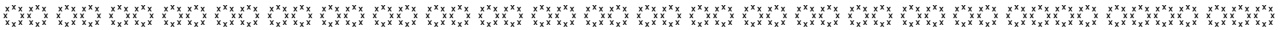


The first session, arranged for 4th February, 18:00 – 19:00 has sold out but due to demand, **a second session has now been arranged for 24th February, 18:00 – 19:00.**

Cost: Free of charge for ATS members. £15 plus VAT for non-ATS members. *Note that LALC can offer this training free of charge to non-ATS members who commit to join the ATS in April.



New Worknest webinars

Employment Rights Bill: your questions answered

The Employment Rights Bill, described as “the biggest upgrade to workers’ rights in a generation”, contains a total of 28 employment law reforms. Most of these changes will be introduced through secondary legislation, with several undergoing a consultation process first.

On the **16th January** at 2pm WorkNest will be hosting a free webinar, 'Employment Rights Bill: your questions answered', where they'll answer employers' common queries and help you prepare for change, ensuring your business stays compliant in 2025 and beyond.

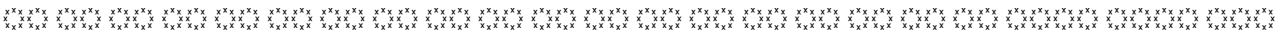
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/34fu8d4z>

What's in Store for Health and Safety in 2025?

Are you prepared for several key trends and legal shifts that could reshape the health and safety landscape in 2025?

Join WorkNest on the **30th January** at 11am as they explore the key changes and trends that employers and OHS professionals should watch out for in 2025. Plus, they'll update you on the HSE's priorities and review several significant prosecution cases from 2024 to help keep your workplace safe and compliant in the year ahead.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/56nb4mtk>



Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs

Dear Town and Parish Clerks

Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy and prosperous 2025.

Find us on  
@LincsALC & www.lalc.co.uk

*Do you have news to share?
[Get in touch](#) via our website.*

LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

As part of our work across Lincolnshire to enhance the support for our Armed Forces Communities, we are working in collaboration with SSAFA Lincolnshire to map the many armed forces and veterans breakfast clubs here in Lincolnshire.

We know that there are many here, some are stand alone, some in conjunction with military charities and others are connected to the National Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs.

I would like to ask if you are aware of any clubs in your area, I am looking for the following information:

- Name of club
- Venue and address
- Meeting times (if known)
- Contact details
- Phone number
- Email address
- Webpage

Thank you for your assistance in undertaking this work, and if possible please can I have your response by the end of January 2025

Kind Regards
Paul



Paul Drury
Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer

Tel: +441529404464 | Mob: +447356175328
Email: Paul_Drury@n-kesteven.gov.uk
www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

Lots of our services are available at
www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

You can apply for help, report a problem,
find your bin days and lots more,
all from our website.



Local Audit Reform: a Strategy for Overhauling the Local Audit System in England

As part of its devolution plan, the government is looking to transform the local audit system, 'to give greater clarity on the purpose of audit and accounts, and ensure they take centre stage in local scrutiny'. In-line with Sir Tony Redmond's recommendations, the government will legislate to radically simplify the system, bringing as many audit functions as possible into one body (a new Local Audit Office), and is now engaging with the sector on how to do this, subject to legislation.

Lincoln Castle Academy:

<https://lincolncastle.org.uk/news/lincoln-castle-academy-admissions-consultation-now-live/>

Lincoln Westgate Academy: <https://www.westgateacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Admission+Consultation&pid=87>

Gainsborough Parish Church of England Primary School:

<https://www.parishchurch.lincs.sch.uk/admissions/>

Great Gonerby St Sebastian's Church of England Primary School:

<https://www.st-sebastianscofeprimaryschool.co.uk/admissions/>

The consultation period runs from 20 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.



East Midlands Britain In Bloom Competition

The Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom campaign is one of the largest horticultural campaigns in Europe, involving over three thousand communities across the United Kingdom each year.

"East Midlands in Bloom" is one of 15 regions/nations that are part of the national RHS "Britain in Bloom" campaign. Participating communities are asked to focus their initiatives around RHS Britain in Bloom's three core pillars of:

- A Horticultural Achievement
- B Environmental Responsibility
- C Community Participation.

Participants are encouraged to promote these aspects throughout the year, culminating in the regional judging period which is always the first 2 weeks in July. The Judging is undertaken using Standard Marking Sheets except for Urban communities and BIDS who have slightly modified marking sheets.

