

21st February 2025

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Contact us

$^{igsirentsymbol{\&}}$ Please contact the office on 01673 866596

- For general enquiries including internal audit and advice, contact either Katrina Line 1 (or mobile 07422 963475) or Andrew Line 3 (or mobile 07549 019842). Flexible Monday Friday
- For general enquiries including website management service, invoices, training booking enquiries, contact Lindsey Line 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Friday
- For general enquiries including website/portal updates, e-news items, vacancies, contact Elaine Line 4 on Fridays

Please note that there may be times when the LALC office is not manned, particularly if staff are out training or attending meetings. If you can't get hold of us by phone, please contact us via one of the methods below.



www.lalc.co.uk/contactus

enquiries@lalc.co.uk

Raise a new Enquiry on the portal (login required)

If any Clerks want to join the Clerks' eGroup, or any councillors want to join the Councillor eGroup, contact <u>enquiries@lalc.co.uk</u>.

This fortnightly newsletter is provided to member councils through the clerk and chair and should be circulated to all councillors. This eNews can also be found on the <u>LALC website</u> under News (LALC News). Other important information which comes up in between eNews publication dates is also shared on the website under News (Our Blog).

Training courses are available to book via the portal (login required)

The Training Bulletin is issued monthly, and courses are available to book via the portal. If there is any specific training which you feel would be valuable, and we don't currently offer it, please let us know and we will investigate. The Training Bulletin can be found on the LALC website <u>www.lalc.co.uk/training-2-1</u>.

Clerks – when booking training for your councillors, **please ensure that their email address is correct**. If not, they will not receive the booking confirmation or any joining instructions. If you have set up your



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councillors on the LALC portal, you will be able to select their correct email address from a drop-down list when booking the training.

If you update your council email and are **already** booked on training, please let us know so that we can update your booking to ensure you receive the automatic reminders.

If one of your councillors resigns, and they were booked on LALC training, **please cancel their place**, so that others can book on. Failure to do so may not only deprive other councils from attending but could result in a non-attendance charge (see below).

Please note our training cancellation policy:

- For part day courses please ensure we receive cancellations at least 48 hours in advance
- For full day events please ensure we receive cancellations at least 5 working days in advance, as we need to pre-order and pay for lunches

Due to persistent non-attendance at booked events, it is unfortunate that LALC have had to amend the way we impose our cancellation fees. All members are charged 50% of the training cost when insufficient notice is received (as above) for non-attendance at training events. No shows will be charged at 100% of the course fee. All charges are regardless of whether the council is a member of the ATS or not.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date	
Hundleby Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	No closing date	
Fenton and Torksey Lock Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	5 th January 2025	
North Thoresby, Grainsby & Waithe Parish Council	Clerk/RFO 28 th February 202		
Coningsby Town Council	Admin Assistant 10 th January 2025		
Carlton Scroop and Normanton on Cliffe Parish	Clerk/RFO	No closing date	
Council			
Leadenham Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	28 th February 2025	
Fiskerton Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	14 th February 2025	
South Witham Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	7 th February 2025	
Brookenby Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	14 th February 2025	
Potterhanworth Parish Council	Clerk/RFO 9 th February 2025		
Allington Parish Council	Clerk/RFO No closing date		
Sudbrooke Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	14 th March 2025	
Caistor Town Council	Grounds	17 th March 2025	
	Maintenance/Handyperson		
Bardney Parish Council	Clerk/RFO 7 th March 2025		
Skegness Town Council	Grounds Operative 28 th February 2025		

Vacancy advertising





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LALC can advertise your vacancy on our website and in the fortnightly eNews. This is a **free** service. If you do not have a pre-prepared advert to send us, please complete our **Vacancy Template**, which can be found in the Members Portal under Document Templates.

We also offer a **paid** advertising service, which ensures that your advert also appears on Lincolnshire County Council's website, Facebook, and LinkedIn (in addition to the LALC website and eNews). The current fee for this is £75. Please complete the Vacancy Template (as above), ensuring that all requested information is completed, and then contact us at <u>enquiries@lalc.co.uk</u>. You will be invoiced for this service.

