

PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE AND TIME

SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
76 – 80 Derby Road
Swanwick
Derbyshire DE55 1BG
Email: clerk@swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk
www.swanwickparishcouncil.org.uk



7th September 2018

You are summoned to attend the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** to be held at **Meeting Rooms, rear of Baptist Church, Derby Road, Swanwick** on **Thursday 20th September 2018 at 7.00pm.**

Members are asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting and to complete the Declarations Sheet (if appropriate), both available at the meeting.

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Members are reminded to give their apologies direct to the Clerk.

2. Variation of Order of Business

3. Declarations of Interest

Members must fill out the Declaration of Interests Forms for submission. Members are requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item of the evening's business, and to explain the nature of that interest.

Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest, but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, they must do so under item 4D of Public Participation.

4. Public Participation

A) Public Attendance & Speaking: Residents wishing to speak need to book in with the Clerk, preferably prior to the meeting by email/phone or immediately prior to the start of the meeting.

Whether wishing to speak or not, each member of the public is required to indicate whether or not they consent to have their name and/ or organisation recorded and published in the minutes of the meeting. Minutes are published on the Parish Council website and are available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

At the start of the meeting a period is available for members of the public to ask questions, make representations or submit comments. This is **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON** – at the sole discretion of the Chair.

B) Parish Council Members' observations will be taken alongside Reports from any Borough and County Councillors attending.

C) Police Matters

Information about the Safer Neighbourhood Team's activity in the area and an interactive crime map are available on the following web pages
www.police.uk/derbyshire/NR06/

D) Representations or Evidence from Members Declaring a Prejudicial Interest

Members indicating that they have a prejudicial interest in an agenda item and who wish to make a representation before leaving the meeting shall do so at this stage.

5. Minutes of Full Council

5.1 To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held 19th July 2018

6. Planning Matters

6.1 Planning Applications for comment: All applications can be viewed at www.ambervalley.gov.uk click on Planning and then click on Planning Applications and use the AVA reference number to search.

7. Clerk's Report

- 7.1** External Audit
- 7.2** Gardening Maintenance
- 7.3** Planters
- 7.4** Dog Waste Bins
- 7.5** Grit Bin
- 7.6** Village Hall Update
- 7.7** Notice of vacancy in the office of Parish Councillor
- 7.8** Councillor Attendance record 2018-19

8. Chair's Report (Verbal Report)

9. Councillors' Updates

Website activity & Social Media
Village Hall Working Group
Defibrillator Working Group
Community Events

10. Correspondence & Circulars (copies are available on the website)

- 10.1** DALC 10-2018
- 10.2** DALC 11-2018

11. Accounts

11.1 To approve urgent payments made to the following:

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount £
17.07.18	D/D	Haven Power	Electric Utility	13.00
31.07.18	DEBIT CARD	Amazon	Shredder	41.99
31.07.18	DEBIT CARD	Wilko	Planter stain	42.00
10.08.18	DD	UKDMO - PWLB	Loan No 504972	4,977.94
23.08.18	54462871	Perennial Landscapes	Summer baskets and bedding	2,918.40
23.08.18	54462885	Perennial Landscapes	July Ground Maintenance	252.00
23.08.18	54463068	Hart Signs	Planter plaques	59.50
23.08.18	54463093	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 17-18	480.00
23.08.18	BACS	Staff Salaries	Mth 5	2097.9
23.08.18	BACS	HMRC Cumbernauld	Mth 5 Deductions	328.35
23.08.18	DD	NEST	Mth 5 Deductions	103.48
23.08.18	3843	Mh-p internet	Web hosting 2018-9	108.00
23.08.18	3844	Cllr. G Soudah	Chairs Phone & B/band	30.00
-	-	-	Clerks Phone & B/band	45.10
23.08.18	3845	Clerks Expenses	Stain for planters	18.00
-	-	-	Jubilee clips for bin	3.20
-	-	-	Parking	0.60
23.08.18	3846	K Miles	Installation of Planters	50.00
29.08.18	D/D	Haven Power	Electric Utility	14.00
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	B & Q	Compost & Screws for Planters	46.34
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Wilko	Screws & pens	5.50
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Jacksdale Garden Centre	Bedding Plants for planters	87.84
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Post Office	Stamps	11.52
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Amazon	Laptop Riser	29.87
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Sainsbury's	Caretaker Fuel	20.00
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Atlantic Electric & Gas	Gas Utility	35.83
31.08.18	DEBIT CARD	Post Office	Signed Postage for SUO	2.11
			Total	11822.47

**SWANWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 19th July 2018 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Barnett, Chidlow, King, Payne & Soudah, Clerk C Miles

Members of the Public:

Members of the public listed waived their right to anonymity under the Data Protection Act:

J Briggs, R Castledine, T Wildgoose

535/2018 APOLOGIES:

Cllr Wilson

536/2018 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

None

537/2018 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item of the evening's business, and to explain the nature of that interest.

None

538/2018 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

538.1/2018 Public Speaking –

TW chose to attend with an interest in the Village Hall.

JB has been attending the Local Plan Review sessions and stated that AVBC are in a serious situation, with the Inspector giving them more time to review and appraise the Local Plan and he reiterated again that the developers were driving this not the council.

538.2/2018 Member's Observations

Cllr Allen King –

Reported that ADASC now has signs up calling itself Sleetmoor United and there was an event there causing traffic problems on Sleetmoor Lane to residents around the area as cars were parked on both sides of the road. This will be monitored.

Cllr Sue Chidlow –

Reported that she had a request about tree preservation orders around Larkhill and Peacock Way, the Clerk is to help Cllr Chidlow find out any information.

538.3/2018 POLICE MATTERS

Cllr Soudah reported that PSCO Richard Plant will be leaving at the end of the month.

538.4/2018 REPRESENTATIONS OR EVIDENCE FROM MEMBERS DECLARING A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None

539/2018 MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL RESOLVED:

Minutes of Full Council held 21st June 2018 be received as correct account of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

540/2018 PLANNING MATTERS

540.1/2018 Planning Applications

Comment received about Thornton's applying to erect 3 storage units within their boundary, GS stated that this all looked ok.

541/2018 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was presented by the Clerk.

541.1/2018 BT Poles on 76 – 80 Derby Road removal

It was noted that Openreach had finally removed the poles on 18th July 2018.

541.2/2018 Gardening Maintenance

It was noted that the Clerk had met with the Contractors on Friday 29th June reporting all complaints about the poor service and supply. The Clerk has requested more information of their works and charges for further investigation. Due to the fact that the baskets are dying with the current weather they have been instructed to remove all the hanging baskets this week and the Clerk is looking into other options for these services.

541.3/2018 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk reported that AVBC responded that they could not empty bins purchased by SPC. The solution is to order two dual usage bins and the Caretaker will empty them on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

To authorise the Clerk to order two bins.

541.4/2018 Community Involvement Scheme

The Clerk reported that the Councillors have been asked if they would be interested in being involved in this scheme, Cllr Chidlow has volunteered and we are waiting for more information from DCC.

541.5/2018 Christmas tree prices

The Clerk reported prices obtained were from New Cadeby Farm to supply a 20ft Norway spruce £300.00 inc VAT including delivery, installation & removal and from Real Christmas Trees to supply 25ft Norway Spruce £340.00, delivery & install into Tree Pit £550.00 and removal (if required) £280.00 all plus VAT.

RESOLVED:

To authorise the Clerk to order a 20ft tree from New Cadeby Farm.

541.6/2018 Notice of vacancy in the office of Parish Councillor

It was noted that there are still 4 vacancies for Parish Councillors.

541.7/2018 Councillor Attendance record 2018-19

It was noted that a table showing attendance record of Members and Borough and County Councillors for the year 2018-19 was provided.

541.8/2018 Cray's Hill Bus Shelter

The Clerk reported that AVBC responded that they have no plans to replace the panes in the Cray's Hill bus shelter at the present time, due to constant vandalism. Also DCC have requested information on the bus shelters in Swanwick and this matter will be looked into over the next few months.

542/2018 Chair's Report

Included the following updates:

543/2018 Councillor Updates

543.1/2018 Website activity & Social Media

Analysis of website activity as follows –

Facebook reached 203 in June 2018.

SPC Website had 236 visits in June 2018.