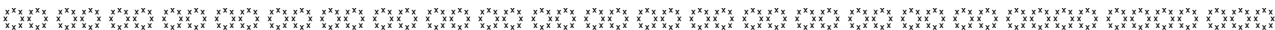
This ensures consistency between entrants. The latest copies are available to download from our website. This should encourage Communities to create lasting improvements to the local environment for the benefit of those that live, work and visit there – today and in the future.

Communities can be involved for as long as they like.

Some of the benefits of Bloom Communities include:

- Cleaner and greener surroundings
- Creating a sense of community through improvement of public spaces and positive interaction between community members
- An increase in civic pride and sense of community empowerment by engaging people in the improvement of their own community

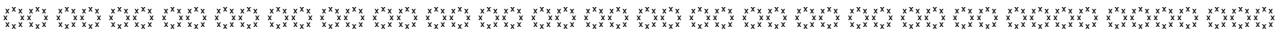
NALC welcomed the government's English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024, and our immediate response emphasised the importance of nurturing neighbourhood governance to ensure its success. Parish and town councils have already demonstrated their ability to deliver on government priorities at the local level. With the devolution framework and local government reorganisation, there is an opportunity for them to achieve even more. During ongoing discussions about the white paper and its implications, we will advocate for several critical measures to enhance neighbourhood governance, including investment in neighbourhood governance, simplifying processes to set up parish and town councils, promoting civility and respect, allowing hybrid council meetings where local communities see fit, fairer access to funding and a tailored audit framework. It was good to see the role of parish and town councils in devolution featured in the debate in parliament following the statement by the minister for local government and English devolution, Jim McMahon MP. Responding to questions from MPs, he said, "At a neighbourhood level, we see parish and town councils playing a critical role in devolution, and we look forward to further discussions with the sector". Yesterday, we received the government's consultation on strengthening the standards regime as set out in the white paper and will brief more fully in the new year.



Rural Funding Digest – Current funding opportunities

A comprehensive list of **over 60** grant funding opportunities which may be relevant to your council or to community organisations in your parish, can be viewed here:
<https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-january-2025>

Check out the complete list, as there may be something that is relevant to you.



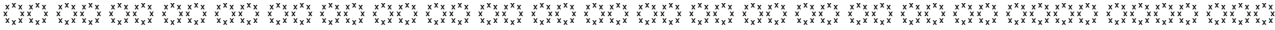
NALC supports the government's move to exempt parish and town councils from council tax referendum principles

We're pleased with the government's decision to exempt parish and town councils from council tax referendum principles for 2025/26.

This positive step follows the publication of the government's provisional local government finance settlement, which outlines its proposals for the upcoming financial year. We will submit a formal response to the consultation in the new year.

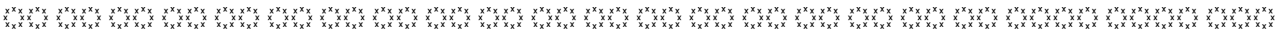
The government's statement on the provisional settlement confirms its intention that "there are no council tax referendum principles for mayoral combined authorities or parish and town councils" for 2025/26. We are optimistic and expect the government to uphold this commitment in the final settlement.

We are dedicated to supporting parish and town councils in their efforts to continue delivering essential services and improving communities without unnecessary financial constraints.



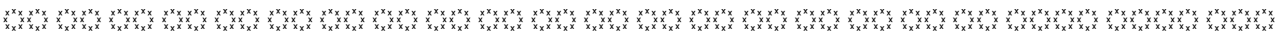
NALC backs the government's remote meeting proposals

NALC supported the government's recent proposals to reintroduce remote meetings for parish and town councils, one of the policy objectives we have lobbied for. Responding to a consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), we emphasised that parish and town councils should be free to decide how and when to hold their meetings. This flexibility will empower parish and town councils to respond quicker and effectively to their communities' needs through in-person, remote, or hybrid formats. However, we strongly opposed the government's proposal to introduce proxy voting at council meetings. Echoing concerns raised by other stakeholders, we warned proxy voting could undermine democratic accountability, weaken deliberative decision making and create procedural and ethical challenges, particularly for larger councils with party-political dynamics.



Boston Borough Council joins WhatsApp Channels

Community news at your fingertips! Our new WhatsApp Channel is live. Follow us for updates on events, services, and more. Stay informed, stay connected!
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb0VH3xFnSziEsOdGr3X>



Don't miss The Big Lunch webinar for councils

Join the Eden Project, the organisation behind The Big Lunch campaign, for a lunchtime webinar on Thursday 30 January at 12pm to explore how The Big Lunch can help councils of all levels support safer, healthier and more cohesive communities.