Please note that Lincolnshire County Council require a closing date on their advert, as well as salary information (these are mandatory fields). LCC will remove your advert once the closing date has passed, so please consider the date carefully as you will have to pay again to re-advertise if your vacancy hasn't been filled by then.

We recommend all councils advertise their vacancy, job details, method of application and up to date contact details **on their own website** too.

Please let us know when the vacancy has been filled, so that we can remove it from our website/eNews. If your vacancy has not yet been filled and you are continuing to advertise, please let us know of any revised closing date. If you no longer specify a closing date, please let us know so that we can update the vacancy adverts.

The NALC Recruitment Manual (developed as part of the Civility & Respect project) is now available via the portal. Go into Knowledgebase and click on 'Recruitment Manual' in the 'Employment' menu area.

Sign up to the LCC Town and Parishes newsletter – email:

lcctownandparishnews@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Latest News

To see the latest NALC news (NALC login required): <u>https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news</u> To see the latest SLCC news (No SLCC login required): <u>https://www.slcc.co.uk/news-publications/</u>

SLCC: Latest Civility & Respect newsletter

Key highlights:

- 1651 councils have signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge this is less than 17% of councils
- Updates on the Improvement and Development Board (IDB) Intervention Taskforce and its three initial priorities:



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- A peer review
- A review of the C&R Pledge
- \circ Our work with Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and others

Read it here: <u>https://www.slcc.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CR-Newsletter-January-2025.pdf</u>

NEW – AI training in conjunction with Breakthrough Communications

Breakthrough Communications will be delivering three 90-minute (remote) sessions specifically for LALC members. Each session costs £35 – attend all three sessions and you will only pay for two.

Part 1 - An Introduction to AI in Local Councils: 3rd June, 14:00 – 15:30

Part 2 - Using AI for Internal Council Communications: 26th June, 14:00 – 15:30

Part 3 - Using AI to boost Community Engagement: 22nd July, 14:00 – 15:30

Places are bookable via the LALC portal (login required).

CORRECTION - Save the date!

The 2025 LALC AGM (including a guest speaker) will take place via Zoom on 3rd July. More details to follow.

The 2025 LALC Conference will take place on 16th July at the Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA. Further details will be released in due course.

NEW Date: Worknest Health & Safety/Risk Assessment training

When: 29th May, 9:30 – 15:30

Where: Great Gonerby Memorial Hall, Great Gonerby, Grantham, NG31 8NB

Following the successful event held last year in Kirton-in-Lindsey, our H&S partners, Worknest are back to deliver on 'Health & Safety Awareness for Councils', followed in the afternoon by practical Health & Safety Awareness workshops which will allow delegates to produce their own Risk Assessments with guidance from Worknest.

This is non-core training and costs £78 per person plus VAT (including refreshments and buffet lunch). Book via the portal in the usual way (login required).



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Reminder: How to make a training booking in the LALC portal

Training bookings can be made via the LALC portal by the clerk or the chair. (*Please remember to login in).

In the portal, go to Training & Events. Click on Open Training & Events.

Select the training course you want to book. Select the number of places (against either ATS or non-ATS member).

Click Register.

If you get a message saying "You do not currently have permission to book this event" then it is likely that you have forgotten to log in, or you are not the clerk or the chair.

You will need to supply details of attendees. If you already have your councillors set up in the portal, it's simple to select the correct person from the drop-down list. This will populate their name, email and phone number (if set up). You will still need to answer any questions regarding dietary requirements, any learning/access requirements, and emergency contact details.

If you do not have your councillors set up, then you will need to input the details. Please note that adding a councillor's details on a training booking does not automatically set them up in the portal, so it not only saves time but reduces the chance of errors if you have your councillors set up in the first place.

Where appropriate, your council will be invoiced after the event.

See information above regarding our cancellation policy.

The Great British Spring Clean returns!



This year, the 10th Great British Spring Clean will take place from 21 March - 6 April, and we're asking #LitterHeroes across the country to show they love where they live by making a pledge to pick a bag - or more.

Let us know how your council is taking part

Don't forget to let us know how your town or parish council will take part in this year's Great British Spring Clean - which is the 10th time Keep Britain Tidy has run the national campaign!