543.2/2018 Village Hall Working Group

Met on 17th June, the revised plans showing 59 parking spaces and a bike area, was submitted on 6th July and we are now awaiting a decision. The DCLG has extended the borrowing approval for a further year; we now need to look into additional matched funding or grants. The next stage is to clear the site, contact Cadent to disconnect services and sort out the stopping up order with them. We also need to look into having parking restrictions on one side of the road along the frontage in order to reduce the bottle-neck.

543.3/2018 Defibrillator Working Group

RESOLVED:

To pay £180 to have the first defibrillator installed on the front of Swanwick Preschool at the beginning of August and then pay a yearly amount of £10/year for the running costs.

543.4/2018 Well Dressing

It was noted that next year's Well Dressing will take place on 18th May 2019. The dining rooms at Swanwick Hall School have been booked.

543.5/2018 Civic Service

It was noted that the date is Monday, 10th December 2019 and are awaiting a response from Crich Brass Band.

544/2018 Correspondence & Circulars

Noted

545/2018 Accounts**545.1/2018 RESOLVED: To approve urgent payments**

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount £
18.06.18	D/D	Haven Power	Electric Utility	13.00
19.06.18	3832	CANCELLED		0.00
19.06.18	3833	mp-h internet	GDPR Rollout	84.00
19.06.18	3834	Swanwick PCC	Floodlights maintenance	130.00
26.06.18	3838	Swanwick Baptist Church	Room Hire March - May 2018	90.00
26.06.18	3840	Clerks Expenses	Tube light starters	0.79
			Caretaker Fuel	20.00
30.06.18	DEBIT CARD	B & M	Office Sundries	13.25
30.06.18	DEBIT CARD	Toolbuzz	Allotment Path Padlock	12.89
30.06.18	DEBIT CARD	Wilko	Bench Stain	20.00
30.06.18	DEBIT CARD	Waterplus	Water Bill	75.85
30.06.18	DEBIT CARD	Amazon	Printer cartridges	22.99
			Total	482.77

545.2/2018 RESOLVED: To approve the following payment

To Whom Payable	Payment Ref	Reason	Amount £
Perennial Landscaping	BACS	Grounds Maintenance for June 2018	252.00
Perennial Landscaping	BACS	Strimming of Village Hall Site	216.00
Iansprint	BACS	Copying of Minutes etc	19.44
Staff	BACS	Mth 4 Salaries	2097.90
HMRC	BACS	Mth 4 Tax & NI	328.35
NEST	BACS	Mth 4 Pension Contributions	103.48
		Total	3017.17

545.3/2018 Income Received

Noted

Date	Remittance	Amount £
15.06.18	601376 Defib donation from crepe stall Well Dressing	20.00
	Total	20.00

**546/2018 Bank Reconciliation
Noted:**

Cash Book Reconciliation

01.07.18

Opening Balance 01.04.18	129,149.34	
Receipts to 01.07.18	75,333.39	
Sub Total		204,482.73
Unpresented cheques 2017/18	3,958.50	
Payments to 01.07.18	28,908.43	
Unpresented cheques 2018/19	994.79	
Sub Total		31,872.14
Closing Balance 01.07.18		172,610.59
Bank Balance at 01.07.18		172,610.59

**547/2018 Exclusion of Press & Public
None.**

**548/2018 Items for the next agenda
None specifically proposed.**

549/2018 Date & Time of Next Meeting

7.00pm 20th September 2018 at the Meeting Room at the rear of the Baptist Church, Derby Road.

Meeting closed at 20.00

Signed:

Date:

7. Clerk's Report to Swanwick Parish Council meeting 20th September 2018

7.1 External Audit

The audit of the Council's accounts was completed on 14th August 2018 with no concerns and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit was posted on the Parish Notice boards and on the website on 7th September 2018.

7.2 Garden Maintenance

Our contract with Perennial Landscapes Ltd has been terminated with effect from 29th August with the final payment of August maintenance fee in full and final settlement. We are currently looking into different avenues for the future.

During the last bad winds a Willow tree at Butterley was blown down falling on the Mine Cars, which was partially cleared by an unknown source, but the tree has been left in a dangerous condition and needs removing.