Over 10 million people participated in 2024, with 95% reporting a positive impact on their community, and 71% saying it helped reduce loneliness (7.1m people).

The Big Lunch 2025 will take place on 7 – 8 May and can also complement VE Day 80 activities in May. As always, the key is communities coming together and local councils are being asked to promote or organise events to suit your annual programme.

Hosted by Tracey Robbins, Head of Communities, and including examples of best practice from guest speakers, the webinar will share impact insights, practical tips, and free resources to support your town or parish to get involved.

Sign up now: <https://events.more-human.co.uk/event/the-big-lunch-building-stronger-communities-together--with-eden-project-communities-events>



30
JANUARY
12PM

**THE BIG LUNCH: BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

Webinar for local government
and housing sector staff



eden
project

Peors
Foundation

SLCC Welcomes English Devolution White Paper but Calls for More Clarity for Local Councils

SLCC has welcomed the publication of the English Devolution White Paper – Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth, which was presented to Parliament on Monday 16 December 2024. This White Paper is designed to embed devolution into the country’s constitution. It will, in the government’s own words, achieve ‘growth, more joined-up delivery of public services, and politics being done with communities, not to them.’

SLCC will be consulting with its partners in the sector and responding to government.

Read the full article (no login required): <https://tinyurl.com/5n6wn4pt>

Find out more about the white paper: <https://tinyurl.com/ytzxne5s> and <https://tinyurl.com/fu6cvdck>

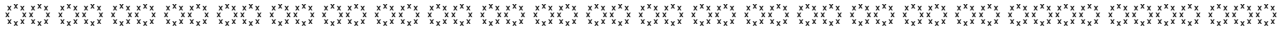
Clearing Out After Christmas - Waste Disposal

Having a clear out this Christmas?

Make sure you know who is collecting and disposing of waste, or you could receive a fine or face prosecution.

Check that a waste carrier is registered on the Environment Agency's website:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register>



SLCC is Launching a New Learning Management System (LMS)

During 2025, SLCC will be introducing a brand-new LMS! This upgraded system will offer anyone completing an introductory course or qualification through SLCC a range of added benefits, including:

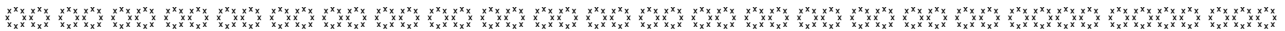
- A more user-friendly and intuitive interface with all the introductory/entry level courses and qualifications hosted on the same platform
- Enhanced features to track your progress and achievements
- Access to new learning resources and tools to support your development

What Does This Mean for Introductory/Entry Level Courses?

If you're planning to register for the Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA), Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA), Principles of Internal Auditing Local Councils (PIALC) or Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) you can still do this but you will need to complete your induction/entry level course by 31 December 2025.

We're excited to bring you this improved learning experience and will share more details about the new LMS soon. If you have any questions or need further clarification, feel free to contact us:

<https://www.slcc.co.uk/contact>



Asda Foundation Funding – Outdoor Community Spaces Fund

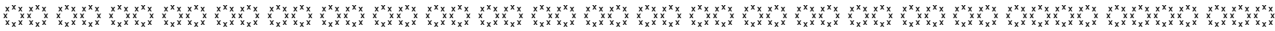
Asda Boston has announced news of its first grant round of 2025 from Asda Foundation – it will be called Outdoor Community Spaces Fund. Asda Foundation recognises the importance of having safe and accessible outdoor spaces in communities across the UK, so this year it will be providing up to £500,000 of grant funding to help grassroots groups improve or transform their local outdoor community spaces. Whether it's cleaning up a green space, delivering collaborative growing projects or transforming an unused area for local people to use, the Outdoor Community Spaces Fund can be used to create or enhance an outdoor space near you.

This grant is for projects which meet at least one of the following aims:

- Transform an outdoor area, creating greener and more engaging community spaces.
- Create or enhance community growing projects.
- Enable community clean ups (grants for community clean ups only will be capped at £500).

As an independent charitable foundation funded by Asda, the Asda Foundation supports small, grassroots groups at the heart of communities. Their aim is to empower local groups with the funding they need, exactly where and when they need it. They are encouraging applications that increase access to outdoor spaces, bring communities together, make a lasting and demonstrable difference to an outdoor space, and enable groups to undertake a project that will truly enhance a local space.

