



28th August 2026

Latest News

[NALC news](#) (NALC login may be required)

[SLCC news](#) (No SLCC login required)

SLCC Launch Martyn's Law Tool

SLCC recently launched a new tool to help members determine whether the provisions of Martyn's Law apply to a specific event or particular premises. The tool, found on the SLCC website as 'Martyn's Law Tool' will prompt you to click through a simple set of questions. Based on the answers selected, it will tell you if your event is in scope of the provisions of the Act and provides further information if required.

The tool has already received positive feedback from members, with one user commenting:

'Tested it on premises and an event and the results were correct- really simple tool thank you.'

Find the tool on SLCC's dedicated Martyn's Law webpage [here](#)

LGA Announces 2026 Local Government Pay Settlement

Source: SLCC

The Local Government Association (LGA), acting on behalf of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, has announced that agreement has been reached on the 2026 pay award for local government employees. The settlement provides for a 3.3% increase in pay rates and allowances with effect from 1 April 2026.

The agreed pay award covers the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, and employers are being encouraged to implement the increase as quickly as possible.

The new NALC salary scales are now [published on the LALC website](#).

The Segregation of Duties

The Practitioners' Guide 2026-27 has made it clear for the past couple of financial years that parish and town councils must ensure there is a segregation of duties.

It states, in paragraph 1.9 that, "All authorities, other than parish meetings where there is no parish council, need to appoint an officer to be responsible for the financial administration of the authority in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The proper segregation of duties means that **the Chair of the authority or of the Finance Committee must never be appointed (even on a short-term basis) either as Clerk or as RFO**; other members may perform these roles, unpaid, on a short-term basis providing appropriate safeguards are in place or if their appointment is unavoidable to ensure statutory functions continue to be fulfilled."

LALC is aware that in some Lincolnshire councils the Chair or Chair of Finance Committees (or similar) has taken on the role of being the Acting Clerk or RFO but this can result in allegations of too much power being vested in one person and adverse comments from auditors. As Section 1 of the Practitioners Guide forms the Proper Practices relevant to the AGAR Annual Governance Statement it may mean that the Council must state 'No' to Assertion 1 - Financial management and preparation of accounting statements if they have not ensured clear segregation of duties as described above.

NALC urges the government to deliver remote meetings reform

In a letter to Jim McMahon OBE MP, the new Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Growth, a key focus was on modernising local democracy. NALC highlighted their long-standing campaign for parish and town councils to have the flexibility to hold remote meetings.

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

Upcoming Worknest FREE Webinars

Preparing for October's Employment Law Reforms: Your Employer Action Plan

Eleven important employment law reforms are expected to take effect in October, introducing new employer duties and expanding employee rights across areas including workplace harassment, trade union rights, employment tribunals and public sector outsourcing.

With multiple reforms taking effect over a short period, employers who fail to prepare could increase their exposure to legal and commercial risk. Now is the time to review your policies, procedures and people management practices to ensure your organisation is ready.

Join WorkNest experts on the **3rd September** at 2.00 pm for this webinar as they explain what the reforms mean for employers, the impact they could have on your organisations and the practical steps you should be taking now to prepare with confidence.

Register [here](#).

Preventing Harassment at Work

Workplace harassment continues to present a serious challenge for employers, with potential legal, financial and reputational consequences for organisations that fail to take appropriate action.

Join WorkNest on the **24th September** at 2.00 pm for an informative and practical session designed to help employers understand their responsibilities, identify potential areas of risk and take meaningful steps to prevent workplace harassment.

Register [here](#).

Contracts & Compliance | Minimising Employment Risk

Employment contracts and employee handbooks are more than just administrative documents. They form the foundation of the employment relationship, helping employers set clear expectations, meet their legal obligations and protect their organisation when workplace issues arise.

Join WorkNest's webinar on the **30th September** at 2.00 pm to learn how robust contracts and employee handbooks can help minimise employment risk, support compliance and give your organisation greater confidence when managing employees.

Register [here](#).

Food, Glorious Food

Source: SLCC

In July 2026, Andrew Maliphant, SLCC Environmental and Sustainability Advisor, examined the growing importance of food resilience and the role of local councils in strengthening community food systems.

