amy and I, along with LALC's President and Chairman also attended the NALC AGM and conference last week as Amy reported, so office cover has been fairly scarce for the past few weeks, so apologies if you have been waiting for responses to queries or unable to contact us by phone.

On that note, please could I remind Councils of our duties. whilst some of our duties overlap, generally they are:

Lindsey Westman: Finance – invoicing & payments; training bookings and queries; website registration; clerk updates, office management

Amy Bestwick: Training & media – training events and feedback; e-news and quarterly newsletter articles and information; website updates and information including good news stories; general queries

Katrina Evans: Legal & HR – most queries relating to council law and employment; training delivery; LALC AGM & Conference, County Committee, NALC and Principal Authority matters

Recently a few emails have been sent to Lindsey with queries late on a Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday (which are not her working days), therefore not seeing them until a Friday and then forwarding them onto myself, often meaning that I do not have first sight of them until the following Monday. Where matters may be fairly urgent, Councils are then perhaps frustrated that they have not received a response. Therefore, setting out our duties briefly will hopefully prevent you having to wait for an answer. In saying this, there will be occasions when I am out of the office on training or at meetings, but I do have access to my emails via the office phone and can respond as soon as is practicably possible.

### **NALC Open Day**

On 17 October, Katrina & Amy joined colleagues from county associations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Essex, Leicestershire and Rutland and Yorkshire, as well as Hebden Royd Town Council, at the NALC offices for their latest open day. These days are run to enable new staff at county associations, councillors on committees as well as new member councils to meet NALC's officers and put names to faces as well as finding out more about their work.

You can book a place at NALC's next open day on 24 March 2020 by contacting [farhana.miah@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:farhana.miah@nalc.gov.uk) for more information.

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## **LALC's First Ever Clerks Networking Day in Association with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)**

LALC are currently in the process of organising our first ever Clerk's Networking Day! This will be in conjunction with the SLCC Lincoln branch AGM on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Cranwell Village Hall.**

The overview of the day will be as follows:

9.30-10.00	Arrival, Networking & Refreshments
10:00– 10:30	Mindfulness Session – Amy Bestwick, LALC
10:30 – 11:30	Wellbeing & Mental Health in the Workplace – ELAS
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:30	Lincolnshire SLCC AGM
12:30 – 1:30	Christmas Buffet Lunch & Secret Santa Gift Exchange
1:30 – 2:30	'Life as a Clerk' – Linda Larter, SLCC
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	Training & CPD Forum – led by Charlotte Eisenhart, NALC

The cost of the day is £15.00 to include lunch and refreshments. To reserve your place please contact Lindsey at [lindsey.westman@lalc.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.westman@lalc.co.uk)

## **LALC'S Conference and AGM 2019:** **Another HUGE success!**

**LALC held their Annual Conference and AGM on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at the Bentley Hotel in Lincoln and feedback from attendees, traders, workshop leaders and visitors has been fantastic!**

This year was the Associations 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting with the Conference being an addition to the event in recent years. This year LALC included the amazing Lincolnshire's Shining Stars Awards Ceremony, celebrating the hard work, commitment and successes of our local Councils, Councillors and Clerks.

The three workshops delivered were well attended and all feedback received to date has been extremely complimentary including quotes such as 'really interesting and taking back information for the Parish Council' – *Prevent Workshop* and 'what an interesting workshop this was. It has already encouraged us to put our own emergency plan together and start to gather some community volunteers should an emergency arise in our village' – *Emergency Planning Workshop*.



Following the workshops, we went into an open Q&A session with Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive, National Association of Local Councils, Cllr Richard Davies, Lincolnshire County Council, Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport & IT & Marc Jones, Lincolnshire Police Crime Commissioner. Some fantastic questions were put to the panel covering a wide range of topics including actions against climate change, updates on the call for fairer funding for rural locations and what Town & Parish Councils can do to support the police work around 'County Lines' organised crime. Further details on the questions asked and responses given will be included in the full article on the Conference & AGM which will be included in the December edition of LALC News.