The grant window opens at noon on Tuesday 14th January 2025 and applications will be applied for via the Asda Foundation website, <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/> of £500, £1,000, £1,500, £2,000, £2,500 or £3,000 can be applied for. Groups must submit their application through the website's grant management system by no later than **Tuesday 11th February 2025**. However, interest in Asda Foundation funding is always high and the grant round will close early if applications exceed the total funding allocated for this grant round. To assist groups with the process, supporting documents will be available from the Asda Foundation website from noon on Thursday 9th January. Any interested not-for-profit groups will be able to access the full Outdoor Community Spaces Fund criteria, a 'How To Apply' guide and eligibility checker. For further information email Stephen Bromby on community_boston@asda.uk.



Are you a doorbell detective?

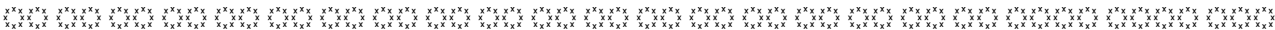
A brand-new BBC TV show, presented by Matt Allwright, wants to hear from Neighbourhood Watch members...

- Have you used your Smart Video Doorbell to investigate a real-life mystery on your doorstep or in your neighbourhood?
- Or are you part of a community committed to cracking crime by sharing your doorbell camera footage with neighbours or the police to solve wrongdoing?
- Have your home surveillance cameras captured shocking or mysterious footage that is worth revealing to the nation?

If you answered YES to any of the above, then the programme makers at Purple Productions would like your clips and your stories. Whether it's doorstep scammers, pet thieves, fly tipping, car theft, burglars or vandals - get in touch!

Matt also wants to recruit his own team of Doorbell Detectives to take part in tips and tricks to help us all make our neighbourhoods safer. If that sounds like you, please also get in touch.

Please email: doorbelldetectives@purpleproductions.co.uk.



NALC calls on parish and town councils to support COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025

The secretary of state for culture, media and sport, Lisa Nandy MP, has announced a UK-wide COVID-19 Day of Reflection on 9 March 2025. This event will commemorate the fifth anniversary of the pandemic, providing a solemn opportunity for communities to reflect on the lives lost and the impact of the global crisis.

In a letter addressed to our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, Lisa Nandy MP encouraged parish and town councils to participate actively in the observance. She highlighted the pivotal role of local government in fostering

Find us on
@LincsALC & www.lalc.co.uk

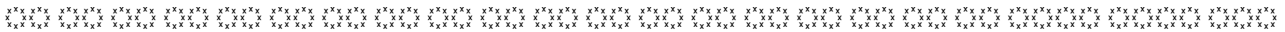
*Do you have news to share?
[Get in touch](#) via our website.*

LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

community engagement, urging councils to promote the event, support community-led initiatives, and consider hosting their public events.

Read the full blog: <https://tinyurl.com/rhtdnuk8>

<https://dayofreflection.campaign.gov.uk/>



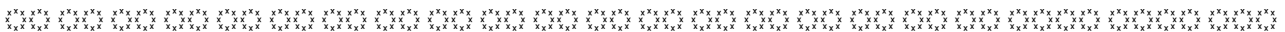
NALC warns of unintended consequences for smaller authorities of the proposed new national audit body

The English Devolution White Paper set out the government's vision for radically simplifying the local audit system, including their intention to set up a new body for local audit. It indicated the government would engage with key stakeholders on a draft strategy, on which we'll give feedback. That strategy has now been published for consultation until 29 January 2025.

Whilst the proposals mainly cover audits for principal authorities, they may have implications for the hugely different limited assurance regime for smaller authorities, currently overseen by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA), which we helped set up in 2025 along with the Association of Drainage Authorities and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

We have been calling for an increase in the £25,000 and £6.5 million threshold, which the government is considering. We are less sure of the extension over time of any new national audit body to cover around 8,000 smaller authorities as it might not be able to focus on their unique needs. There may be a case for the body that oversees limited assurance, SAAA, to have a relationship with the new body. Still, we would support the SAAA's continuation of its ambitious plans to further support transparency and governance in the sector.

Read the full blog: <https://tinyurl.com/msdhajm9>



NALC welcomes the Law Commission's burial and cremation proposals

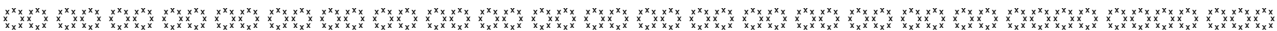
We welcome the Law Commission's proposals to provide modern, certain and consistent regulation across different funerary methods.

