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*[Get in touch](#) via our website.*

*LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.*

## Contact us



**Please contact the office on 01673 866596**

- For general enquiries including internal audit and advice, contact either Katrina – Line 1 (or mobile 07422 963475) or Andrew – Line 3 (or mobile 07549 019842). Flexible Monday - Friday
- For general enquiries including website management service, invoices, training booking enquiries, contact Lindsey – Line 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Friday
- For general enquiries including website/portal updates, e-news items, vacancies, contact Elaine – Line 4 on Fridays

Please note that there may be times when the LALC office is not manned, particularly if staff are out training or attending meetings. If you can't get hold of us by phone, please contact us via one of the methods below.



[www.lalc.co.uk/contactus](http://www.lalc.co.uk/contactus)



[enquiries@lalc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lalc.co.uk)



Raise a new Enquiry on the portal (login required)

If any Clerks want to join the Clerks' eGroup, or any councillors want to join the Councillor eGroup, contact [enquiries@lalc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lalc.co.uk).

This fortnightly newsletter is provided to member councils through the clerk and chair and should be circulated to all councillors. This eNews can also be found on the [LALC website](#) under News (LALC News). Other important information which comes up in between eNews publication dates is also shared on the website under News (Our Blog).

## Training courses are available to book via the portal (login required)

The Training Bulletin is issued monthly, and courses are available to book via the portal. If there is any specific training which you feel would be valuable, and we don't currently offer it, please let us know and we will investigate. [The Training Bulletin can be found on the LALC website here.](#)

Clerks – when booking training for your councillors, **please ensure that their email address is correct.** If not, they will not receive the booking confirmation or any joining instructions. If you have set up your







We were asked about a scenario where a council chair overrode a councillor's request for votes to be recorded and proposed a motion not to permit it, which was passed. Our advice was that there is no power to do this. The law gives a statutory right for a councillor(s) to request that votes be recorded. Paragraph 13 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 provides that on the requisition of any member of the council, the voting on any question shall be recorded to show whether each member present and voting gave his vote for or against that question. The council chair or indeed a council's standing orders cannot override the right.

### **Can a committee accept apologies and approve reasons for absence from a councillor who is not a member of the committee?**

We were asked to consider a councillor's qualifying attendance for Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. The council asked us if apologies approved at a committee of which the councillor was not a member would count. Our view was no. It is for the logical reason that there is no absence to be approved from a committee if a councillor is not a member of the committee.

### **Can a parish or town council use the general power of competence to pay allowances to co-opted members?**

A council asked us if it could use the general power of competence to pay a parish basic allowance to co-opted members. Our answer was no. Regulation 25 of the Local Authorities' Members' Allowances (England) Regulations 2003 provides that a local council can pay a parish basic allowance (PBA) for each year to its chair only or to each of its members. Regulation 25 (10) says that for this regulation, any reference to a member is a reference to an elected member of a parish or town council. Section 2 of the Localism Act 2011 says that the use of the general power is subject to pre-commencement limitations or post-commencement limitations expressly applied. In our view, Regulation 25 (10) does amount to such an express limitation. Our advice note contains our advice on councillors' allowances.

### **Can councils carry out maintenance on land not owned by the council?**

We are often asked if parish or town councils can carry out works (e.g. to trees or footpaths) on land they do not own or where there is no known owner. The council may have the power to do the works (e.g. general power of competence). Still, the question is often whether it is appropriate to do so. Would the council be holding itself out to take on responsibility generally and be held liable for any issues that arise as a result of repairs or non-repairs? We advise councils in such cases to first speak with their insurers to check if works are within the scope of their insurance policies. Another solution may be funding other reputable local bodies to carry out the works.

### **The Charity Commission letter**

Legal requests involving charities are common, and often when they come to us, it is because there is a problem that has arisen because of blurred lines between council and charity, or a council not appreciating

the limited role of the custodian trustee. Issues also arise when a council is a landowner of charity land subject to a lease. Our role is limited, as reflected in our advice note on basic charity law. Often, a council will need advice as a charity rather than a council. We want to highlight some of the points made in the letter that they had sent to a council, where the council had not sufficiently distinguished between council and charity, and had treated the charity land as council land. The Charity Commission gave the following advice for trustees.

