



E-NEWS UPDATE...

LALC's First Ever Clerks Networking Day in Association with SLCC – What a fabulous day!

LALC held our first ever Clerk's Networking Day in conjunction with the SLCC Lincoln branch AGM on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at Cranwell Village Hall and have received some truly wonderful feedback from delegates and external attendees alike!

The day commenced with a 30-minute introduction to Mindfulness and the ways in which it can benefit the workplace with LALC's Training Support Officer, Amy Bestwick, who has a personal passion for the subject. The session covered an explanation of Mindfulness, the research behind the practice, the benefits of becoming more Mindful, ways to implement the practice into daily personal and work life and a short Mindfulness Meditation. Feedback on the session has been predominantly positive with many saying they would like to learn more and begin this practice in their own lives.

Unfortunately, the speaker from ELAS for the session on Mental Health in the Workplace did not arrive on the day, despite numerous phone conversations taking place earlier in the week.

Therefore the LALC team stepped in and delivered some information on the impact and legislation supporting Mental Health at Work, with the opportunity to work together to discuss the types of 'reasonable adjustments' that could be made in the Local Council sector to support those facing difficulties with mental health and wellbeing.

Following a short break, the delegates separated into 3 groups. Members of the SLCC attended their AGM in a separate room, a small group of Clerks worked with Lincolnshire County Council's Programme Officer, Samantha Hardy, to discuss the County Councils new corporate plan and the remaining delegates worked in groups to support the development of LALC's new Mental Health at Work policy, from which the finalised document shall be shared on the LALC website shortly.

We then had a delicious and extremely generous Christmas Buffet (chocolate brownie recipe to be shared with all delegates shortly!) and those that had wanted to take part, exchanged their Secret Santa gifts before heading in to an engaging and entertaining presentation on 'Life as a Clerk' delivered by Yvonne Colverson, advisor for the SLCC, covering a wealth of both the joys and challenges of life as a Local Council Clerk.

The final session of the day was delivered by NALC's Head of Member Services, Charlotte Eisenhart. Charlotte discussed the importance of Training and Continued Professional Development in Local Councils and discussed the recognised qualifications available for those working in the sector, before opening the floor for delegates to ask questions.

The LALC team would like to thank all those that attended this first ever event, and for the wonderful and constructive feedback received. We hope that this can be another addition to our list of annual events as we recognise the importance of networking and support opportunities for Lincolnshire's Clerks, and loved having the opportunity to take the time to give a little something back for all of the wonderful work you do!



PC13-19 | STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

Summary

The Home Office has issued a new consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. The consultation covers criminalising the act of trespassing, broadening the existing categories of criminal trespass and broadening police powers to deal with trespassers. The main consultation document can be found [here](#).

Context

The government previously consulted on unauthorised developments and encampments in April 2018. Responses to this made clear that significant problems are created by many unauthorised encampments, including the sense of unease and intimidation residents feel when an unauthorised encampment occurs, the frustration at not being able to access amenities, public land and business premises, and the waste and cost that is left once the encampment has moved on.

The government also heard compelling evidence that stronger powers are needed to address the issues and concerns identified and that the majority of respondents believe the government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments in England and Wales, by creating an offence of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment. The government would now like to test the appetite to go further and broaden the existing categories of criminal trespass.

NALC's views

NALC is minded to use points made in response to the April 2018 consultation, as a steer to guide our new response. These include:

- All cases of unauthorised encampments should be criminalised on account of trespassing
- The police should have the power to direct trespassers to leave land as soon as it has been determined that they are there illegally
- The police should be able to take action regardless of the number of vehicles in the unauthorised encampment
- Principal authorities should have the power to demand the police attend as soon as an unauthorised encampment appears and to claim back costs incurred repairing damage caused by clearing up after unauthorised encampments

Consultation questions can be found on the LALC website.

Please email your responses to this consultation to Jessica.Lancod-Frost@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on 19 February 2020. County associations are asked to forward this briefing onto all member councils in their area.

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Section 137 limit for 2020-21

This week the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) notified NALC that the appropriate sum for Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2020-21 is £8.32 per elector – you can read more **here**.

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LGA guidance on councillor intimidation

In light of what is likely to be highly charged times in the run-up to the General Election, NALC thought it worth reminding everyone of the **Local Government Association (LGA) guidance on councillor intimidation**. This includes advice and guidance around general safety as well as how to deal with intimidating behaviour towards councillors. While this was written for principal authorities, I do feel the majority of this is very relevant for local councils as well. A copy of the guide is available under the elections tab of the members area on the LALC website.

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Code of conduct for councillors

NALC are pleased to report that the LGA is to develop a new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors. This is in response to the recommendations made in the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report earlier this year, and in response to rising local government concern about the increasing incidence of public, member-to-member and officer/member intimidation and abuse, and overall behavioural standards and expectations in public debate, decision making and engagement. This is part of their programme on civility in public life and they aim to launch a revised code at their annual conference at the end of June. NALC will be contributing to this work to make sure the local council dimension and voice isn't lost, as inevitably the LGA is focussed on principal authorities.