We have received 2 quotes –

Derbyshire Tree Services £852.00

JT Tree Services £450.00

We also asked JT Tree Services to quote for trimming the Cherry Tree on Derby Road/High Street where the Christmas tree stands which was £150.00

The Proposal

1. To authorise the Clerk to instruct JT Tree Services to do both works.

7.3 Planters

The new planters have been put into position and planted up by the caretaker and a helper and have made a much welcomed improvement to the village.

7.4 Dog Waste Bins

2 new bins have been purchased, one has been placed on Derby Road near Sleetmoor Lane and it seems to be making an improvement on the waste in that area. The other one is to be placed at the Blisworth Way entrance to Swanwick Recreation Grounds.

7.5 Grit Bin

A new grit bin has been purchased, as previously discussed and has now been placed on Beaulieu Way.

7.6 Village Hall Update

I am currently in discussions with Cadent to get them to remove their objections to the Stopping up order. They have quoted £1333.20 inclusive of VAT for the disconnection of service on site. I am also waiting for disconnection quotes from Waterplus/Severn Trent and Western Power/Haven Power.

Site meetings have been held with site demolition/clearance Companies and quotes are to follow.

Groundsmiths have quoted for the following –

1. Amendment to grouting plan, revision to report text and liaison with the CA (£375 + VAT)
2. Remedial method statement (£750 + VAT), supervision of environmental remedial works (£1450 + VAT) and environmental completion report for remediation (£750 + VAT).
3. They have sent the revised plan onto GSS so that they may re-quote and will forward it onto us as soon as possible.

The Proposal

1. To authorise the Clerk to instruct and pay Cadent to disconnect services.
2. To authorise the Clerk to pay Groundsmiths.

7.7 Notice of vacancy in the office of Parish Councillor

There are now a total of four vacancies for Parish Councillors. I urge members to increase the effort to persuade any resident to consider applying to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

7.8 Councillor Attendance record 2018-19

Members are reminded to notify the Clerk of any apologies (barring emergencies) well in advance of the morning of the council meeting. This is to ensure that the Clerk is aware that the meeting is quorate or needs to be rearranged if not quorate.

Councillor Attendance Record May 2018 – April 2019

Name	May 17	June 21	July 19	Aug HOLS	Sept 20	Oct 18	Nov 15	Dec 20	Jan 17	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 18	%	2017-18
Adams	√	X	X										33%	55%
Barnett	X	√	√										67%	64%
Chidlow	√	X	√										67%	10%
Davies	X	√	X										33%	45%
King	√	X	√										67%	73%
Payne	√	√	√										100%	100%
Soudah	√	√	√										100%	100%
Hayes	X	X	X										0%	0%
Wilson	X	√	X										33%	64%
Smith	X	X	X										0%	0%
Marshall-Clarke	X	X	X										0%	0%

Updated 09/07/2018

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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Circular No. 10/2018

To all Member Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

DALC ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEETING & AGM - 2018

The Annual Executive Committee Meeting and AGM will be held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 from 10am – 12.30pm in The Dave Mackay Lounge, Derby County Football Club, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8XL.

Car parking is free of charge only in the Club's main car park which is accessed from Royal Way, directly in front of the main stadium entrance and club reception, which are located in the stadium's West Stand. Additional parking is available in Car Park B (Pride Park and Ride) where a day's parking costs £2.20.

Member town and parish councillors and clerks are welcome to attend the AGM which starts at 11.15am and stay for a buffet lunch at 1.00pm. If you wish to attend please contact the DALC office on 01629 826655 or email admin@derbyshirealc.gov.uk to secure places and highlight dietary requirements.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS 2018-2019

The President and Vice Presidents (2) of the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The DALC Constitution states “A President, and two Vice Presidents, who are serving Parish or Town Councillors, or Parish Meeting Chairs, in member parishes, will be elected at the annual general meeting in each year and shall respectively be eligible for re-election”. Councillors are able to self-nominate.

The current President is Councillor John Plant (Derbyshire Dales) and is not eligible for re-election and the current Vice Presidents are Councillors: S Bean and K Miller.