The afternoon began following a delicious lunch provided by The Bentley Hotel with the commencement of Lincolnshire's Shining Stars Awards Ceremony. This was a wonderful opportunity to take the time to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful work undertaken by the local councils in our area. There were 5 award categories, with a panel formed to select both the winner and runner up for each award. All nominees received a certificate in acknowledgement of their achievements and prizes were given to all runners up and winners of each award. The runner up and winner (and reason for nomination) for each award were:

## **Councillor of The Year (Sponsored by BHIB Insurance Brokers):**

### **Runner Up:**

#### **ClIr David Ringham – Crowland Parish Council**

David is a past chairman of Crowland PC and is currently Chairman of the PC's Amenities Committee as well as a very active member of the Assets working party that have been very busy creating a new allotment site with hugely enhanced facilities for allotment holders, and also preparing the old allotment site for a development of new homes. They are then going on to create a new Burial Ground that will incorporate a woodland burial area.

David is also Chairman of the Crowland Cares in Crowland and has created a new office for the volunteers in the Parish Rooms, Crowland, this is a very successful organisation and does much to help residents of Crowland, both old and young.

David is also Crowland's representative for the Volunteer Car Scheme which helps people without transport, or that are temporarily unable to drive, to get to Drs and Hospital appointments – in conjunction with SHDC.

David has organised a skate park for Crowland and has managed to secure funding for this with the help of other members and he has also arranged to have the adventure play area on the Snowden Fields re-vamped and again they have managed to secure funding for this too. David has also created a Sports Hall Working Party for the local sports hall and gym and is currently working hard to get the gym side of this facility up and running, having already got the hall in use most evenings for football, netball, basketball, badminton, keep fit and much more. David has been a very active member of Crowland Lions for very many years. The members and staff feel David is most worthy to be considered for this award.

### **Winner: ClIr Trisha Newman – North Somercotes PC**



Since moving to the parish and joining the council in 2013, ClIr Newman has taken an active interest in many aspects of village life. Until very recently she was the Volunteer Lead Flood Warden for the village providing invaluable assistance and information to the council and public during storm events and liaising with statutory bodies. She provided much needed assistance in setting up, as well as taking part in, the Community Speedwatch scheme in the village to respond to concerns about speeding motorists, including personally fixing '30mps' signage to lamp posts in the village and has given many talks and 'how to' advice to other interested parish councils – the scheme then provided a role model for the roll-out of Community Speedwatch volunteers by the Road Safety Partnership/Police across Lincolnshire.

ClIr Newman takes an active interest in all planning matters, checking out the sites and neighbour comments prior to meetings. She is the Council's representative on the local RAF

Donna Nook Wildlife Group and every year volunteers numerous hours to assist the Lincs Wildlife Trust with Seal Season visitor management.

As well as being an active of the Lincolnshire Police Panel and contributing to various Community Policing initiatives, she is also working with the clerk to develop the Council's Flood and Emergency Planning Policy.

Councillor Newman is an outstanding example of how invaluable an individual's contribution can be to the life of a community, and it would be very fitting for this to be recognised as a token of appreciation for all that she does.



## **Council of The Year (Sponsored by SCIS):**

### **Runner Up:**

**Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council** – Over the last 4 years the council has gone from strength, developing a clear vision for the council and community. The Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk have been working towards completion of their CILCA qualification (which they have now both achieved) providing a broad knowledge of all the aspects of a clerk's work and ensuring best practice. Saxilby with Ingleby is not only a proactive council, but one that is determined to make a difference to their community. The Christmas Light switch on, Gala, Waterfront festival, 5K & 2K run, Saxilby in Bloom competition, poppy displays for the Centenary of WW1 are just a few examples. The Neighbourhood Plan was completed 2 years ago and is a catalyst for a number of identified projects. The council installed a new play area worth £50,000 through fundraising and grants. The present challenge is the regeneration of a Conservation Area which is on Historic England's at-risk register. This is an immense project, involving extensive consultation and collaboration with the community as well as working in partnership with many agencies. It includes refurbishment of the public toilets and boater facilities and improving the public realm, including the canal area. The council are also national finalists for Canal & River Trusts Flagship living waterways award for their collaborative approach with residents, business and partner organisations.

### **Winner:**



**South Kyme Parish Council** – encourages diversity and its above average composition comprises 57% female, 43% male with 14% disabled. The Council constantly encourages and facilitates community involvement such that voluntary activities designed to improve village life have blossomed. For many years a group of volunteers has operated the Village Tidy Group which meets regularly to tidy the village, litter picking and using substantial equipment for grass cutting and strimming provided by the Parish Council. This has become even more important since the watering down of such activities by the County Council. In the spirit of community refreshments for the group, are kindly provided by the village pub 'The Hume' on tidy days.