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Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance

The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance met at NALC'S offices on 4 November to consider possible changes to the Practitioners Guide and financial issues raised by local councils and others. The Panel was joined by a representative of the Internal Auditors Forum and agreed to seek to do a major review of the section in the guide covering internal audit next year.

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Smaller Councils Committee- A Lincolnshire representative!

Saxilby-with-Ingleby Parish Council's Assistant Clerk, Lydia Smithson, has nominated herself for NALC's Smaller Council's Committee, we would like to encourage you all to please vote for her! Voting has opened for elections, and NALC would like to urge all smaller councils (with an electorate under 6,000) to have their say and vote for the three candidates they want to

represent the interests of smaller councils at a national level – information on candidates and the link to vote is **available** on the NALC website, deadline is 17.00 on Friday 13 December.

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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 approaching!

Please note, the deadline to complete the survey is approaching and will close on 20 December 2019.

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 or call on **020 7637 1865**.

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Sustainable Travel Grants for Local Councils

Parish Councils are invited to apply for grants to of up to £5,000 for creating sustainable travel initiatives within their communities.

Grants will be considered for:

- Cycle Storage – such as cycle stands and canopies
- Community Pool Bikes
- Cycle hub facilities such as pump points and tool stations
- One off cycle events within the community

Other ideas will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Should you wish to apply please email Philip.watt@lincolnshire.gov.uk with a short description of your ideas. You will then be sent an application form. All applications will be scored with successful applicants informed of their grants in early 2020. Successful grant applicants will also need to complete a grant agreement form. Funding may be used to part fund a project if its value is over £5,000.

The deadline for submission of applications is **January 17th, 2020**.

All work will need to be sourced and carried out by the parish/local council; Access Lincoln/Lincolnshire County Council will not be responsible for sourcing suppliers, installation of equipment, or ongoing maintenance.

If you have any queries please contact Philip Watt, TSG Projects Officer, by email (Philip.watt@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

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Stop Loan Sharks! Events – one date remaining!

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

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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Do you or someone you know live with chronic pain? If so, then you are not alone: Between 30-50% of people experience pain that persists for longer than 3 months and for 10-14% the pain is moderately or severely disabling.

Chronic pain is a BIG problem, but unfortunately one that is often not well understood by people living with pain, the general public, and even some healthcare professionals. As part of a pioneering community-focused public health campaign **Pain: Do You Get It?** aims to help people across the county understand why we need to change the way we think about, talk about, and treat chronic pain.

Pain Revolution

Join us and 2 nationally renowned speakers for our next Pain Revolution event, at the **Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham** at 1:30pm on **Mon 9th Dec** for a FREE and entertaining talk explaining why your body hurts, why it keeps hurting, and what you can do about it. Reserve a place via the following link: <http://bit.ly/36Pf1MW> or call 0191 250 4989 leaving your name and contact number and state that you'd like to attend Pain: Do You Get It? Grantham

Community Pain Champions

In addition, as part of the wider Pain Revolution health literacy campaign we are looking to appoint a number of **Community Health Champions** who (with support) will act as ambassadors & spokespeople for an understanding of modern evidence-based, holistic pain science within the county. These will be paid roles and could be fulfilled by someone with **or** without a clinical or

academic background related to pain management. I've attached an advert and JD for these roles and would also appreciate your support and local intel re how best to raise awareness of this opportunity.

For any questions please e-mail understandpain@connecthealth.co.uk

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The Bishop of Lincoln's Social Justice Fund

At a recent panel meeting, a decision was taken to reduce the maximum grant available from £25,000 to £5,000. The aim is to attract smaller, volunteer led, not for profit organisations and local faith-based groups that need a small grant to support crucial work they're delivering to residents in communities across Greater Lincolnshire.

Future closing dates for receipt of applications will be on 14 January, 14 May and 14 September in each year.

The fund priorities remain unchanged and projects will need to provide clear evidence they're able to deliver outcomes that relate to one (or more) or the following priorities: **Social cohesion** - projects contributing to strong and cohesive communities; **Isolation** - activities that encourage residents to become more active, feel less isolated in their community or raise aspirations/reduce isolation; **Poverty** - applications that tackle poverty in its various forms (e.g. homelessness, debt issues, food and fuel poverty, support and advice).

Previous grants have included support for a volunteer led group that provide meals for homeless and vulnerable people; training and support for mentors to help families deal with crisis; drop-in facilities for those who are lonely or isolated; weekly support sessions for people with addictions; activities for people with dementia and their carers; community gardening projects open to all.

The process is straight forward and our staff are available to answer questions, give advice or simply have a chat. To obtain an Application Form or discuss your idea in more detail, please contact Sue Fortune on 01529 305825 or download details from the grants page at lincolnshirecf.co.uk.

Sue Fortune, Joint CEO at the Foundation says:-

"It's so important that grassroots organisations and churches across our county are given the support and encouragement they need to enable them to continue their fantastic work, particularly those who feel they lack the expertise or confidence to complete an application form. We are here (and happy) to help with the process at every stage. Please do get in touch even if it's just to have a chat".