



Notts ALC Newsletter

November 2023

sent to Chairs and Clerks - please kindly forward to all councillors

ALL NEW - website and logo! | Notts ALC Training | NALC |

HR | Notts County Council | Free trees | Website providers

Notts ALC - new website and logo

We are delighted to present to you our new logo (please see above) and new website, www.nottsalc.com.

Functionality of the website will increase over time; the big change for you to be aware of is that **training will now be booked via the website** (see Notts ALC Training, below).

By December we intend to have all of our main training sessions for 2024 listed on there, so that you can budget effectively and get dates in the diary.

Notts ALC Training

Upcoming training:

- **Managing Grievance & Disciplinary Issues** (16/11 at 10am) via Zoom
- **Managing Allotments** (2-part course, 22 & 29/11 at 2.30pm) via Zoom
- **Managing Closed Burial Grounds** (4/12 at 12.30pm) via Zoom
- **Misuse of Social Media as a tool to intimidate and harass employees** (9/1 at 10am) via Zoom
- **New Councillor Training** (17/1 at 7pm) via Zoom.

Further information about each course and a booking link is now available [HERE](#). Click 'RSVP' to book your place. Invoices will be sent to your councils as usual. (We hope to develop website payments in due course, as an option for councils who are able to make direct payments.)

Energy Infrastructure Projects affecting local councils

We have been made aware that a number of councils have recently received information from developers about future projects in solar and battery energy storage systems (BESS). We would be grateful if someone from your council could fill in a short form [HERE](#) so that we can understand the scope of the issue.

National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

1. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) recognises achievement and provides a framework for continual improvement. We offer our congratulations to Bingham and Harby who achieved their awards in the last few months.

Already recognised in Nottinghamshire are:

- Bingham Town Council – Foundation (exp July 2027)
- Collingham Parish Council – Quality Gold (Exp July 2025)
- Dunham on Trent with Ragnall Fledborough & Darlton Parish Council - Foundation (Exp Jan 2024)
- Fernwood Parish Council – Foundation (Exp April 2027)
- Harby Parish Council – Foundation (Exp Sept 2027)

It would be wonderful if more of our councils would consider joining the scheme. There is so much good work going on across the county so please do consider signing up.

National are running a FREE online information event on 12th December at 12 noon and that would be a great place to start if you are interested. You can book for the webinar [HERE](#) - training sessions are listed chronologically so just scroll down to 12th December to book.

2. BUILDING SAFETY

National has asked us to draw your attention to **The Building Safety Act 2022 which came into force on 1st October**. Please find detailed guidance [HERE](#). There is also government guidance [HERE](#). NALC suggests that councils may wish to contact their insurers for further information.

3. NATIONAL'S AGM

Summary from Jonathan Owen, NALC's Chief Exec:

'Our [Annual General Meeting](#) (AGM) held remotely on 24 October 2023 supported two important policy motions. Representatives from our 43 county associations backed the [Shropshire County Association of Local Councils](#) call for government to recognise the value of local (parish and town) councils as effective delivery agents of government policy and open funding opportunities to direct access rather than through principal authorities. The AGM also called on all political parties, as the general election approaches, to commit to implementing the proposals of the Committee on Standards in Public Life including introducing sanctions for poor behaviour of councillors and enacting that within the first year of forming the new government. These motions underscore our existing [manifesto](#) objectives of direct access to government funding and a strengthening the standards regime. The AGM also reappointed Baroness Ros Scott of Needham Market as president;

and Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Cllr Sue Baxter, Andrew Gwynne MP, The Earl of Lytton and Lord O'Shaughnessy as vice-presidents. They were thanked for their help in raising the profile of NALC and the sector, with Baroness Scott commended for her work on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The AGM also approved our Annual Report, setting out successes over the last year and future plans. The affiliation fee for 2024/25 of 7.94 pence per elector, capped at £2,037 for larger councils, was also approved.'

HR updates

Please see attached some information from our HR advisor on **Workers (Predictable Terms and Conditions) Act 2023** (affecting zero hours and fixed term contracts) and 'is stress a disability?'.
[HERE](#).

Updates from Notts County Council

BUDGET SURVEY

It would be great if as many PCs and TCs as possible could contribute to the NCC survey. *'In preparation for the next financial year the council is now in the process of setting its budget. Each year the County Council has a legal duty to balance its budget and this time it needs to rise to the challenge of increased inflation and energy costs, additional demands on our services, an increase in complex and specialist health care needs, a national shortage of social care staff and a need for more government funding. The council is taking this opportunity to engage with residents and stakeholders by survey until **Sunday 12th November** to best understand their needs and priorities. The short survey takes just minutes to complete and the easiest way to take part is online [HERE](#).'*

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NET ZERO INFORMATION

NCC has put together a list of grants, support and information for community groups to help identify opportunities to help transition to net zero by 2050. Please see the information [HERE](#).

Free Trees from the Woodland Trust

Since 2010, The Woodland Trust has given away 13 million free trees to schools and communities across the UK. They are currently accepting applications from parish and town councils for **free trees**! You can apply for up to 420 free saplings per application window. More info [HERE](#).

Website Providers

We've been asked by a few councils recently to recommend a website provider. Notts ALC don't endorse any particular company, but we know that the following are some of those that work in our sector and provide excellent service to parish and town councils, so these would be good companies to investigate.

- **2Commune:** Please see **attached info** and information [HERE](#).
- **Hugo Fox:** Please see information [HERE](#).
- **Parish Online:** Please see **attached info** and information [HERE](#). Parish Online are offering an exclusive **30% discount** to Notts ALC member councils, so do mention if you contact them that you are a member here.

And finally...

Don't forget we are on Facebook! Please like/follow us!

And if you have any news that we could share, please tag us in your Parish Council posts.

[Notts ALC on Facebook](#)

With best wishes,

Notts ALC



Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HD

President: Ivor Walker

Chair: Cllr Mick Baker

CEO: Kaffy Rice-Oxley

Email: office@nottsalc.org.uk

Phone: 01636 816890

Website: www.nottsalc.com

[Facebook](#)