

Notes from NALC County Committee Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

A fairly light agenda this time again, with one or two important items for further discussion;

~ In the chief officer's report – NALC should have 'Observer Status' for now at the Scrutiny Committee of the new North of Tyne set up. This is less than asked for but is a foot in the door – and may allow some participation;

~ Finance matters: it was noted with thanks that 2 Councils had made reasonable donations to NALC; Training is going well and providing a steady source of income as well;

~ Arising from the Parish Liaison working Group, a sub working party has been established. Stephen Rickitt has emailed Chairs and Clerks with a report from the initial meeting of this group which is represented by NCC, NALC and SLCC. The two main areas of concern are planning issues, including NCC's intention to go to e-planning only; and the core standards that are part of the services offered, particularly for Highways, environmental etc. There are going to be a series of follow up meetings on both of these issues alternately and I will be asking Clerks for specific concerns. However, if anyone has gripes, moans etc. on either of these main issues (that they can condense into a couple of sentences at the moment please); let me know and we will forward to the powers that be in each meeting. I should say that the new Director of Planning is like a breath of fresh air and actually understands Parish Councils; Events that had funding have transitional arrangements for one year to make budgeting easier. There was also a note about NCC increasing enforcement on dog poo in cemeteries – their own at present but still to be looked at as is the subject of public toilets;

~ A draft Safeguarding Policy is being developed for any Council that wishes to have one or needs to have one.

We hope to have Stephen Rickitt at the next Forum meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Newton.

MFA/27.3.19