



9th October 2026

Latest News

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

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

[LCC Parish and Town Council Newsletter](#)

[LCC County News](#)

Letter of Support Request - Heritage Trail Tower Gardens Skegness

Skegness Town Council is currently preparing an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a proposed Heritage Trail in Tower Gardens which will tell the story of how Tower Gardens has developed from a historic public park into a central part of the Skegness seaside experience, and how generations of residents and visitors have used and enjoyed the gardens as the town evolved. This project will be the final part of completing the improvements for Tower Gardens within the masterplan.

As part of the application, the Town Council are seeking letters or emails of support from local organisations, community groups and stakeholders who share an interest in celebrating and preserving the heritage of Skegness.

If you are able to provide a letter or email of support, please send it to [Kate Ford](#), Deputy Town Clerk by 29th October 2026.

First Aid At Work Training Now Rearranged

Unfortunately the First Aid At Work training scheduled for October had to be cancelled, due to insufficient numbers.

The training has now been rearranged for 9 March at Dunholme Old School.

The Certificate is valid for three years. Check whether yours needs renewing!

Booking is now open.

SAAA Digital AGAR Portal

All clerks should by now have received an email from SAAA asking you to register for the Digital AGAR portal.

If you haven't received the email invitation, please check your junk/spam folder in the first instance, but if it hasn't been received then contact agarsupport@saaa.co.uk.

LALC has arranged two **Digital AGAR briefings** by Libby White, Clerk to St Ives Town Council (Cambridgeshire) who has first-hand experience of using the new Digital AGAR for 2025-26. The sessions are on 23 February and 4 March and can be booked via the portal (LALC login required).

Lance Allen from SAAA will also be demonstrating the Digital AGAR at the **Clerk's Networking day** at Bracebridge Heath on 19 November.

Burials Training now arranged

In response to requests for more Burials Training, we have now arranged the following with ICCM:

Introduction to Cemetery Management (Beginners level)	13 April	MS Teams
Cemetery Operations and Regulatory Compliance (Intermediate / Advanced Level)	2 & 3 June	MS Teams
Management of Memorials Workshop	16 June	Venue to be confirmed soon

Check out the latest Training Bulletin (out soon) for more details.

NALC launches groundbreaking AI assistant for parish and town councils

NALC have launched our groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) powered online assistant that will transform how members access trusted information and guidance.

NALC's Online Resource Assistant (NORA) marks a major step forward in the sector's use of artificial intelligence. Designed specifically for parish and town councils, it gives members a faster and simpler way to navigate our extensive knowledge and expertise.

Members can ask NORA questions in plain English and receive clear answers grounded in our resource library. Unlike general-purpose AI tools that draw on information from across the internet, NORA uses trusted resources developed specifically for the parish and town council sector.

NORA can support members across a wide range of topics, including council meetings, governance, employment and finance. It also provides links to the resources used in each response, allowing users to check the source, understand the wider context and read more.

NORA complements, rather than replaces, the support and professional advice we offer or is available through county associations. Members should check the linked resources and seek further advice where appropriate.

The AI assistant is currently included as part of our membership and is available to logged-in users from member councils and county associations, subject to fair use.

LALC note: You will need to set up your NALC login before you can access NORA. Please make sure that you select LALC as your county association when registering.

National Association of Civic Officers (NACO)

NACO is there to support those councils which have a civic office supporting a Mayor or Chair and other civic functions.

Any individual who is employed by, or seconded to, a Local Authority, Town Council or Charter Trustees within the UK can join.

Membership is free.

[Find out more.](#)

FREE Worknest Webinars

Probation Periods for Employers: Live Q&A

The countdown is on. From 1 January 2027, employees will qualify for ordinary unfair dismissal protection after six months' service instead of two years.

That change puts probation processes firmly in the spotlight. Should six months become your standard probation period? Can you extend probation when someone has been absent or you need longer to assess them? What happens if you miss the six-month point? And are your current review processes robust enough for the changes ahead?

With just 70 days to go, join WorkNest's Employment Law and HR experts on the 22nd October at 2.00 pm for a live, interactive Q&A dedicated to probation periods and the upcoming changes to unfair dismissal rights.

[Register here.](#)

FREE Worknest Resources

The following resources can be downloaded from Worknest:

Reference Checking: Why It Matters

This resource highlights key considerations for employers during recruitment.