Now is the time to have food resilience as an agenda item at your next council meeting.

The US war with Iran is threatening a shortage of goods such as fertilising nitrates for British farmers' fields (we no longer make our own fertiliser in this country). We already import about half of the food we eat, and as the National Emergency Briefing makes clear, food security is being threatened by the effects of the climate crisis. For example, we saw last year a shortage of salad crops due to heatwaves in Spain and North Africa, and the same is expected this year.

Many local initiatives are already happening:

- The [Sustainable Food Places](#) has a map showing the 123 cross-sector food partnerships already collaborating to agree on priorities and action for their local area.
- In addition to the [national farm shops directory](#), there is an increasing number of community supported [agriculture projects](#) around the country with local people and farmers working together in partnership.
- More immediately, many towns and villages are developing food banks, community larders, and community fridges that reduce food loss due to waste and provide a resource for those having difficulty in feeding their families.
- As well as the availability of local allotments, food planting on public land supported by the [Incredible Edible Network](#) is expanding across the country, under their banner of 'If You Eat – You're In'.

How can we encourage residents to join in?

- School children can have a planting and growing project in their school grounds, and youth clubs can run cafes.
- Special events by local organisations can include [seed swaps](#) to discuss and encourage local growing, and cooking lessons that teach how to prepare and store the results.
- Outdoor groups can take as a theme the availability of local land for growing our own food, with a walk around the area possibly led by someone knowledgeable like a member of the local [Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group](#).

[Read the full article.](#)

NALC Blog - Leading change in parish and town councils: The art of the impossible?

In this blog, we explore how parish and town councils can successfully lead change despite the complex challenges facing the sector.

Read the blog to discover the practical principles that can turn ambition into lasting change. (NALC login required).

New National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Published

On Monday 17 August, the Government published the new National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out the government’s policies for plan-making and for making decisions on development proposals in England, and how these are expected to be applied.

It represents the biggest rewrite of planning rules in a decade, if not longer.

More information can be found here.

LALC have now organised a briefing on the new NPPF (21st October at 18:30 via Zoom). Please book via the LALC portal (login required).

Expressions of Interest for a RPII Two Day Operational Inspectors & Maintenance Course (play areas)

We are currently looking for expressions of interest in the two day Operational Inspectors & Maintenance course.

This course is aimed at those who are responsible for the operational (monthly/quarterly) inspections and those in a supervisory or maintenance role.

Full details including date, venue and costings to follow, subject to sufficient level of interest. Please note that this is an expensive course to run and so LALC need to secure a certain level of interest for this course to be viable to put on.

Indicative costs for the two day course including refreshments and lunch - £250 plus £300 to sit the exam. Attendees not taking the exam can be issued with a Certificate of Training if required (a fee may apply).

Please lodge your interest via the LALC portal (login required).

Chair’s Workshop

Tuesday 20th October, 18:00 - 21:00, held via Zoom.

Please ask your Clerk to book via the LALC portal.

Councillor Induction & Refresher - Change of Dates

The Councillor Induction & Refresher training recently arranged for 22nd September has now been cancelled and re-arranged to 15th October. We apologise to those councillors already booked on the cancelled event and hope they can attend an alternative session.

We also have an additional session arranged on 10th November.

Bookings can be made by the Clerk via the portal in the usual way.

LALC Webmaster Vacancy

Jonathan, our Webmaster, has now left to take up the opportunity of a full time position elsewhere.

We are therefore looking to recruit a new Webmaster. This will be on a permanent contract for a minimum of 12 hours per week, with some flexibility around additional hours. Home working is acceptable, although there will be an expectation of occasional attendance at the office; this can be discussed further at interview.

The role would ideally suit someone with local council experience or who has experience in using JADU websites.

If you are interested in the role, please contact enquiries@lalc.co.uk in the first instance.

Please continue to send upload requests through to webmaster@lalc.co.uk and they will be actioned.

LCC Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Read it here.

Free Stop Smoking Information Drop-Ins For Stoptober

It's almost Stoptober and to mark the occasion One YOU Lincolnshire are looking to get as many people as possible thinking about quitting smoking and accessing our support throughout September and October.

