

Parish Liaison 30th October 2019

B&NES ALCA Chair's Report

Most of this report has been formulated from information gained at the NALC Conference 28th/29th October.

I would like everyone to join me in congratulating Donna Ford, Clerk to Midsomer Norton, who was award Clerk of the Year at the NALC presentation event. This is a huge achievement.

- The NALC representatives reported that they would be working closer with Town and Parish Council's in the forthcoming year and would welcome invitations to attend Town and Parish Council meetings.
- NALC reminded us that they have a large suite of support papers including over 100 legal topic notes that are available for member Council's via the NALC website.
- Our friends from Parish Online are about to launch their new digital asset register system. Harlestone Parish Council have been trialling this system and are used as a case study of the Parish Online website. I have contacted Martin Laker of B&NES to enquire if we will be having our usual December training event at Bath Spa University and if so that the digital asset register system is showcased,
- For anyone interested NALC can provide information in respect of mandatory business rate relief for public conveniences.
- I would suggest that any Town/Parish or Community Council involved in a connecting your communities through community transport that you look at the Transport Planning Society's website and obtain a copy of NALC's document 'A Good Councillors Guide to Transport Planning.' For a case study on the formation of a community transport company a good model to look at is Sevenoaks Route 8 Bus Service.
- A show of hands at the conference highlighted that a good number of Town and Parish Council's had declared a Climate Emergency. NALC will be releasing a webpage in January that will have helpful information on this topic. In the meantime, the Clerk from Buckingham Town Council is happy for you to contact them as they declared, have been working on this matter and have formulated a full plan. NALC are encouraging Town and Parish Council's to declare.
- For those Town and Parish Councils that are strengthening rural communities by taking on assets such as village pubs, community halls, churches etc look

at the Plunkett Foundation which has lots of advice on this matter, offers support and can aid with sourcing funding.

Finally, I have been working with Alison and Sara of B&NES Council on forward planning for 2020. This includes planning diary dates which are as follows: -

ALCA MEETING DATES FOR 2020

5th February 11th June and 3rd September 2020

PARISH LIAISON MEETING DATES FOR 2020

31st March 16th July and 22nd October 2020

ALCA representatives, B&NES Officers and the Leader of B&NES Council will be meeting to set agendas for future Parish Liaison meetings on the following: -

w/c 10th February

w/c 15th June

w/c 7th September

If your Town or Parish Council has any items that you wish to be discussed and future Parish Liaison meetings, please do contact me.

Being able to arrange these dates in advance will aid with planning and dealing with Town/Parish Council issues raised more efficiently together with allowing B&NES Council time to prepare response, invite Local Authority Officer and member Councillors along that can help with any issues that we raise.

In December we will be holding our first Clerk's networking event where we will launch the Clerk's Forum and have an update on FixMyStreet. The date of this event will be circulated shortly.

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