When making significant decisions for the charity, trustees must:

- Act within their powers.
- Act in good faith and only in the interests of the charity.
- Make sure they are sufficiently informed.
- Take into account all relevant factors and ignore any irrelevant factors.
- Manage conflicts of interest.
- Make decisions that are within the range of decisions that a reasonable trustee body could make.

## Legal request changes

We mentioned at a recent county association meeting that we would be updating our [process for requesting legal advice](#). When you now submit a request, we will log it, allocate it and then revert with the case reference and who will be dealing with the request. The acknowledgement memo we previously sent to you is now contained on our website, and that includes our requirement to publish professional details, such as complaints and details of our insurance cover.

## The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to us in December to confirm that the Act received Royal Assent last month. The Act makes reforms to compulsory purchase powers, processes and compensation in England and Wales, with sections coming into force over the next few months. Given the nature of the subject, we envisage limited application to our sector. We will monitor and assess if there is any guidance we can provide.

## Recent team activity

Our legal manager and senior solicitor, Jane Moore, delivered a legal update for the Surrey Association of Local Councils on 3 December 2025. Jane also attended the Lawyers in Local Government Conference on 28 November 2025, which is a valued partner, and we appreciate the opportunity to promote parish and town councils at their events. Our solicitor, Gary Barker, also delivered a legal update for the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils on 11 November 2025.

*Disclaimer: Information and commentary on the law contained in this bulletin are provided free of charge for information purposes only. Whilst every reasonable effort is made to make the information and commentary accurate and up to date, no responsibility for its accuracy and correctness, or for any consequences of relying on it, is assumed by any member of NALC's legal team. The information and commentary do not, and are not intended to, amount to legal advice to any person on a specific case*

*or matter. You are strongly advised to obtain specific advice about your case or matter and not to rely on the information or comments in this email.*

## NALC publishes its quarterly activity report

NALC have published our quarterly activity report covering October to December 2025. The quarterly activity report details progress in delivering our strategic plan, including information on critical internal issues, parliamentary and government affairs work, events, finances, media coverage, publications and legal advice. It features updates from across all our work under different themed topics.

Some key highlights:

- 1,290 people attended our events in the last quarter.
- We called on the government to provide long-term, realistic funding to safeguard the future of the Post Office network.
- We urged the government to act quickly in legislating for the reforms in its response to the consultation on standards and conduct in local government.
- We introduced a new IT Policy, designed to help parish and town councils meet the requirements set out in paragraph 1.54 of the proper practices.
- We launched a major new resource to help parish and town councils build confidence in data protection and a brand-new Assertion 10 Hub, providing parish and town councils with a comprehensive collection of tools, guidance and policies to help strengthen governance and compliance with the new Assertion 10.
- 13 parish and town councils were accredited under the Local Council Award Scheme (3 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze).

[Read more.](#)

## What Is Community Resilience?

It's about neighbours helping neighbours—before, during, and after an emergency.

From flooding to power outages, resilience means being prepared. It isn't about replacing our emergency services; it's about supporting them with local knowledge and immediate, on-the-ground help.

Resilience often grows in everyday moments:

- A chat at a coffee morning.
- A knitting group sharing local concerns.
- Veterans offering their experience and wisdom.

**Everyone has something to contribute!**

## How You Can Get Involved - Start a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

Consider raising this at your next Parish Council meeting to gauge interest. Even just three volunteers can get the ball rolling and make a huge difference in how a community prepares for, responds to, and recovers from the unexpected.

While these teams don't have to be run solely by the Parish Council, your leadership can act as a vital catalyst. As respected voices in the area, you are perfectly positioned to help your community become more resilient.