The Definitive Employer's Guide to Sickness Absence

This guide helps you take a fair, consistent approach while supporting employees and managing disruption.

Inclusive Language in the Workplace: A Practical Guide for Employers

Explore how everyday language can affect employees' experience at work, where misunderstandings or risks may arise, and when managers may benefit from further guidance or training.

Fire Safety Requirements and Responsibilities

Get a clear overview of key fire safety duties and who is responsible for them, so you can check whether the right arrangements are in place across your premises.

Removing restrictive covenants on land

There was a case of a parish council successfully applying to the Upper Tribunal under section 84 (1) of the Law of Property Act 1925 to modify a restrictive covenant on the council's land. The facts, in summary, are that the council was gifted a piece of land in the 1980s for use as a doctor's surgery. A covenant restricted the use of a building to a doctor's surgery. In 2022, the medical practice that had operated from the surgery moved out, and no doctor(s) could be found who wished to use the building as a surgery. The council was successful in widening the scope of the covenant to "medical and health uses". There may be times when a parish or town council feels it is bound by a restrictive covenant that no longer serves a purpose. This case provides a positive example of a council finding a practical solution to benefit its area. [Read more about the case.](#)

Calling an extraordinary meeting

We have had queries on the statutory provisions around calling an extraordinary meeting. It concerns chairs calling meetings and members wishing to hold their own meetings. The power to call an extraordinary meeting is given to the chair of the parish or town council by virtue of Paragraph 9 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972. Two councillors can give the chair a signed request for an extraordinary meeting, and the chair must call the meeting within seven days, failing which the two councillors can call an extraordinary meeting. In the cases we advised on, the chair had called the meeting within the relevant seven days of receiving the request. The seven days relates to the calling of the meeting, not when the meeting must occur. The extraordinary meetings had been validly called, and there was no power for the two councillors to call a meeting.

City status

We have been asked about the legal status of city councils. The advice was that a parish council can have the style "city" if the parish is the area granted city status by the ruling monarch rather than a grant by way of legislation. City status belongs to the relevant city area, and legally the councils have the status of parish councils. Parish councils with city status are rare. We understand that a city council chair can use the term "mayor". We give the following advice in our advice note on alternative names and styles for parish councils: "Very few parish councils have, by the royal prerogative, the status of a city, and they are entitled by such grant of the royal prerogative to be called and styled a royal town".

Votes of no confidence and parish polls

We were asked whether a vote of no confidence in a parish council can trigger a parish poll and whether the principal authority is obliged to carry out the parish poll if all statutory requirements are met on a vote of no confidence. In short, the answer was no. The request raises two separate points. Firstly, the vote of no confidence (VONC). VONCs have no effect in law, and a VONC does not bind a parish council. The next issue is the parish poll. The following guidance is contained within our advice note on meetings of parish meetings and quotes Paragraph 18 (4) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972: "A poll may be demanded before the conclusion of an assembly on any question arising at the assembly; but no poll shall be taken unless either (i) the person presiding at the meeting consents or (ii) the poll is demanded by not less than ten, or one-third of the local government electors present at the meeting, whichever is less". A parish poll has no connection with a vote of no confidence.

Religious aspects of Remembrance Day events

Section 138B (1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a local authority in England may support or facilitate, or make arrangements to be represented at an event with a religious element. In our view, this would enable a parish or town council to support or facilitate a religious element of a Remembrance Day event, for example, a church service. We understand that the legislation was introduced for the purpose of clarifying that local authorities can participate in events with a religious element.

Recent team activity

We have updated our advice note on data protection following statutory changes to data protection complaints handling and our advice note on members' conduct and the registration and disclosure of their interests in England, further to a legislative change to the Localism Act 2011 introducing a requirement for councillors' residential addresses not to be published in the public register of interests. We have also updated our advice notes on celebrations and similar events, easements over common land and village greens, helping village halls, local council powers to provide parking spaces, meetings of parish meetings and responsibilities of councils as landowners to remove outdated references and improve readability.



Lincolnshire Wildlife Park - Pumpkin Party!

Kids go free between 24th October and 1st November at [Lincolnshire Wildlife Park](#).

