

Memo (Agenda April)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Nigel Jupp (County Councillor) & Toni Bradnum (District Councillor)

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 8th March 2019 (week commencing 4th March 2019)

Re: COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING NOTE

I have outlined below a number of recent developments for your information.

(1) **Planning Applications Issued**

Number	Applicant & Reason	Consultation Closes	NPC Meeting

(2) **HDC Decisions**

Number	Applicant & Reason	PC Observation	HDC Decision

(3) **Correspondence**

Email dated 4th March 2019, from SSALC
SSALC Weekly Bulletin 4th March 2019

Latest News

For regular news updates please visit
www.ssalc.co.uk

Recruitment interviews for Clerks

It has just been reported to me by an unsuccessful candidate that two questions she was asked at a recent interview were inappropriate, possibly leading to a complaint. Firstly she was asked if she did shorthand, secondly she was asked if she felt driving home after dark would be a problem. I have checked with the successful [male] candidate and he was asked neither question so may I please remind councillors attending interviews of the following:

- [a] Be aware of the 'protected characteristics' and do not ask questions that are likely to offend a candidate
- [b] The Chairman must ensure that all candidates are asked the same questions, with responses allowing for appropriate supplementary questions

If SSALC is invited to attend an interview, a briefing for the Panel is conducted prior to meeting candidates to ensure that all councillors are comfortable with the process

Funding for village halls

The Autumn Budget announced up to £8 million to help with the cost of repairs and alterations to village halls, Miners' Welfare facilities and Armed Forces organisations' facilities. Funding of £3m has been allocated to ACRE for distribution to village halls. For more detail of how the fund will work and whether your hall may be eligible do contact your [local ACRE Network member](#).

NALC Legal Update March 2019

Featuring updates on GDPR – commenting on planning applications, Committee on Standards in Public Life & Powers to contribute to library authorities

[Read more](#)

Email dated 5th March 2019, from SSALC SALC Meeting with Chief Constable of Sussex Police

On Friday 24th May 2019, SALC representatives will be holding their biannual meeting with Giles York, Chief Constable of Sussex Police.

If you have any strategic or unresolved topics that you would like to be raised at the meeting could you please return them directly to me by close of business on **Thursday 9th May 2019** at the latest.

Email dated 5th March 2019, from Deborah Young, HDC JAG Meeting 26th March 2019

In advance of the next JAG meeting, due to be held on 26 March, I am pleased to provide a link to the reporting form for Parish issues.

If your parish has any issues to raise, please complete the following form to report community issues for consideration by the JAG membership.

Note that this form in no way replaces the need to contact Sussex Police or the other emergency services in 1 real time on either 999 or 101 for non-emergencies.

http://ebusiness.horsham.gov.uk/outreach/COM_JAG.ofml

The Chairman represents the Parish Council at the JAG Meetings.



New report highlights the state of rural services

A new report published has highlighted the state of rural services in England, showing basic mobile calls are not possible across main networks.

[Continue reading](#)



NALC calls on councils, as 1% of councillors are below 25

NALC's Councillor Census Survey found that of the 100,000 councillors serving local (parish and town) councils, there are only 700 councillors (0.7%) aged 25 or below.

[Continue reading](#)



Tracey Crouch MP on local councils battling loneliness

Former minister for loneliness, Tracey Crouch MP, called on local councils to help residents suffering from loneliness at NALC's Spring Conference.

[Continue reading](#)

Member updates

Agenda papers for National Assembly on 13 March 2019

A new consultation on the Affordable housing commission call for evidence

A new consultation response on the *Clean Air Strategy*

A new consultation response on the *Communities Framework*

A new consultation response *Woodland Protection*

A new consultation on *Flood Defences*

**Email dated 7th March 2019, from SSALC
Respect & Remember**

You may be aware that WSALC occupies a seat on the West Sussex Civilian and Military Partnership Board, a body comprising representatives of the Lord Lieutenant, County, Boroughs and District Councils with serving military personnel, the South East Reserve Forces Association, Service Charities and the NHS.

The principal role of the Board is to uphold the Military Covenant and ensure that serving or retired personnel and their families are not disadvantaged by virtue of their service. Whilst West Sussex has a limited military footprint, there are 46,000 veterans living within the County.

In November 2018 the centenary of the Armistice was commemorated and leading up to that time I wrote to all local councils to identify those who would like to have a uniformed military presence at their ceremonies; in the end only Kirdford responded with the details required and with the kind co-operation of the CO of 12 Regt. Royal Artillery, a contingent from Thorney Island led by a Warrant Officer duly attended.

With the 75th anniversary of D Day on 6th June and the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of WWII on 3rd September, the Board felt it would be helpful to all concerned if requests for attendance was more structured. If you would like to invite a representative of the Lord Lieutenant or military personnel to events you have planned it would be helpful if you could complete the attached form and return it to Paul Richards as indicated.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely, Trevor Leggo, Chief Executive

**Email dated 7th March 2019, from HALC
HALC Meeting 25th March 2019 & CCG Update**

The next meeting of HALC will be on Monday 25 March 2019 at 7.30pm at Barns Green Village Hall.

Please find a link to the CCG Patient Roundup update below
<https://www.nuthurstparishcouncil.co.uk/ccg-patient-roundup-march-2019/>

**Email dated 8th March 2019, from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin**

Policy Committee

Our Policy Committee, which oversees our policy-making and campaigning work, met on 6 March, here are a few highlights in advance of the draft minutes being available:

- An extensive discussion on the flexible and diverse funding theme of NALC's **A *prospectus for ultra-localism***, with a particular focus on our policy on business rate reform, where it was agreed our submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review should press for involvement in business rate retention pilots and continue to make the case for a share of business rates
- The committee noted with concern a number of recent government funding initiatives on parks, high streets, Brexit and disabled people wanting to stand for election, were not open to local (parish and town) councils; this is an issue our chairman Cllr Sue Baxter will be raised directly with the local government minister, Rishi Sunak MP, in their meeting next week
- A motion from the Essex Association of Local Councils was supported seeking clarification from the government on funding church building repairs
- The committee agreed on a policy position on Charter Trustees as well as advocacy and support activity aimed at creating new local councils in those areas

Other meetings and events

- Gurvynda Paddan-White, solicitor, was at the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils larger councils meeting on 6 March for a soft launch of new practical guidance on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which we have commissioned from the planning think-tank Planning Futures, who also attended. I'm pleased to say the briefing was well received, prompting some lively discussions on planning and decision making in general, as well as CIL experiences in Oxfordshire. A number of case studies and examples are being developed for inclusion in the guidance which we will be available in due course.
- Gary Barker, solicitor, gave an update on current legal issues at the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils event on Saturday 2 March; the event was well attended by around 60 clerks and councillors, with discussions on a wide variety of topics from GDPR to elections.

- On 5 March Sue had the pleasure of attending the Aviva Community Fund finale event in Manchester
- Sue and I had a very positive meeting with colleagues from **CCLA** earlier this week and I'm delighted to announce they have agreed to continue our partnership for another year which will benefit NALC, county associations and local councils.

And finally...

Ordnance Survey (OS) is working with the **Geospatial Commission** on a survey looking at how local councils use maps, and to help OS understand how they can better support the use of maps and mapping data within local councils. It's open until 21 March 2019 and I'd like to encourage as many councils as possible to respond, even if you aren't a frequent user of OS data or maps! If you haven't received the survey and would like to get involved and share your views, please email insights@os.uk