As part of this, we're offering drop-in sessions within the community to promote our free 12 Week Stop Smoking Programme. Within these drop-ins, we'll be able to...

- Share information about our free 12 Week Programme
- Answer any questions people may have about quitting
- Offer free carbon monoxide (CO) readings
- Refer individuals into our service
- Signpost people to our other free healthy lifestyle programmes where appropriate

If you'd like to book a drop-in, please send an email to [Molly Ireland](#) and we can arrange a suitable date and time.

These sessions will be available between 21 September and 30 October, but if you're unable to fit us in specifically for Stoptober, please still get in touch! We'd be more than happy to arrange a general information drop-in at a later date, so your service users can find out more about the free support available through One You Lincolnshire.

We'd love to work with you and help get the message out about the support available this Stoptober.

NALC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Network

NALC held its first AI Network meeting last week, exploring how parish and town councils are beginning to put AI into practice, from making everyday tasks more efficient to finding new ways of analysing information and supporting council communication, and where it could take us next.

The network discussed the importance of using AI responsibly, with data protection, accuracy and human oversight remaining key. NALC provided updates on its upcoming AI tool, NALC's Online Resource Assistant (NORA), which will be launched later this year.

Plans for Spalding to have its own Council

Plans to create a dedicated council for Spalding would help to address the 'dire' level of local representation in the area, a leading figure has said.

Read more in [Lincolnshire Live](#).

Free Worknest Resources

Jury Service: 10 things every employer should know

An employee has been called for jury service. Do you know what happens next?

While most employers know they need to allow employees to attend, the practical questions are often less straightforward:

Should you continue paying them? Can you ask them to postpone? How do you manage the impact on workloads, performance and employee wellbeing?

Getting these decisions wrong can create unnecessary legal and employee relations risk.

Worknest's free resource, '10 things every employer should keep in mind when an employee is called for jury service' covers the key issues you need to consider and helps you respond with confidence.

[Download the guide here.](#)

Return to Work Checklist

Use these 10 practical questions to uncover hidden absence risks, improve manager consistency and make return-to-work conversations more effective.

[Download the checklist here.](#)

Increasing Number of Smaller Councils Signing Up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

The Civility and Respect Working Group have launched a new video highlighting how parish and town councils across England are benefiting from signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. The video features real-life examples from parish and town councils that have committed to creating positive, professional and inclusive working environments for councillors, clerks, council staff and residents.

[Watch the video.](#)

[NALC's Civility and Respect information.](#)

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

SCAN TO VISIT



WWW.TQ-SERVICES.CO.UK

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Vacancy advertising

LALC can advertise your vacancy on our website and in the fortnightly eNews. This is a free service. If you do not have a pre-prepared advert to send us, please complete our Vacancy Template, which can be found in the Members Portal under Document Templates.

We also offer a paid advertising service, which ensures that your advert also appears on Lincolnshire County Council's website, Facebook, and LinkedIn (in addition to the LALC website and eNews). The current fee for this is £80. Please complete the Vacancy Template (as above), ensuring that all requested information (including mandatory information) is completed, and then contact us at enquiries@lalc.co.uk. You will be invoiced for this service.

Please note that Lincolnshire County Council require a closing date on their advert, as well as salary information (these are mandatory fields). LCC will remove your advert once the closing date has passed, so please consider the date carefully as you will have to pay again to re-advertise if your vacancy hasn't been filled by then. We recommend all councils advertise their vacancy, job details, method of application and up to date contact details on their own website too.

Please let us know when the vacancy has been filled, so that we can remove it from our website/eNews. Please also notify us of your new Clerk/Officer's details so that we can update our records and set them up with access to our portal.

If your vacancy has not yet been filled and you are continuing to advertise, please let us know of any revised closing date.

If you no longer specify a closing date, please let us know so that we can update the vacancy adverts.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
<u>Bigby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	31 st August 2026
<u>Osgodby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	30 th June 2026
<u>Hagworthingham Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Crowland Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Crowland Parish Council</u>	Deputy to Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Branston and Mere Parish Council</u>	RFO	15 th August 2026
<u>Toft Newton Parish Council</u>	Playground Warden	No closing date