Fight Fly-Tipping Fortnight 2026

Every year, over a million fly-tipping incidents blight our streets, parks and local spaces, costing tax-payers millions of pounds that could be better spent on vital public services like schools, libraries, parks and social care. A big part of the problem comes from rogue 'white van' operators offering cheap rubbish removal deals on social media and online. These unlicensed traders take your money and then dump your waste illegally in a nearby street or lay-by. So what may seem like a bargain is actually a #RubbishDeal.

That's why Fight Fly-tipping Fortnight is returning **12-25 October 2026**, our national campaign to urge householders to check who you pay to take your rubbish away. If you don't, you are inadvertently supporting criminal networks and could be liable for a Fixed Penalty Notice yourself.

Three simple steps

If you're hiring someone to take your rubbish away, take these three simple steps to avoid inviting a criminal into your home:

- Ask for a waste carrier registration number
- Check it on the Environment Agency's public register or call 0300 065 3000
- Check you'll get a receipt

[Read more on Keep Britain Tidy's website.](#)

NALC and ACRE publish first-of-its-kind flooding case studies for parish and town councils

NALC have partnered with the Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to publish brand-new flooding case studies as part of a dynamic project to promote the excellent work parish and town councils can do to combat flooding in their place.

The resource, the first of its kind in the parish and town council sector, has been published under the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership (RFRP), which aims to strengthen collaboration, better understand the unique vulnerabilities of rural areas, support rural communities to strengthen their flood resilience and support adaptation opportunities to reduce flood impacts.

The resource features tailored case studies from five parish and town councils in rural areas: Alcester Town Council, Cubbington Parish Council, Great Alne Parish Council, **Heighington Parish Council**, and Nether Whitacre Parish Council. These contribute to the RFRP work plan to ensure that planning for future flood resilience is being routinely considered by rural communities and those working with them.

Each case study is in-depth and provides details on relevant statistics, the type of flooding experienced, what the problem or issue was, what action was taken, and how the community was involved in resolving the problem. The resource also includes individual and overall key learnings from each of the five case studies.

Corinne Pluchino, chief executive of ACRE, said: "The hot, dry summer of 2026 has meant rural communities that were already vulnerable to flooding are now even more exposed. With so much ground now bone-dry and unable to absorb any excess rainfall, one flash flood could have devastating consequences. These case studies of real-life preparedness highlight the practical actions communities have taken to preserve both lives and livelihoods from extreme weather and demonstrate how others can adopt similar best practice. As the cooler, wetter months draw closer, I hope these accounts of lived experience help others living with similar risks to plan, prepare and, most importantly, protect."

A further five case studies will be published in 2027.

NALC login is required to [access the Case Studies](#).

Getting Ready for Martyn's Law

The Security Industry Authority (SIA), the regulator of Martyn's Law wants to know how you're feeling about the incoming legislation. If your premises or event could fall within scope of the new law, they'd like you to complete [a short survey](#).

The survey is open until midnight on **20 October** and will help ensure the support and resources on offer are as useful as possible.

Reminder of available resources

Want SIA updates or to get involved?

[Sign up](#) to receive SIA updates or volunteer to help test our systems and processes.

Share messaging on Martyn's Law with your networks

We have released a [communications toolkit](#) to help you share materials about Martyn's Law with your networks. You will find suggested copy and creative assets to share via your channels. Your support is vital as premises and events prepare for Martyn's Law. The toolkit will be updated as new materials are developed.

The SIA's role as regulator

Our [Understanding Martyn's Law webpage](#) provides an overview on the SIA's role as regulator and what you need to consider if you are in scope.

Free resources on how to prepare

[ProtectUK](#) provides free advice, guidance and learning to help you improve your response to the risk of terrorism. This includes videos and FAQs. For example, a [video focusing on what 'reasonably practicable' means](#) was recently published.

LCC: More drain clearances happening in the county

Blocked drains do not become a problem overnight. Leaves, mud, grit and other debris build up gradually throughout the year, reducing the ability of gullies and drainage systems to carry water away when they are needed most.

That is why LCC is continuing its programme of drain and gully cleaning across the county. It is essential maintenance work that helps keep roads draining properly, reduces the risk of standing water and surface water flooding, and allows highways teams to identify any issues before they become more serious.

View more information and the latest programme for drain cleaning [here](#).

Greentime17 - The Eden Project



GOT 17 MINUTES?

You don't have to know how to connect with nature. You don't have to be outdoorsy. You don't need a beautiful garden or a countryside walk. You just need 17 minutes.