Responding to the Law Commission's burial and cremation consultation, we stated that seventy-five years must elapse between the last burial in a grave, the burial rights in that grave being extinguished, and the grave being reused.

We also called for regulation of any land where the primary purpose has been burial, strongly agreed that every burial ground owner should be required to maintain their burial ground in good order and called for a consistent system of burial registration.

However, we disagreed with the proposals to remove the restriction on constructing a crematorium on the consecrated part of a local authority burial ground, as we believe that burial grounds should be left alone in this instance.

NALC consultation response (login required): <https://tinyurl.com/yc7p78mj>



Flood warnings - know what to do?

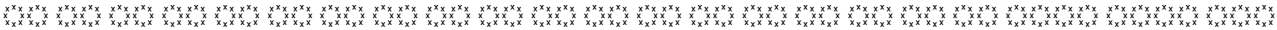


 FLOOD ALERT	PREPARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk
 FLOOD WARNING	ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn off gas, water and electricity Move things upstairs or to safety Move family, pets and car to safety
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	SURVIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call 999 if in immediate danger Follow advice from emergency services Keep yourself and your family safe

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk



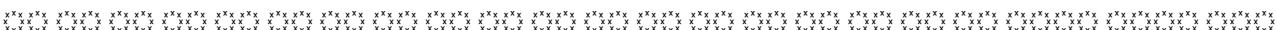
Floodline on 0345 988 1188
#PrepareActSurvive



NALC blog: National Youth Agency

This week's blog, by Leigh Middleton OBE, chief executive of the National Youth Agency, explores how parish and town councils can play a vital role in supporting young people's wellbeing. Young people face numerous challenges, including mental health issues, online harm, and a lack of adequate services. Many have expressed a desire for youth activities that provide fun and a sense of belonging. With local authority budgets facing cuts of £1.1 billion since 2010, the youth sector has struggled to meet these needs, leaving the voluntary sector to fill the gap. The blog highlights the importance of parish and town councils, which are well-positioned to address these challenges by engaging with local youth services.

Read the blog (NALC login required): <https://tinyurl.com/4hvahcev>

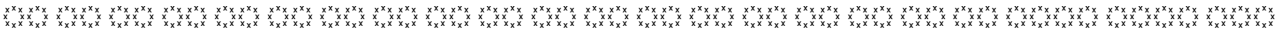


Changes to the Presentation of the Adult Social Care Precept on Bills and Other Updates on Council Tax

The government has published a letter providing an update on regulations changing how the adult social care precept is presented on bills. The Council Tax (Demand Notices and Prescribed Classes of Dwellings)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2025 ‘remove the requirement for billing authorities to include bespoke information on adult social care precept on council tax demand notices from 2025 to 2026’. They also include an amendment that clarifies ‘the administrative operations of the exceptions to the empty and second homes council tax premiums which may apply to dwellings marketed for sale or let.’

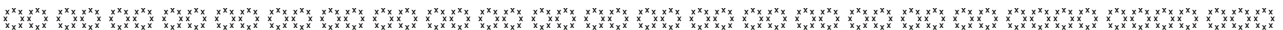
The letter also reminds councils of their discretionary powers within the Homes for Ukraine scheme and provides an update on the Enforcement Conduct Board’s accreditation scheme.

Read the full letter: <https://tinyurl.com/ycky3b9w>



NALC’s strategic objective to raise the sector's profile

One of NALC’s strategic objectives is to raise the sector's profile and our views on national policy in print, broadcast and social media. The Guardian covered a piece from Professor Vernon Bognador calling for parish and town councils to “be strengthened and established in areas that don’t have them so that local people do not feel disfranchised.” The national and local government trade press also covered our call for hybrid meetings to be allowed, our concerns that the recent increases in employers national insurance contributions will place a burden on parish and town councils and their communities, and that the audit consultation, part of the devolution whitepaper package could have unforeseen consequences for our sector’s very different external assurance regime. We will continue to push for more coverage of our sector in the media and would encourage you to engage with your local press about your work, too.



Lincs Police Parish Engagement sessions in January CANCELLED

Lincolnshire Police have confirmed that they are currently focussing on a number of key priorities that require significant attention. They want to ensure that when they do meet, they can provide a clear and comprehensive update on the matters that are most relevant.

Therefore, all of the parish council meetings for January have been cancelled.