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You can sign up below and share the information you want us to make available to your resident volunteers on our website, such as if you can loan equipment: <u>https://confirmsubscription.com/h/i/01593E50BFBF0669</u>

Please let us know you're taking part by 12 February, to ensure your information is ready to share with the public by the time we begin promoting the campaign publicly on 14 February.

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council elections still on for May

Elections will go ahead as planned for Lincolnshire County Council, as well as a new Mayor for Greater Lincolnshire, on 1 May 2025.

Cllr Martin Hill, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, has reacted to the government's announcement that some councils will be postponing their elections while they pursue local government reorganisation.

Cllr Hill, said:

"We have been planning for our elections to go ahead as usual, and it is not a surprise that we are not included in the list of councils that are postponing theirs. We expressed an interest in Greater Lincolnshire being part of the first wave of local government reorganisation and had said we would be open to deferring our elections if needed. We did not request specifically to defer our elections.

"Although it's disappointing that we won't be in the first phase of reorganisation, we will keep pushing for more straight-forward local government across Greater Lincolnshire. I believe we must look at what is best for residents and what will offer the best value for money and develop proposals that deliver this."

Read more about the Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority:

https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/2235/historic-day-as-greater-lincolnshire-combined-countyauthority-is-created

Breakthrough Communications Blog - 10 Fresh Ways to Supercharge Community Engagement on Instagram and Facebook in 2025

In a time where social media feels like the digital heartbeat of our communities, councils that make strategic use of platforms like Instagram and Facebook can build stronger connections and effectively reach residents where they already are.

Here's how parish and town councils can maximise digital community engagement and broaden their reach on Facebook and Instagram in 2025.

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- 1. Leverage Short-Form Video Content
- 2. Promote Local Events with Eye-Catching Graphics
- 3. Feature Community Member Spotlights
- 4. Use Polls and Questions for Feedback
- 5. Post Before and After Photos of Council Projects
- 6. Go Live for Real-Time Engagement
- 7. Track & Adjust with Analytics
- 8. Use Story Highlights for Key Information
- 9. Support Local Causes & Tag Local Organisations
- 10. Celebrate Council and Community Achievements

Read more: https://tinyurl.com/55b8t7vn

NALC urges the government to fund parish and town councils adequately

This week, we urged the government to adequately fund parish and town councils so that they can make an even more significant difference to their communities.

In response to the government's consultation on local authority funding reform, we urged the government to grant mandatory rate relief on all parish and town council-owned buildings and give parish and town councils a share of business rates to enable them to reinvest such funds in community projects. We also asked the government to allow parish and town councils to apply for all relevant central government funding on the same basis as principal authorities in the future.

We have pushed for it to be mandatory for principal authorities to pass on an appropriate share of the New Homes Bonus to communities required to accept new homes. We highlighted that the government must also remove the unfairness of double taxation and ensure equitable costs and local authority services for council tax-payers in parished areas, citing that parish and town councils have tremendous potential to contribute to current housing needs as well as to potential new developments through local green infrastructure, community recreational space and buildings, youth provision and neighbourhood planning.

Read more: <u>https://tinyurl.com/yc7nm5rp</u>

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NALC: Baroness Taylor is confirmed as a keynote speaker for Power Shift 2025

Government minister Baroness Taylor of Stevenage will be the keynote speaker at our Power Shift 2025 conference, which will take place on 23 June 2025 at the America Square Conference Centre in London. Baroness Taylor has actively engaged in housing delivery, local government engagement, and net-zero initiatives. Her participation hopefully underscores the government's commitment to meaningful devolution and the empowerment of parish and town councils. Power Shift 2025 aims to position parish



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and town councils at the forefront of England's devolution journey. The conference will provide attendees access to top government leaders, exclusive policy updates, and inspiring success stories from parish and town councils that have pioneered growth and innovation.