This community involvement has now extended to the Council's establishment, in partnership with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, of a community speed watch group with an encouragingly high number of volunteers to the population of the village, which is achieving very encouraging results.



The voluntary festival committee, part funded by the Council arranges an Annual Village Fete, including scarecrow competition, duck race and many attractions designed to engender and maintain the already strong community involvement.

The Kyme Eau waterway dissecting the village is an important environmental and recreational asset to the village and the PC is part of a working group with Sleaford Navigation Trust and the Environment Agency dedicated to the improvement of the condition of the river environment. The Council's efforts in improving wildlife habitat has borne fruit such that there has been a significant increase in insect and amphibian life and a blossoming of wild-flowers.

The Council has recently provided substantial funding and support towards a mooring point for narrow boats along with a winding hole encouraging visits by narrow boat users which amongst other things also contributes to the village fete weekend. The council has provided and installed fishing platforms and picnic benches for visiting anglers along with flower tubs and natural oak seating

benches at various points around the village enhancing the appearance of the local environment. In addition, the council has provided dog litter bins and employs a dog warden as well as providing funding for a defibrillator.

The Council has been active in opposing the proposed wind farm in the locality and has contributed, not only lobbying at Government level but has also provided financial donations to the local pressure group 'HeckOff'.

The Council has encouraged the establishment of a facebook forum which along with the Council's website provides information and feedback to villagers and encourages local involvement in the work of the Council.

The foregoing indicates the high level of commitment given to encouraging community involvement, care of the environment and inspiring local involvement in the principle of Localism. South Kyme is a small village with a thriving community life due in no small part to the work of the Parish Council.

## **Young Councillor of The Year (Sponsored by Lincolnshire County Council)**

### **Runner Up:**

#### **Cllr Chloe Keetley – Dunholme Parish Council**

Chloe was elected onto Dunholme Parish Council May 2019 and during her short time on the council has already brought so much to the village.

She has taken a particular interest in improving the look of the village for the better – assisting in a recent NCS led project in Oak Wood.

Her main triumph has been organising a competition in the local primary school to design a new picture for the planters within the village. These have always had a negative view from villagers and Chloe noticed this but said there must be a way to improve them without buying more at the cost of the resident.

Upon choosing 5 winners, Chloe is now in the process of hand painting the winning designs onto the village planters – these have been shown on facebook with over 30 residents commenting on how fab they look and what an improvement they are.

The list goes on of what Chloe wants to achieve in her term, and the council and village are very excited to see where they lead.

### **Winner:**

#### **ClIr Ryan Lovett – North Hykeham Town Council**



Prior to becoming a councillor with NHTC, Clr Lovett set up a not-for-profit environmental scheme in North Hykeham loaning out equipment for free, making litter picking accessible to its residents. He's led litter picks with the local scouts and cubs and gave educational talks to the two groups around the damage that litter can cause. He also visited a school just outside the town (Manor Leas) and delivered a talk to the whole school on the same matters followed with a litter pick with some of the students. The scheme also provides equipment for local businesses in the area, kitting them out for the litter lunch walk.

Clr Lovett joined NHTC on 22 Nov 2018 via co-option and was then re-elected in May 2019. He currently serves on the Planning Committee, Business Sub Committee and Community Committee. He brings fresh innovative ideas to the meetings and is a very active member. His knowledge and commitment to environmental issues is inspiring.

He also represents the Council on the Memorial Hall & Playing Fields Association Trust and attends their meeting on behalf of the Council.

In the near future, Clr Lovett plans on going into all schools in and around the area of North Hykeham, educating the younger generation on the importance of litter and plastic pollution. He is also launching a project, increasing the physical appearance of the town for all residents and visitors. When he isn't running the environmental group or being a councillor, he works as an engineer on rail renewal projects up and down the UK.

Ryan says 'he believes through his openness and being approachable and always willing to help the residents of North Hykeham has already been recognised as a quality, already having residents approach me with their concerns of safety, which I helped to resolve. I am enthusiastic and ambitious to be a good councillor and hopes to inspire and bring a new interest from other younger residents of North Hykeham. If I won this award, I can utilise the accolade as a way to amplify a message to younger individuals (18-30) the possibilities of being able to make a direct difference and have an impact on where they live and work'.