Any **nominations** must be received at the DALC office, by post or email (admin@derbyshirealc.gov.uk), **no later than Monday 17 September 2018** on the nomination form attached.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A maximum of two motions from member councils will be considered at the Annual General Meeting. **Motions may only be submitted from member councils and not an individual.** Motions must be of relevance to a significant number of members and shall not be of mainly local interest. **Motions must be in writing and received no later than Monday 17 September 2018.** The Chief Officer will determine if a motion is compliant, and if more than two motions are received will determine those to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. The Council sponsoring an accepted motion will have the right to submit a paper to the Chief Officer in support of the motion for circulation at least 10 working days in advance of the meeting. The sponsoring Council must also be represented at the meeting, and will have the right to address the meeting on the motion for a maximum of 5 minutes. The motion will then be open under the normal rules of debate.



DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

**NOMINATION FOR DALC PRESIDENT – 2018/2019
NOMINATIONS FOR DALC VICE PRESIDENTS (2) – 2018/2019**

NOMINATION FOR DALC PRESIDENT 2018/2019

NAME	NOMINATED BY	DATE

NOMINATION FOR DALC VICE PRESIDENTS 2018/2019
(maximum 2)

NAME	NOMINATED BY	DATE
1.		
2.		

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY POST OR EMAIL
(admin@derbyshirealc.gov.uk) TO THE DALC OFFICE BY NO LATER
THAN MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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TRAINING & EVENTS DIARY

DATE	SUBJECT	CIRCULAR/ REF	VENUE	COST	CPD POINT	TRAINER
10 Sept 2018 – (6.30pm – 8.30pm)	Councillor Essentials	07/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	*Enhanced Sub Councils up to 3 free places/£45	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis
17 Sept 2018 – (10am – 2pm)	CiLCA – Day 1		DALC Office, Cromford	# £250 – lunch included	2.5 per session	Jo Taylor
18 Sept 2018 (1.30pm – 4.00pm)	Planning Nuts & Bolts	08/2018	Gothic Warehouse, Cromford Mill	£45 per delegate	1.5 per session	Lance Wiggins
15 Oct 2018 – (10am – 2pm)	CiLCA Day 2		DALC Office, Cromford	# lunch included	2.5 per session	Jo Taylor
23 Oct 2018 – (6.30pm – -)	Councillor Essentials	07/2018	West Hallam Methodist Church	*Enhanced Sub Councils up to 3 free places/£45	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis
12 Nov 2018 – 6.00pm – 8.30pm)	Chairing Meetings Effectively	07/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	£45 per delegate	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis

*** Up to 3 delegate places free per council on the enhanced subscription scheme
for both days and follow up support; a further £250 is payable to SLCC for the
examination and certificate**

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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Circular No. 11/2018

To all Member Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings

GENERAL CIRCULAR

In this Circular:

1. DALC Executive Meeting and Annual General Meeting – 9th October 2018
2. DALC Executive Vacancies
3. Nominations are open for places on NALC's Larger Councils Committee
4. Civil Society Strategy announced
5. Local Councils in favour of single, mandatory code of conduct
6. Continued precept capping deferral recommended
7. The Princes Countryside Fund
8. Councils are being given the power to increase taxation on homes
9. New fund launched to increase community-led affordable housing
10. New East Midlands Women's Awards
11. Toilet tax makes national news
12. Funding and Grants bulletin
13. Training: Certificate in Local Council Administration
Budgeting and financial management for Clerks
Finance and budgeting for Councillors

1. DALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXECUTIVE MEETING – 9 OCTOBER 2018

Our AGM and Executive meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th October from 10am to 12.30pm in the Dave Mackay Lounge, Derby County Football Club, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8XL. Our speaker at the AGM is Cllr Sue Baxter, Chairman of NALC. Councillors and clerks from all our member councils are invited to attend the AGM (scheduled to start at 11.15am) and to sit in on the Executive Meeting.

Car parking is free of charge if parked in the Club's main car park (accessed from Royal Way) directly in front of the main stadium entrance. There will be a buffet lunch following the

meetings. If you wish to attend please contact the DALC office to secure a place and advise of any dietary requirements as soon as possible.

2. DALC EXECUTIVE - VACANCIES

Please note that we currently have a number of vacancies for our Executive Committee. If any councillor would be interested in joining the Executive please do get in touch. According to our constitution: "...the Executive may appoint a person to fill the vacancy, such person to hold office until the next election and the Committee shall report their action to the next Annual General Meeting."