NALC blog: Society of Local Council Clerks

Michael King, head of policy and external communications at the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), highlights parish and town councils' vital role in shaping thriving communities. Far from just pushing paper, Michael highlights how councils deliver real change, supporting local businesses, championing community-led services, and cutting through red tape to make every penny count. However, challenges like online hostility and bureaucratic barriers can slow progress. Strong partnerships, innovation, and respect are key to their success. Read the full blog to find out how your parish and town councils are making a difference and how you can get involved.

(NALC login required): <u>https://tinyurl.com/3uwnbjpj</u>

Did you know?

Lincolnshire has one of the lowest tree cover rates in the UK at just under 4%, compared to a national average of 13%. Lincolnshire County Council has a goal of planting 750,000 trees across the county. To work towards this, LincWoods - Lincolnshire County Council's tree planting project - has been developed and we are working in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission.

https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/2241/even-more-free-trees-and-hedge-plants-given-away

SLCC Annual Awards 2025 – Now Open!

Celebrate those who are making an outstanding contribution to our profession by nominating a colleague for each of the categories below.

SLCC's Annual Awards celebrate the skills, dedication and professionalism of senior officers serving councils large and small throughout England and Wales. Submit your nomination(s) and a panel appointed by the Board of Directors will determine the best three nominees in each category, The winner will be announced at the opening of the National Conference on Tuesday 14 October 2025.

The various categories of awards available for nominations are:

- Heart of the Community Award
- New Clerk of the Year Award
- Bryan Metcalf Award for Volunteering



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Long Service Award(s)

Find out more (no login required): https://www.slcc.co.uk/slcc-annual-awards-2025/

Action Fraud: Hacked accounts

If you think one of your online accounts has been hacked, you should report it as a crime to Action Fraud: <u>https://actionfraud.police.uk</u>



SLCC: Government Unveils Plans for Next Generation of New Towns

The government has outlined its plans (but not proposed locations) for the next generation of new towns.

The New Towns Taskforce (the government sponsored body leading on this exercise) has set out principles on what the next generation of new towns will deliver: affordable housing, vital infrastructure and access





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to open green spaces and nature. They have also announced that over 100 sites in England were submitted by housebuilders and others for consideration by the taskforce.

The government has also announced plans to fast stream planning through brokering disagreements between the agencies and expert bodies, which by law must be consulted within the planning process. Bodies including National Highways, Natural England and the Environment Agency will need to bring planners and housebuilders to the table and iron out concerns that have been holding back development. This work will be bolstered by extra government funding announced, including:

- £1m for government agencies, including National Highways, Natural England and the Environment Agency, to speed up the planning approval of new homes and improve feedback to local authorities and industry where required
- £2m to support the Building Safety Regulator to continue improving the processing for new-build applications
- Over £3m of grants for local councils to bolster planning capacity, alongside direct advice and navigate through some of the more complex issues holding up new development

Read more: https://tinyurl.com/2t73vpaj

SLCC: Government Responds to Electoral Commission's Reports on 2024 Elections

The government has published its formal response to the Electoral Commission's reports on elections held in 2024.

The Electoral Commission 'published its report on voter identification at the July 2024 UK Parliamentary general election on 11 September 2024, and a full report on the May 2024 local, Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayoral elections and the July General Election on 13 November 2024.'

The government's response sets out its position on each of the recommendations made.

Read the response: <u>https://tinyurl.com/mpr2ms6w</u>

SLCC: Ten Steps to set up a Local Council

SLCC has written to the leaders and chief executives of authorities considering the government's call for new local government structures, as we believe this presents a real opportunity to strengthen local democracy in unparished communities.

SLCC has reached out together with our colleagues at the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace), to senior managers and decision-makers in principal councils on the verge of reorganisation, providing them with a ten-point plan on setting up a new local council.

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e-news update

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Do you have news to share? <u>Get in touch</u> via our website. LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

SLCC wants the local council tier of English government to be an effective and comprehensive partner to the new framework of principal authorities that will be established through English devolution, and we firmly believe that establishing new parish, town, or city councils is the viable solution to engaging communities at the grassroots.

SLCC encourages you to consider discussion, whether within your council and/or at your SLCC branch meeting, to help shape the future of local governance.