### **Clerk of The Year (Sponsored by BHIB Insurance Brokers)**

#### **Runner Up: Steve Larnar - Skegness Town Council**

Steve Larnar as a CILCA qualified clerk with 41 years' experience of working within local government. It is the clerk's strategic thinking, forward planning, expert guidance and advice along with endless amounts of ambition, determination and drive that has enabled Skegness Town Council to undertake a substantial project of asset transfers including a 5.8 acre park, four commercial kiosks, a car park and various other walks and parcels of land throughout the Town. The transfer also includes a site where the clerk has managed the process to get planning permission and funding in place for a £1.5m community building.

The actions taken to get the town council in a position where it has been able to successfully deliver the council's ambitions are endless, but here are some:



- Making provision for a new improved website with community engagement and consultation pages as well as making sure the council is communicating through social media channels
- Changing the staffing structure to accommodate the new responsibilities including appointing a deputy town clerk and supporting her to gain the CILCA qualification
- Managing the process to achieve Quality Gold Award Status
- Writing the Business Plan for the community building
- Supporting employees to improve their skills and knowledge to provide a better service
- Liaising with officers from the district and county councils and pushing for resolutions to problems
- Knowing when expert advice is needed but not being afraid to challenge and ask when necessary
- Securing a PWL of £1.5m to fund the construction of a community building

This project has taken place whilst still managing other council projects and running business as usual for the council including:

- Through consultation, getting the Town to stage 3 of a 4-stage process to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Managing the cemetery and creation of a memorial garden that has won the Cemetery of the Year 2018 Silver Award
- Protecting the Town's Jolly Fisherman image by getting the image trademarked
- Successfully applying for the Fairy Dell to be listed as a community asset
- Re-tendering the contract for the Christmas illuminations
- Managing the process to take on the cutting of grass verges and bring this inhouse to improve standards
- Organising the Remembrance Parade
- Managing allotments

The Council nominated Steve Larnar in recognition of his exemplary work undertaken to deliver devolution for Skegness.

### **Winner: Steve Fletcher – Mablethorpe & Sutton Town Council**



Steve Fletcher was nominated by councillor's past and present and also Lincolnshire County Council.

Steve undertakes his duties to the highest of standards and since his employment commenced has completely transformed the workings and ethos of the council by exceptional leadership, morals, professionalism and commitment.

In 2012, the council was fragmented and unorganised and achieved nothing for its population. Steve quickly realised this and due to strong leadership led by example, he quickly began to instil best practice examples into the elected members and turned around poor behaviour into positive actions in the community.

He introduced the councillors and council to the merit of best practice, true leadership as a group and training, quite quickly the mood of the council changed from 'in fighting' to cohesive working for residents, businesses and visitors.

The proudest moment for the council was to achieve the award for quality in 2015 (as part of the National trial but the first in Lincolnshire) and then the Gold quality award in 2017



(again a first for Lincolnshire) – something that would not have happened without the guidance, support and hard work of the clerk.

Further to this, Steve continues to assist clerks and councils in the wider area of Lincolnshire. He undertakes audits for at least 12 councils, in his own time and does not ask for recompense (only claiming mileage – sometimes!) When challenged on this he always says it is to help fellow clerks, to encourage best practice methods. He also readily shares policy and other documents and to give support to clerk who may be in similar difficult positions he found himself in back in the early days at Mablethorpe.

This fact, along with his continuing attitude to personal development and improvement by attending training and assisting with training delivery to councillors and clerks as required shows the clear professionalism and commitment to this public sector.

Since his employment began, he has worked tirelessly for our community and although not required to, he uses the Nolan points system as the basis for his employment and conduct. He has adapted or written policies for the council to ensure it is compliant with legislation or best practice and is always able to guide and make sure the council does not act in any illegal manner or way.

Steve also assists LALC with training and mentoring clerk in achieving their CILCA award – it is good when we attend training or civic functions and we are approached by other clerks (at one event we were told by another clerk that 'Steve should be known as King of Clerks' – he always helps and nothing is too much trouble) and also councillors who speak highly of our clerk.

In the parish area, he also does audit work for 14 charity or self help groups – again in his own time and at no costs, insisting it is his way to give something back to the community (he also buys and provides all refreshments for the Town Council and when challenged he says 'offer an aggrieved individual or group a drink and a biscuit, they calm down immediately' be it a councillor or member of the public.

He continues to deliver a great service to all, the council, the community and other clerks. He undertakes all tasks to the highest level and is always willing to go the extra mile, he never actively seeks recompense, self-gratification or praise (he would be an ideal councillor!)