The vacancies are as follows:

Amber Valley (2), Bolsover (1), Derbyshire Dales (3), High Peak (2), North East Derbyshire (1), Erewash (1).

3. NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR PLACES ON NALC'S LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE

NALC have opened nominations for anyone wanting to sit on the above committee which represents councils having a turnover/ income of £500,000 or more; or an electorate of 6,000 or more. There are 4 places for councillors and 2 places for clerks. If you are interested in finding out more, or putting in a nomination, please look on their website for more details (you will need your council's login details to access the information) [here](#).

4. CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGY ANNOUNCED

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has welcomed the government's Civil Society Strategy, stating local (parish and town) councils will have a key role in many aspects of its proposals. This will include: supporting sustainable community spaces such as village halls; promoting innovation in democracy and encouraging people from all backgrounds to get involved; boosting the take-up of community rights; and supporting local economic growth.

The strategy includes the government's wish "to go further and devolve more power to community groups and parishes. As proposed by NALC and the Local Government Association, there are opportunities for onward devolution of service delivery and decision-making beyond the large regions to smaller geographies. The government will explore with NALC and others the option for local charters between a principal council, local councils, and community groups setting out respective responsibilities. This could include joint service delivery or the transfer of service delivery responsibilities to local councils, parishes or community groups, the transfer of borough council assets to local councils, or from councils to parishes, and the opportunity for councils or parishes to cluster, that is to form a consortium with sufficient scale to commission or deliver larger service functions. There are also useful models in other parts of the public sector – notably health and social care systems – which are building formal alliances with the local social sector to co-deliver services."

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, said: "As the Civil Society Strategy states, Global Britain is rooted in Local Britain. England's 10,000 local councils are already playing a big role in supporting their local communities to help themselves: maintaining vital services and community spaces, supporting networks to tackle loneliness and promote wellbeing, and encouraging people to get involved." Read the full [Civil Society Strategy](#)

5. LOCAL COUNCILS IN FAVOUR OF SINGLE, MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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.

6. CONTINUED PRECEPT CAPPING DEFERRAL RECOMMENDED

The Government is proposing, in the Local government finance settlement 2019 to 2020: technical consultation, to again defer the setting of referendum principles for parish and town (local) councils following a low average increase in council tax levied by local councils in 2018-19 of 4.9% – just £3.02. This is the lowest year-on-year increase since 2015-16.

Following extensive engagement from NALC, in 2018-19 the Government decided to defer for three years the setting of referendum principles for local councils, with the current proposal being the second year of the 'three-year deal'.

7. THE PRINCES COUNTRYSIDE FUND

The Princes Countryside Fund has launched the Recharging Rural report, which shows rural communities are increasingly helping themselves to improve their quality of life but feel as though they are becoming more remote. Professor Sarah Skerratt, director of policy engagement from Scotland's Rural College who led the research, said: "An overwhelming majority of respondents told us that the biggest barriers faced by people living in a remote rural area are a forced reliance on private transport to access anything; limited or poor infrastructure in rural areas, including a lack of access to shops and services; and the ongoing issue of poor digital connectivity. The most significant challenge for the future is affordable rural housing." Claire Saunders, director of The Prince's Countryside Fund said: "It is encouraging to hear how communities are taking action to address the challenges they

face – respondents told us of more than 500 community-led projects happening across the UK.”

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC said: “Rural local (parish and town) councils will recognise and agree with these findings. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regularly hears their concerns about public transport, poor infrastructure, lack of access to services and slow broadband. Many local councils are already taking action to address some of these problems and helping communities to help themselves. Thanks to the work of the local councils, residents can continue to feel connected to their communities.”

A very strong theme in the report is the fundamental need to involve young people in decision-making in their communities, with young people at the centre of consultation and decision-making and given leadership roles currently too dominated by those of the older generation. Read the full [Recharging Rural report](#)

8. COUNCILS ARE BEING GIVEN THE POWER TO INCREASE TAXATION ON HOMES

Councils are being given the power to increase taxation on homes that have been empty for more than 2 years. To read more click [here](#).