Greentime17 is an invitation from the Eden Project and partners to spend 17 minutes a day in nature wherever you are, whatever the weather.

Research shows that spending at least two hours a week in nature is associated with better health and wellbeing. That's just 17 minutes a day.

Walk. Play. Pause. Grow. Notice. Simply be.

How will you get your 17 of green?

Find ideas and resources at [Greentime17.com](#)



And to do it, we need to make sure we can get the big tanker to where it needs to be – so move your car!

Flood Action Week: 12 – 18 October

Are you flood ready, or not?

Britain's weather is changing. The UK was built for a climate that's now changing rapidly and we're already feeling it: hotter summers, heavier downpours, drought, flooding, and growing pressure on our water supplies and natural environment.

Summer 2026 has been marked as the hottest on record. This summer's drought might feel reassuring, people may think it rules out the risk of flooding, but it doesn't, that's exactly why we can't afford to be complacent.

Right now, 6.3 million properties in England are in areas at risk of flooding; and as our climate keeps changing, that risk keeps growing. Between April 2025 and March 2026 alone, the EA issued over 3,400 flood alerts, around 1,000 flood warnings, and 3 severe flood warnings.

Yet most people don't see the danger on their doorstep. Polling shows almost 50% of the public have not looked up the flood risk for their home. That's a big gap between risk and readiness.

Everyone deserves to know their risk, and what to do about it.

The cost of waiting

We've seen what flooding can do: homes ruined, businesses lost, families forced to rebuild their lives from scratch. It's devastating but a few simple steps taken now can mean less damage, less danger, and quicker recovery to reduce the long-term toll flooding takes on people's mental health.

Know your risk. Take simple steps now.

Preparing for flooding doesn't have to be complicated. A few small actions today could protect your home, your family, your business, and your bank balance, potentially saving you thousands in damage and disruption tomorrow.

Are you flood ready, or not? This summer's drought doesn't mean the risk of flooding has gone away. Know your risk, sign up for warnings and take simple steps now to protect your home, your family and your business this winter.

Visit www.gov.uk/flood-action.



Register your interest for the next CiLCA cohort!

We are planning a face-to-face CiLCA introduction Day in Dunholme in mid-to-late November (subject to sufficient numbers).

The CiLCA Introduction Day helps candidates to decide whether they are ready to pursue this qualification. Note: Attendance at the Introduction Day is compulsory if you plan to join our CiLCA training programme.

At least 12 months of local government experience is highly recommended.

CiLCA is a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to A-Level standard) requiring roughly 200 hours of portfolio work.

Please see the CiLCA 2026 Overview and CiLCA Introduction for Councillors documents on our [CiLCA page](#) for more information.

To register your interest please [contact us](#).

LCC 2028 Admissions Policy Consultation

The follow schools will be consulting on their 2028/29 Admission Policy:

Grantham The King’s School

Consultation period: 05/10/2026 – 16/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Lincoln Christ's Hospital School

Consultation period: 01/10/2026 – 12/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Lincoln Westgate Academy

Consultation period: 07/10/2026 to 19/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Cherry Willingham Primary Academy

Consultation period: 02/10/2026 to 14/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

North Hykeham Ling Moor Primary Academy

Consultation period: 02/10/2026 to 14/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Cherry Willingham The Priory Pembroke Academy

Consultation period: 02/10/2026 to 14/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Stickney The William Lovell Church of England Academy

Consultation period: 05/10/2026 to 16/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Tydd St Mary Church of England Primary School

Consultation period: 05/10/2026 to 16/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Consultation period: 07/10/2026 to 18/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Horncastle Banovallum School

Consultation period: 05/10/2026 to 15/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

Huttoft Primary & Nursery School

Consultation period: 05/10/2026 to 15/11/2026
[The consultation can be found here.](#)

This notification is in accordance with section 1.47 & 1.48 - [School Admissions Code \(2021\)](#).

Opportunity For Young People:
Lincolnshire Safer Communities Leaders

Following a successful first year, the Office of the Police and Crime commissioner for Lincolnshire are recruiting a small group of young leaders aged 14 – 21 to be the voice of young people on these important issues.

As one of our Safer Communities Leaders, you would take on an important voluntary role in helping to make our communities safer. This is your chance to speak up about the issues that matter most to you and other young people where you live.