Where local groups have given Steve small nominal gifts in appreciation for advice or assistance received or for auditing work, he has graciously accepted (so as not to offend) but made donation to the Mayor (or other) charity appeals.

There are clear relationships built between elected members and members of staff (and yes Steve has written a guidance policy on this that has been adopted), however we see Steve not only as a friend (to individuals, the council and the parish as a whole) but a good friend to all – who is always there, even when the good times elude us. We can honestly say there is not another clerk with the commitment, compassion, morals or skill set in Lincolnshire! (current and past members of M&STC and community groups of Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe and Sutton on Sea)

During the recent flood emergency at Wainfleet, there was a gap in provision of a REST Centre for mass evacuation. A phone call was made to the Town Clerk at Mablethorpe, Mr Steve Fletcher, and he was asked if he was aware of any suitable buildings in his area. Without hesitation, he offered to open and staff two centres, one in Mablethorpe and one in Sutton. He also offered people to staff the centre within 20 minutes and provided refreshments for when people arrived. He not only provided his mobile number, but his private home telephone number. This was an unselfish act of kindness in a time of need. (LCC)

## **Long Service Achievement Award (Sponsored by Vision ICT)**

### **Runner Up:**

#### **Cllr Oswald Snell – Fishtoft Parish Council**

Oswald Redvers Snell, or as he is affectionately known 'Ossy' has served his community for well over 50 years in many capacities, at his heart through is the people of Fishtoft and the parish council where he has been faithful and much valued member.

He helped turn what was once a ploughed field into a playing field with a pavilion and he and his late wife ran the bar there voluntarily. For years they raised funds for many charities and have raised thousands of pounds for a variety of organisations. Ossy played and also ran the football team and he and his wife ran regular bingo sessions at The Sycamores Elderly Persons Unit.

Ossy has served the wider community as a Boston Borough Councillor representing Fishtoft ward. He also became a Lincolnshire County Councillor again speaking up for and representing Fishtoft to a high level.

He is a loyal, genuine persona, a parish councillor with a smile on his face, always on duty come what may, he never gets angry. Yes, he will labour a point but always in the nicest possible way. He has been easy to work with and an example to us all. Such is his popularity he is dubbed 'Mr Fishtoft'

#### **Winner: Cllr Geoff Panton – North Kyme Parish Council**



Geoff has been an integral part of our community for many years. He was born in the parish and lived here all his life. He became a councillor in his mid 20's and has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman on the council. Geoff remains very active within the community. He is currently the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and was on the school board of governors for many years. He is always part of any working party from mowing the church graveyard, to organising the BBQ at the village show each year. This year he achieves 50 years without a break on the Parish Council, serving his community and we would like to put him forward for this award as a thank you for his contribution to the community. The village would be much poorer without Geoff's dedication and hard work.

***The team at LALC would like to take this opportunity to not just acknowledge but thank and congratulate all nominees for each category for their continued commitment, dedication, hard work, passion and enthusiasm for the work they undertake for their local community. Without all that you do there would not be so many wonderful success stories for us to reflect on across Lincolnshire, we are so proud to be a part of the work that you do and look forward to continuing to support you in the future.***



**THANK YOU!**





## **NALC Annual Conference 2019**

The NALC bulletin this week is something of an Annual Conference special given this was the obvious highlight of the week, and they wanted to share several headlines and reflections on what went on during a successful, positive and inspirational two days in Milton Keynes celebrating 125 years of local (parish and town) councils:

- firstly some vital statistics which illustrate just how the annual conference has grown into the biggest and most high profile event in the sector's calendar: NALC brought together over 250 delegates from every single county association area; 40 speakers shared their knowledge, expertise and good practice and insights across 10 workshops and 4 plenary sessions; 35 sponsors and exhibitors (including their headline sponsor BHIB Councils Insurance) were in the expanded exhibition marketplace, which included an entire model village!
- the main decision taken at the annual general meeting, which comprises up to three representatives from each of the 43 county associations, was to support the National Assembly proposal for a modest 3% increase to the affiliation fee, from 6.99p per elector 7.2p, to invest in NALC's services
- there was a well-attended and productive county officers forum, topics covered included: the Local Government Pension Scheme and changes to pooling arrangements for local councils, using public interest reports as a reference tool when advising councils, the importance of internal audit, engaging with the Armed Forces Covenant, and an updated on NALC's member services
- in his keynote speech, the new chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), Cllr James Jamieson, launched NALC's new joint **Reaching Out guide to helping councils tackle loneliness**, and said "local government is stronger when we work together". The Autumn edition of LCR includes an interview where James shares his views on devolution, local councils and more
- I think it goes without saying NALC were absolutely thrilled to be joined by The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, who their chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, escorted around the conference for a couple of hours where she met attendees, visited exhibition stands, sat in on workshops, before delivering a short speech in which she **paid tribute to local councils and councillors**
- The busy workshop programme included the launch of the new **The Good Councillor's guide to transport planning**, while the excellent closing plenary panel session on climate change saw the conference **declare a climate emergency**
- And huge congratulations to everyone whose brilliant work was recognised at the NALC Star Council Awards 2019 dinner and presentations, especially Milton Keynes very own Woughton Community Council who have crowned Council of the Year, receiving a standing ovation in tribute to their former leader Cllr Kevin Wilson who sadly passed away earlier this year. Do check out the photographs from the night on NALC's **Instagram** page. Most importantly, however, is that Lincolnshire's very own Clerk of the Year, Steve Fletcher (Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council) was a finalist in the NALC Star Council's Award, We are disappointed that Steve was not selected as the winner of the award, but so, so proud of his achievements to be selected as a runner up in the National Awards ceremony!



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### **General Election**

The toing and froing, will they, won't is finally over; a General Election will take place on 12 December. As campaigning begins and manifestos start to be written, NALC will be putting forward the priorities set out in our **A prospectus for ultra-localism** to the leaders of the three main political parties on measures needed to help communities help themselves, in particular parishing the entire country!

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### **Queen's Speech**

The **Queen's Speech** was delivered in Parliament on 14 October, setting out the government's forthcoming legislative agenda. While NALC felt disappointed the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill was not among the list of bills announced, we will of course continue to press the government on this! There were welcome commitments, though, to publish bills on devolution, the environment and broadband, and we will also be engaging on announcements about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, social care and electoral integrity.

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### **New website accessibility resources**

Last year the government introduced regulations for public sector bodies' websites, which is applicable to local councils. For websites published before 23 September 2018, they will need to be compliant by 23 September 2020. The Government Digital Service recently published guidance for smaller organisations doing a basic accessibility check, NALC have also created a PowerPoint presentation which provides a summary of the regulations and some actions to help local councils with preparations – you can read more on this at

[https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1313-new-website-accessibility-regulations-resources?utm\\_source=Members&utm\\_campaign=f0ecc02212-](https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1313-new-website-accessibility-regulations-resources?utm_source=Members&utm_campaign=f0ecc02212-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_06\\_08\\_03\\_15\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_206970988f-f0ecc02212-327836217&mc\\_cid=f0ecc02212&mc\\_eid=9629be3d36](https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1313-new-website-accessibility-regulations-resources?utm_source=Members&utm_campaign=f0ecc02212-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_08_03_15_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206970988f-f0ecc02212-327836217&mc_cid=f0ecc02212&mc_eid=9629be3d36)

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## **NALC Spring Conference 2020 — sponsored by BHIB Councils Insurance**

Save the date! NALC are delighted to let you know the Spring Conference 2020 will take place at the Aviva Conference Centre, London on 17 March 2020. The theme of the event will be health and well-being and more will appear on both the NALC & LALC websites in due course – so watch this space!

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## **Deadline for Election survey extended!**

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to fill in the survey. NALC have had over 3,000 responses to date, which will help them understand the experiences of the local council sector better and will help shape future campaigns.

With the responses still flooding in, they have decided to extend the survey to 20 December 2019.

This is so they can capture as much data as possible to get more in-depth views of the sector.

There are three surveys to complete:

- **for councillors**
- **for local councils**
- **for county associations**

For more information on the survey, contact NALC at [claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk) or call on **020 7637 1865**.

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## **Policy E-Briefing PC11-19 – NAO Audit Code of Practice Part Two.**

The National Audit Office has issued the second part of its consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice which is due to come into force by 1 April 2020. NALC will be responding. The consultation is open for a period of 12 weeks.

Further details can be found via the LALC website. Please email your responses to this consultation to [chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk) by 17.00 on Friday 8 November 2019.