Read more: https://www.slcc.co.uk/establishing-a-new-local-council-2/

NALC calls for the inclusion of parish and town councils in the government's reorganisation guidance

We have expressed concerns to the government over the exclusion of parish and town councils from recent guidance for local authorities in developing proposals for local government reorganisation.

In a letter from our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, to the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon MP, we reaffirmed our support for the government's devolution agenda outlined in the English Devolution White Paper. However, we expressed our dissatisfaction that the government did not include parish and town councils in the guidance to local authorities about engagement and consultation on reorganisation.

The guidance emphasises engagement with local partners, stakeholders, and public sector providers such as mayors, police and crime commissioners, and the voluntary sector but fails to include parish and town councils. This omission contradicts recent discussions with ministers, including Alex Norris MP and Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, in which the importance of parish and town councils in devolution, community empowerment, and service delivery has been emphasised.

The letter also references the minister's parliamentary statement that parish and town councils play a critical role in devolution. We seek urgent clarification and have urged the government to include parish and town councils as key partners in shaping proposals for new unitary authorities.

Read the letter: <u>https://tinyurl.com/tzt4dkzt</u>

Special display celebrates 800th anniversary of 1225 Magna Carta

Visitors to Lincoln Castle have the rare opportunity to see three of the most important documents in British legal history side by side.



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To celebrate the 800th anniversary of the 1225 Charter of the Forest, visitors can step into the past and experience an extra special display bringing together the 1225 charter, the 1215 Magna Carta and 1217 Forest Charter.

Whereas the legendary Magna Carta declared that kings had to act within the rule of law, its equally important companion document, the Charter of the Forest, reclaimed land for use by ordinary people.

The three documents are on display until 1 June 2025 in the magnificent surroundings of the David P J Ross Magna Carta Vault.

Read more: https://tinyurl.com/2tjbkzux



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SLCC: Neighbourhood Planning support update

The government has announced that its Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme for the period 2025 to 2027 will be delayed until July 2025. The programme, presently managed by Locality, provides technical and financial support for parish councils and others undertaking or reviewing a neighbourhood plan. They also announced that the technical support funding programme for 2024/2025 is now fully allocated and, therefore, is not accepting any new applications.

More information: <u>https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/</u>

Voting

If you are voting for the first time on May 1 you need to be registered. Recently moved house or changed your name? You need to update your details to be able to vote. The deadline to register to vote for the Lincolnshire County Council elections and the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral Elections is midnight on Friday, April 11.

Register now: <u>https://loom.ly/i94Zcmc</u>

Social Isolation Funding

East Lindsey District Council is proud to continue its efforts to combat social isolation by supporting community groups with self-isolation funding. Throughout 2023/24, we have supported 34 community groups, and we're excited to announce an additional £60,000 will be injected into the fund for the second year! This funding, originally from the Cost of Living Support Budget, aims to empower community hubs and groups dedicated to addressing self-isolation challenges. Funds have been used for warm meals, running costs of warm spaces, facility improvements, and skill-building sessions. Applications are still open. Each group can apply for a maximum of £2,000.

For more information and to apply, visit www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/socialisolationgrant

Review of Hospital Visiting Times

Hospital visiting time in Lincolnshire are being reviewed. Share your thoughts in the survey about extending visiting times to 10am until 8pm.

Survey link: https://nhslincolnshire.gualtrics.com/.../SV dp1XqXsQ2mIF9I4

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Coming	to a	district	near	you!

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 3rd April	11am to 2pm	Corn Exchange, Bourne PE10 9EF
Friday 25th April	11am to 2pm	The Long Sutton Market House, Long Sutton, Spalding PE12 9DD
Friday 9th May	11am to 2pm	Old Leake Community Centre, Furlongs Lane, Old Leake, Boston PE22 9NX
Monday 19th May	11am to 2pm	Franklin Hall, Halton Road, Spilsby PE23 5LA
Monday 2nd June	11am to 2pm	Moorland Community Centre, Lincoln LN6 7NH
Wednesday 18th June	11am to 2pm	Navenby Methodist Church Hall, Navenby LN5 OEN
Tuesday 15th July 11am to 2pm		Festival Hall, Market Rasen LN8 3HT





Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Partnership