You'll be supported by professionals to work with other Safer Communities Leaders to engage with young people across the county. You will gather their views and then present your findings and ideas for change directly to the Police and Crime Commissioner and senior leaders in policing and community safety.

This is a unique opportunity to represent young people across Lincolnshire, share your ideas, build new skills, and stand up for your generation, making sure your voice is heard by the people making decisions that affect you. Find out more about the role of a Safer Communities Leader and how to apply on the [Police and Crime Commissioner's website](#).

NALC launches groundbreaking AI assistant for parish and town councils

NALC have launched our groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) powered online assistant (NORA) that will transform how members access trusted information and guidance.

NORA marks a major step forward in the sector's use of artificial intelligence. Unlike general-purpose AI tools that draw on information from across the internet, NORA uses trusted resources developed specifically for the parish and town council sector.

NORA complements, rather than replaces, the support and professional advice we offer or that is available through county associations. Members should check the linked resources and seek further advice where appropriate.

NORA is currently included as part of our membership and is available to logged-in users from member councils and county associations, subject to fair use.

Freedom of the Parish - Fosdyke Parish Council



On 28th September, it was with great pleasure that the Chairman of Fosdyke Parish Council, Alan Mowton, awarded Denis Glenn the Honorary Freedom of the Parish.

The Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour a parish council can bestow. It is rarely awarded and only to residents that have gone above and beyond for the community. Mr Glenn is a very worthy recipient.

Mr Glenn has been involved with the Parish since the late 1970s and served on the parish council for 40 years. He was Chairman of the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils in 1994 and became President in 2003, serving until 2018. In addition, he has been involved with local parochial charities since the 1980s and continues to serve as a trustee.

Ready for Anything Volunteers

Ready For Anything is an innovative scheme, for individuals who want to volunteer to support our emergency responders and communities during and after crisis. Anyone can volunteer for the scheme as long as you live in Lincolnshire, are relatively fit and well and able to get around the county.

Find out more on the [Lincolnshire Resilience Forum](#).

Controversial 195-home plan for Barrowby is rejected as South Kesteven councillors go against officer advice

Source: [LincsOnline](#)

Controversial plans for 195 homes have been refused after councillors raised concerns over the impact of the scheme.

William Davis Limited had applied to South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) to build the homes on land West of Grange Paddock, Barrowby.

SKDC’s planning committee considered the application at a meeting today (October 1) and turned down the scheme - going against the advice of the authority’s officers.

Councillors were concerned over the loss of prime farmland, the impact on the character of the area and the visible affect on the landscape.

Planning officers had acknowledged that the application would result in the loss of versatile agricultural farm land, but had said this was outweighed by the public benefits of the development, pointing to the district’s housing land supply shortfall.

NALC warns mayoral planning powers must not sideline local communities

NALC have warned that new mayoral planning powers must strengthen, rather than weaken, the role of parish and town councils in shaping development in their communities.

In our response to the government’s consultation on planning powers for mayors in England, NALC:

- Supported reforms that can improve strategic planning and economic growth.
- Stressed that devolution must empower communities rather than transfer decision-making further away from them.
- Raised concerns about the potential expansion of the Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL).
- Concluded that parish and town councils must be treated as essential partners in the new planning landscape, with a meaningful voice in strategic applications, a fair share of infrastructure funding and continued opportunities for communities to shape the future development of their areas.

[Read more here.](#)

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

PROUDLY SERVING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PARISHES
WWW.TQ-SERVICES.CO.UK - 01777 594801



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.**

Recruitment Manual

NALC's Recruitment Manual can be found in the LALC portal (login required). In the Knowledgebase, select Employment, and search for Recruitment. The Manual covers Staffing Committee Terms of Reference, Role of the Clerk, Job Description and Person Specification, Advertising, Application Forms, Recruitment Information Pack, Short-listing Guidance, Selection Interviewing Guidance, Selection Assessment Guidance, Appointment Process, Induction, and Probation.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
<u>Bigby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	30th September 2026
<u>Toft Newton Parish Council</u>	Playground Warden	No closing date
<u>South Somercotes Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	5 th October 2026
<u>Folkingham Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	19 th October 2026
<u>Newark Town Council</u>	Executive Assistant	29 th October 2026
<u>Bourne Town Council</u>	Deputy Town Clerk	30 th October 2026

