



LANCASHIRE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
LOCAL COUNCILS

# NEWSLETTER SEPT 2018

## TAKE PART: Join your local Green Clean this September

CPRE's Green Clean has officially kicked off! Throughout September, we're holding more than 20 litter picking events up and down the country to help build the case for the best possible deposit return system for England. It's the perfect opportunity to help clean your local green spaces, meet other countryside supporters and contribute valuable evidence to the government's DRS consultation. We've even got our very own reverse vending machine to demonstrate how a system could work.

We'll be taking our fabulous machine – which collects drinks containers of all materials and sizes – to several of our litter picks, where it will reward our litter pickers with 10p for every drinks containers collected. Our first event took place this week in Brigg, Lincolnshire, where volunteers came together to collect 451 littered bottles and cans, and turned them all into cash!



### **The Eden Project's Big Lunch**

Inspired by the energy and togetherness of The Big Lunch and bolstered by new found friendships, many communities just can't stop bringing people together after Big Lunch day. Like Chris and his neighbours in Billingham, West Sussex: "Off the back of The Big Lunch we created a Facebook group and plan to do another event in September and carol singing round a fire-pit in December!"

Heather in Manchester organised the first Big Lunch in her newly built estate, which saw them all gathering afterwards to watch the World Cup together. "The Big Lunch was a brilliant springboard for us", she says, "and I predict an even bigger event next year as new folk move in."

And up in Fife, Scotland, there have even been talks of having an outdoor family cèilidh in Celine's neighbourhood where, she says, "everyone would like to see more community events in the village." Fingers crossed this weather holds out for the dancing!

Others have been inspired to go one step further, setting up projects and organisations to improve their neighbourhood and build more community engagement. And, while this can seem, daunting this inspiring lot have done it, so you can too.

### **Code of Conduct , National Association Briefing**

Local (parish and town) councils would support a single code of conduct that could be used by all local authorities, according to research conducted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Currently, different codes of conduct are in use across local government, but 90% of those local councils questioned would fully support a code of conduct that is the same and mandatory for all local authorities.

The survey of England's local councils – undertaken by NALC to inform its submission to a parliamentary review on standards – also found that nearly 70% of local councils would like new powers to impose additional sanctions. At the moment sanctions used by local councils include apologies and training. However, around 60% of local councils believe these are neither sufficient to punish breaches of the code of conduct or deter future breaches.

Additionally, when it came to training on codes of conduct, the survey uncovered gaps with almost 40% of local councils stating that their members hadn't received any training and 20% reported that most members did not understand the rules around declaring interests. Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, said: "NALC does not believe the current ethical standards arrangements are working as well as they could and a review of the regime is something we have long called for. We would like to see stronger sanctions available to local councils, including the power of suspension and disqualification.

"In light of our research, we are also asking the government to invest £2m towards a national training programme that would see all new councillors undertake training on ethical standards and the code of conduct as part of their induction."

The Committee on Standards in Public Life is currently undertaking a review into local government ethical standards which is expected to report to the prime minister by the end of the year.

## **Workshops**

There are two workshops remaining for 2018;

Chairmanship on October 11th

Finance on November 15th

There are vacancies at present on both workshops

Please contact the office for further information



Congratulations on achieving the

**Foundation Level of the Local Council Award  
Scheme**

to

**Prescot Town Council**



The certificate was presented at the recent Executive Meeting by the President of the Association, Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Atkins

### **LALC AGM**

A reminder to members to please send in your booking forms for the meeting on November 17th.

Forms were e-mailed out in June. Please contact the office if you have not received them.

The meeting will be held at Howick House in the newly re-furbished social centre.

There is plenty of parking space available.

### **Audit – outstanding AGARs August 2018**

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) are now receiving management information returns from the audit suppliers – currently, their main concern is the number of authorities they have had no response from, this is higher than in previous years. There were over 700 authorities who had not responded at all!

All will now have received formal reminder letters at a charge of £40 each and will receive a further chaser if there is still no response. It is likely that most of these will qualify as exempt and therefore may have assumed that they do not need to do anything!

Audit suppliers such as PKF Littlejohn have already been in touch with some county associations. Any council which is unsure who their external auditors are can find this information on the [SAAA website](#). SAAA will receive a further detailed return from the suppliers at the end of August.

## Lancashire Day Proclamation

To the people of the city and county palatine of Lancaster

Greetings!

Know ye that this day, November 27th in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and eighteen, the 66th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Duke of Lancaster, is

Lancashire Day

Know ye also, and rejoice, that by virtue of Her Majesty's County Palatine of Lancaster, the citizens of the Hundreds of Lonsdale, North and South of the Sands, Amounderness, Leyland, Blackburn, Salford and West Derby are forever entitled to style themselves Lancastrians.

Throughout the County Palatine, from the Furness Fells to the River Mersey, from the Irish Sea to the Pennines, this day shall ever mark the people's pleasure in that excellent distinction - true Lancastrians, proud of the Red Rose and loyal to our Sovereign Duke.

GOD BLESS LANCASHIRE AND GOD SAVE THE QUEEN,  
DUKE OF LANCASTER.



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**ACCURACY**

The Lancashire Association of Local Councils has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the articles contained in this newsletter and can not in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or advice given.