



Coronavirus — information for parish & town councils

NALC has updated its dedicated webpage on the coronavirus. This includes updates on advice for users and parents, Arts Fund grants, free litter posters, inspections, public toilets, local council meetings, play areas, first aid training, remote meeting guide, re-opening and hygiene, risk assessment and helping high streets. See the updates below:

Local council meetings

Following the government announcement of further easing of lockdown restrictions from 4 July, both NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks are strongly advising local councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face-to-face contact.

Remote meetings guide updated

At the time of writing this guide, NALC strongly advises local councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face to face contact. However, it is worth starting to think ahead to when local councils may be able to start holding in-person meetings again. This [updated guide](#) includes a description of what councils must take into consideration when planning for how to hold council meetings in future, plus some practical steps to hold effective hybrid meetings.

Arts Fund Respond and Reimagine Grants

The Arts Fund has announced new [Respond and Reimagine Grants](#) to help museums, galleries and cultural organisations respond to immediate challenges connected to the COVID-19 crisis, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of

working for the future.

Free posters and resources to help discourage littering

- Natural England has updated its [Countryside code](#).
- Marine Conservation Society (MCS) has created some [posters and other materials](#) for partners to use, which are geared toward use on beaches/in coastal areas.
- Keep Britain Tidy have created a range of [anti-littering campaign resources](#).

Lockdown loo

[Lockdown loo](#) is a free website that encourages organisations and members of the public to provide information on which public loos are open. Do have a check of your local area and update or add information to help people find local facilities.

Play areas

On 26 June, the government produced guidance for [managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#). NALC will be engaging with the government on the impractical nature of much of this guidance and the financial implication for local councils.

[RoSPA](#) has provided NALC with additional information to complement government guidance: The government has announced that in England children's playgrounds are allowed to open from 4 July 2020. It is important that playgrounds are suitably safe for use and have an effective inspection and maintenance regime in place prior to opening.

Psychological first aid training

Front line staff and volunteers at the forefront of the coronavirus response across England will be able to access a new [Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) training course](#) developed by Public Health England. The free online course teaches responders how to give practical and emotional support on issues such as job worries, bereavement or isolation to those affected by COVID-19.

Public toilets

On 28 June, Local government minister, Simon Clarke MP and environment minister, Rebecca Pow MP [wrote to councils](#) setting out the government's position on public access to household waste recycling centres and municipal public toilets, which includes government guidance on opening public toilets.

Risk assessment

To support local councils using the *Risk assessment for COVID-19* guide – the templates for [council reopening checklist](#) and [general workplace risk assessment](#) have been

made editable.

Support to help high streets

The High Streets Task Force, an alliance of place-making experts that provides encouragement, tools and skills to help communities and councils transform their high streets, have launched a range of support for high streets in England. The support, which is available to local councils and all organisations involved with high streets, includes free access to online training programmes and webinars, as well as data and intelligence on topics including recovery planning and coordination, public space and place marketing.

This information forms part of a NALC's dedicated webpage on the coronavirus. It should not be used as a substitute for government advice, however, there are some practicalities specific to local (parish and town) councils where we hope this information will help you plan ahead and manage your risks. If you would like further advice and support on any of these topics for your local council then please **contact your local county association**. This is a fast-moving situation and we will be updating the webpage regularly.

[Find out more](#)



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