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## **General Election & MPs and Remembrance Commemorations**

SLCC have received a number of enquires on the subject of Members of Parliament and the laying of wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, in the context of the forthcoming General Election. Therefore, they have produced some guidance, which can be found via the 'information from other authorities/external organisations' tab in the members area of the LALC website.

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## **Lincolnshire County Council Corporate Plan**

Lincolnshire County Council is developing its Corporate Plan and would like to share a draft version with LALC and town and parish councils for feedback before finalising and publishing. The final Corporate Plan will ultimately influence the strategic direction that all council services will contribute to from 2020.

LCC would greatly appreciate if you could have a look through the document and share any feedback with them on the following:

- general views on the plan
- is there anything significant missing or anything that you disagree with?
- does the plan reflect the needs of residents in your area?

The draft plan can be found on the 'information from other authorities/external organisations' tab in the members area of the LALC website.

Please send your thoughts to [engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk) before the **end of Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> November**. LCC will collate all stakeholder feedback at the end of November which will help influence the final plan.

Thank you in advance for taking part, if you have any questions please contact [engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk) .

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## **Stop Loan Sharks! Events – further locations and dates added**

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a morning of community networking where you can learn more about loan sharks and how to help protect yourself and those in your communities.

The Illegal Money Lending Team will be with us giving information on the dangers of loan sharks as well as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Scambassador for Lincolnshire who will talk about different types of scams the community can encounter.

There will be lots of opportunities to network with others in your community and a chance to look at how we can stop loan sharks together!

There are limited spaces at each event so please book your place in advance using the link

**7th November 2019 – SUTTON ON SEA** - Meridale Youth Centre, 1 High St, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe, LN12 2ET - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/illegal-money-lending-loan-shark-awareness-event-tickets-72063298265?aff=erellivmlt>

**21st November 2019 – SKEGNESS** - Aura Skegness Business Centre, Heath Road, Wainfleet Road Industrial Estate, Skegness, PE25 3SJ - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/illegal-money-lending-loan-shark-awareness-event-tickets-72064331355?aff=erellivmlt>

**28th November 2019 – GRANTHAM** - Jubilee Church Life Centre, 5 London Road, Grantham, NG31 6EY - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/illegal-money-lending-loan-shark-awareness-event-tickets-72070457679?aff=erellivmlt>

**12th December 2019 – BOSTON** - Fenside Community Centre, Taverner Road, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8NL - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/illegal-money-lending-loan-shark-awareness-event-tickets-72065526931?aff=erellivmlt>

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### **NATURE GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS**

Schools in England, Scotland and Wales are being invited to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor equipment and two hours of professional outdoor training as part of the third instalment of Local School Nature Grants. Schools can choose from over 100 different products to deliver outdoor learning and play. The funding is being made available through the charity Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grant scheme. The charity has been helping schools across Great Britain since 2017. Funded by the players of People's Postcode Lottery, the grants have so far provided £900,000 worth of equipment to 800 schools. This year it will reach a further 500 schools. There will be four funding rounds throughout the year and the next closing date for applications is the 22nd November 2019. <https://www.ltl.org.uk/nature-grant/>

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### **VEOLIA ENVIRONMENT TRUST GRANTS**

The next closing date for stage 1 applications to the Veolia Environmental Trust is the 28th November 2019. Grants of up to £75,000 are available to constituted not for profit organisations and registered Environmental Bodies towards community buildings; parks and paths, play, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and recreational facilities; nature reserves; and bio-diversity projects. To be eligible to apply, the applicant organisation needs to be within the vicinity of a qualifying Veolia site; the projects must have a total cost of under £250,000 (including VAT and professional costs); the applicant must have secured 20% of funding towards the project prior to submitting a full (stage 2) application. <https://www.veoliatrust.org/funding/>

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### **GRANTS FOR CHURCHES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF DECORATIVE FEATURES AND MONUMENTS**

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are available to churches, chapels and other places of worship built before 1896 to carry out small programmes of conservation work to decorative features and monuments. All work funded must be directed by a professional architect or established conservator and completed according to the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The funding is being made available

through the William and Jane Morris Fund and the closing date for applications is the 31st March 2020. <https://www.sal.org.uk/grants/morris-fund-conservation-grants/>

Enquiries in the first instance should be made directly to the funder. For further assistance, please contact Wendy Moore directly. [Wendy.moore@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.moore@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

For more funding information, please visit the Lincolnshire Funding Portal at: [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fundingportal](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fundingportal)

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