9. NEW FUND LAUNCHED TO INCREASE COMMUNITY-LED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Community Housing Fund can significantly increase the delivery of affordable homes through community-led housing groups. Local Authorities will be able to apply for funding for community groups and there is an opportunity to apply for capital funding for small scale projects that may unlock sites that can then be developed for housing (eg roundabouts). For more information [read on](#)

10. THE NEW EAST MIDLANDS WOMEN’S AWARDS

These awards <https://womeninmanagement.info/east-midlands-womens-awards> have a ‘market town leader’ category and ‘community impact category’ which will be of interest to members and clerks in town and parish councils. It would be great to see a town clerk or parish chair win an award.

11. TOILET TAX MAKES NATIONAL NEWS

Last week, NALC’s toilet tax campaign was highlighted by the **BBC** and **The Guardian**. Both reported on the loss of public toilets in the UK, how this is affecting communities and what has led to the loss. Public toilet provision has been declining for a number of years and the BBC has learnt that some UK high streets and tourist hot spots now no longer have any council-run public toilets.

At least 673 public toilets across the UK have stopped being maintained by major councils (unitary, borough, district and city) since 2010, according to figures obtained under the Freedom of Information law. In that time, the UK’s population has been increasing. NALC are lobbying government to exempt parish and town councils from paying business rates on the toilets they run and stop even more from closure. Parish and town councils are already saving our public toilets by taking them on from cash-strapped principal authorities. But their small share of council tax has increased to cover costs which include business rates of

around £16m levied on these important and valued facilities which have an economic development as well as public health benefit.

In Derbyshire, since 2010 we have lost 17 public toilets, mostly in Amber Valley (13 out of their original 14) and Derbyshire Dales (4 out of their original 26). However, no data has been provided by South Derbyshire District Council.

12. FUNDING & GRANTS BULLETIN

NALC have published their latest bulletin. Please click [here](#) to read further.

13. TRAINING

The two-day **Certificate in Local Council Administration** Course will commence on 17 September and day two will follow on 15 October. Please see the training diary at the end of this circular for details. Anyone wishing to take this qualification, who has not done so already, should contact the DALC Office as soon as possible for further details.

Budgeting and financial management training for Clerks will take place on 24 September 2018 at the DALC Office, Cromford, 10am – 2pm at a cost of £65 for basic members and up to three free of charge places for enhanced member councils. Please contact the DALC Office to secure places.

Finance and budgeting for Councillors Training will take place on 25 September 2018 at the DALC Office, Cromford, 6.00pm – 8.30pm at a cost of £45 per delegate. Please contact the DALC Office to secure places.

Wendy Amis
Chief Officer

August 2018

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TRAINING & EVENTS DIARY

DATE	SUBJECT	CIRCULAR/ REF	VENUE	COST	CPD POINT	TRAINER
10 Sept 2018 – (6.30pm – 8.30pm)	Councillor Essentials	07/2018	T B A	*Enhanced Sub Councils up to 3 free places/£45	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis/Glen Ingham
17 Sept 2018	CiLCA Day 1	11/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	# £250	2.5 per session	Jo Taylor
18 Sept 2018 (1.30pm – 4.00pm)	Planning Nuts & Bolts	08/2018	Gothic Warehouse, Cromford Mill	£45 per delegate	1.5 per session	Lance Wiggins
24 Sept 2018 (10am -	Budgeting & Financial Management for Clerks	11/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	*Enhanced Sub Councils up to 3 free places/£65	1.5 per session	Jo Taylor
25 Sept 2018 (6.00pm	Finance & Budgeting for Councillors	11/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	£45 per delegate	1.5 per session	Jo Taylor
15 Oct 2018	CiLCA Day 2	11/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	# £250	2.5 per session	Jo Taylor
23 Oct 2018 – (6.30pm -	Councillor Essentials	07/2018	West Hallam Methodist Church	*Enhanced Sub Councils up to 3 free places/£45	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis
12 Nov 2018 – 6.00pm – 8.30pm)	Chairing Meetings Effectively	07/2018	DALC Office, Cromford	£45 per delegate	1.5 per session	Wendy Amis

*** Up to 3 delegate places free per council on the enhanced subscription scheme
for both days and follow up support; a further £250 is payable to SLCC for the
examination and certificate**