## Explore & Share

I encourage you to explore the [Lincolnshire Resilience Forum website](#). It is a wealth of information, including:

- Community Resilience Newsletters: See what other local areas are doing for inspiration. (A new edition goes live next week!)
- The Resilient Communities Programme: [Access updates here](#).

## If you are interested in finding out more and how to start writing a Community Emergency Plan, pop along to a Flood Roadshow!

Come along to a local Flood Roadshow to meet Kimberley Pickett, the Community Resilience Officer for Lincolnshire.

## What to expect:

- **1:1 Support:** Market-style stalls featuring partner agencies ready to answer your questions.
- **Workshops:** Free sessions on basic first aid, scam prevention, writing a community emergency plan, and managing anxiety during a crisis.
- **Family Friendly:** These events are 100% free and include a dedicated children's corner.

## Lincolnshire Flood Resilience Roadshows 2026

Lincolnshire Flood Resilience Roadshows 2026, delivered in partnership between Shine and Lincolnshire County Council. These roadshows are designed to bring people and partners together to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and promote resilience across our communities. They will also highlight the connection between resilience and wellbeing, recognising how flooding and climate challenges impact mental health, confidence, and recovery.

The event is to be held at:

Coronation Hall, 23 Barkham Street, Wainfleet, Skegness, PE24 4DQ – Monday 16th February, 2pm-7pm (drop-in event)







You have until Saturday, 28th of February to [complete the survey](#).



## **NALC: Peers push for stronger protections for parish and town councils**

Peers in the House of Lords raised strong concerns about whether the government's English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill would genuinely pass power down to parish and town councils. The first day of the Grand Committee Stage in the House of Lords focused on Part 1 of the Bill, which establishes new strategic authorities. It prompted a series of amendments aimed at clarifying the Bill's intent and protecting the role of England's most local tier of government.

Read more in [NALC News](#) (no login required).



## **SLCC: Grey Squirrel Policy Statement**

The government has published a policy statement on grey squirrels in England. The statement sets out the actions the government will take over the next five years to reduce the impact of grey squirrels on the red squirrel population and on trees and woodlands. It tackles the economic and environmental threat, protecting much-loved woodlands and vital rural economies.

[Access the policy statement.](#)



## **SLCC - Consultation: National Planning Policy Framework – Proposed Reforms and Other Changes to the Planning System**

The government is seeking views on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system.

The government's attention has been drawn to an error in the consultation document regarding policy TC4 in the NPPF. On page 56 of the consultation document the final paragraph regarding TC4 incorrectly states – 'we are not proposing that a failure against the test is regarded as an automatic basis for refusing planning permission'. This paragraph has subsequently been updated as of 29 January 2026 to rectify this error. This change only affects the consultation document and not the draft NPPF text. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has contacted those who have submitted a response, alerting them to the error and giving them the opportunity to submit a revised response.







# SUPPORTING PARISH COUNCILS ACROSS LINCOLNSHIRE



At TQ Services, we're proud to work alongside parish councils to keep our local communities clean, safe, and thriving. From maintaining village greens and recreation areas to caring for memorial gardens, playgrounds, and pathways — we handle every detail with care, consistency, and pride.

## **Grounds Maintenance You Can Rely On**

Our experienced team provides professional grounds maintenance tailored to the needs of each parish.

We cover everything from regular grass cutting and hedge trimming to seasonal planting, litter clearance, and general upkeep. We understand that every parish is unique, and we take the time to deliver work that reflects your community's standards and expectations.

## **Rooted in the Community**

We're not a distant contractor — we live and work here too. Our work extends beyond public spaces, with a strong presence in local schools and grassroots football.

Through our Platinum Partnership with Lincoln City FC, we proudly support the next generation, helping young people stay active, connected, and proud of where they come from.

## **Let's Keep Lincolnshire Looking Its Best**

If your parish council is looking for a dependable, community-minded team to manage its outdoor spaces, we'd love to help.

**EMAIL US FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

 [\*\*info@tq-services.co.uk\*\*](mailto:info@tq-services.co.uk)



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