



LANCASHIRE
ASSOCIATION
OF
LOCAL COUNCILS

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

Annual Conference

The annual conference will take place on May 13th at the popular venue the Leyland Hotel which is situated conveniently at junction 28 of the M6.

Justin Griggs from the National Association of Local Councils will attend to give an update on national matters.

There will be an item on South Ribble Borough Council's Dementia Cafe which will include a workshop on Dementia friends.

An item will cover employment issues and there will be a presentation on Emergency Planning.

The conference this year will be free of charge for members.

Briefing from the National Association;

NALC welcomes the Government's proposal to extend the remit of the **Local Government Ombudsman** to local (parish and town) councils set out in the draft Bill Public Service Ombudsman Bill.

But NALC calls on the Government to pilot arrangements with larger local councils and evaluate their success before extending to all 10,000 councils in England.

NALC recognises that the public needs swift and effective redress when they believe there has been a failure in a service. This should not only give a better deal for the citizen but also lead to better quality and value for money in the local public services delivered by the tier of government nearest to the people.

Cllr Sue Baxter, NALC Chairman said this in support of the draft Bill; "Overall it has been a longstanding policy of NALC's that the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) should be extended to cover all parish and town councils. However in our response to the earlier Government consultation we proposed piloting the use of the Ombudsman with larger parish councils and that following a policy review the LGO should cover all parishes. "

Community Fibre Partnerships – BT

£2 million of grants have been made available from BT Community Fibre Partnerships. Grants are for communities in the final 5% of the UK not covered by fibre broadband rollout plans. These provide match-funded grants of up to £20,000 toward the cost of their new fibre infrastructure if that could also serve their local school.

50% of the required funds could be available from the scheme with the community raising the additional 50%. BT has teamed up with the Crowdfunding website "Spacehive" (Crowdfunding Fibre) to assist with community fundraising.

Applications can be made at any time until the £2 million has been allocated.

<http://www.communityfibre.bt.com/schools>

Get Better Connected

The Government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service so that browsing the web and keeping in touch with families and friends is easier.

A subsidised broadband installation is now available if you cannot access an affordable broadband service with a speed of at least 2 Mb per second.

You can check what broadband services are already available to you using the [GoSuperfast](#) checker and what your current broadband speed is, using the [ADSL availability checker](#).



Lancashire County Training Partnership

Workshops for 2017

February 23rd	Finance
March 16th	Chairmanship
April 20th	Planning
May 18th	Certificate in Local Council Administration (Session 1 of 6)
June 15th	Effective Meetings
July 15th	New Councillors and Clerks - Module 1
August 5th	New Councillors and Clerks - Module 2
September 28th	Community Engagement
November 16th	Chairmanship
November 23rd	Finance

Further dates may be added as required.

We are also available to provide workshops for full councils.

Full details of courses will be sent to Clerks together with booking forms.

Charter for Trees

This year NALC has partnered with more than 50 organisations to help launch a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

Led by the Woodland Trust, more than 50 organisations from across multiple sectors, are standing together to call for a Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

Through collecting stories about what trees and woods mean to people, we are building a picture of their value to everyone in the UK. These stories will be used to create a set of guiding principles, around which the charter will be written. The final Charter for Trees, Woods and People will influence policy and practice and celebrate the role that trees and woods play in our lives

The new charter will launch on November 6th 2017, the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest.

If you would like more information on Tree Charter please contact joseph.palasz@nalc.gov.uk



Congratulations to:

Marie Dardis, Penwortham Town council
who has achieved the
Certificate in Local Council Administration

The next CiLCA course starts on Thursday 18th May

Buckingham Palace Garden Party



The lucky councils this year are;

West Bradford

Euxton,

Melling,

Treales, Roseacre and Wharles

LCC Contact details;

Report a defect (i.e. pothole, cracked flag/trip hazard, cracked/missing manhole cover, streetlight out, blocked drain, missing/damaged sign).

Report it online: www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads

Tel: 0300 123 6780

Email: highways@lancashire.gov.uk

Request a service (i.e. road resurfacing; additional street lighting; traffic calming measures; parking enforcement; disabled parking bay)

Tel: 0300 123 6780

Email: highways@lancashire.gov.uk

Transparency Fund

The Transparency Code ensures the online publication of information to provide taxpayers with a clear picture of a council's activities, meetings, spending and governance. The legislation provides clear guidance for exactly what must be published.

In order to apply for funding eligible councils with an annual turnover of £25,000 or less should;

- ◇ Obtain an application form from the County Association of Local Councils;
- ◇ Complete the application form and return to the County Association
- ◇ Use grant monies awarded to deliver specific outputs agreed on the application.

Full details can be found on the NALC website here:

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/the-transparency-fund>

CONTACT
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL COUNCILS

Telephone Number 01772 750900

E-Mail info@lalc.org.uk
Web site www.lalc.org.uk

Address
Howick House, Howick Park Ave,
Penwortham
Preston
PR1 0LS



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.