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IN THIS ISSUE

NALC NEWS 2
OTHER NEWS 4
RURAL AFFAIRS 7
EVENTS 8

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



NALC NEWS

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM NALC CHAIRMAN

As the new chairman of NALC, I hope you have a really great 2017 and wish you all the very best for the New Year! Local councils, their clerks and 80,000 councillors do a brilliant job on behalf of their communities and I would like to thank you all for the work you do. I look forward to working with you over the coming year to make the sector even more respected, effective and clearly recognised as the first tier of local government in England.

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HOUSE OF LORDS URGED TO CREATE MORE URBAN LOCAL COUNCILS

Members of the House of Lords are being asked to support radical plans to establish new local councils in England's metropolitan and city areas. The move is being promoted by the national body for England's existing 10,000 local councils, NALC, aimed at strengthening local democracy and improving the take-up of neighbourhood planning, one of the government's flagship localism policies which gives communities more of a say over where development such as new homes should go in their area.

[**Continue reading**](#)

WHAT IS THE STATE OF RURAL ENGLAND?

On 17 January 2017 sees the publication of the first State of Rural Services report to be published by Rural England. It recognises that providing accessible and quality services to rural communities poses particular challenges given the geography of small and scattered settlements. And these difficulties are further compounded by the loss of economies of scale, additional travel required and the delivery costs involved.

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COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT: BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Bradwell Parish Council in Derbyshire has a population of 1,400 with a precept of £43,577 but this small local council has been punching well above its weight. Bradwell Parish Council has ten members and meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The council is very active and has experienced no issues in replacing councillors when a member leaves. The council's clerk, Steve Lawless also acts as their responsible financial officer. The council works closely with the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), in particular on planning issues.

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NALC SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT MOVE FOR EASING FINANCIAL CONVENIENCE FOR COMMUNITIES

NALC supports moves by the Government to ease the financial burden on communities by the introduction of discretionary business rates relief on public toilets owned by local authorities. We are extremely encouraged that the Government has listened to our arguments that the 'toilet tax' levied on local councils for running public conveniences they own or manage is costing local tax payers thousands of pounds, leading to many public conveniences being closed all over the country despite their fundamental importance and value within communities.

[Continue reading](#)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

Civic Voice and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies are partnering with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and APPG for Local Democracy to host a debate in parliament to explore: Will Neighbourhood Planning deliver the homes the country needs? The debate will also be looking at other approaches, which could be used to help get the homes built. The event will be taking place on Tuesday 31 January 2017

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OTHER NEWS

WE NEED YOUR STORIES

2017 is the big year for the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People, with 6th November 2017 marking both the 800th anniversary of the original Charter of the Forest and the launch of the new Tree Charter. 28 February marks the end of the story gathering period – and it is these stories and statements, revealing people's everyday relationship with trees and woods, which we will use to inform the wording of the Tree Charter. We estimate we have just over 40,000 stories so far.

[Continue reading \(Source: Tree Charter\)](#)

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

Keep Britain Tidy is launching its biggest-ever litter campaign, the Great British Spring Clean, to encourage 500,000 people to get out there and make sure their neighbourhood is one of which they can be proud. The Spring Clean, which will take place from March 3-5, 2017, has won the backing of TV naturalist and writer Steve Backshall, the BAFTA-winning Deadly 60 presenter.

[Continue reading \(Source: Great British Spring Clean\)](#)

THE BETTER BROADBAND SUBSIDY SCHEME

The government is committed to providing every home and business across the country with access to a basic broadband service. If you can't get a broadband speed of at least 2MB per second, you could qualify for a subsidised connection worth up to £350 to boost your internet speed.

[Continue reading \(Source: Basic Broadband Checker\)](#)



OTHER NEWS

CIVIC VOICE DESIGN AWARDS

The Civic Voice Design Awards are the people's choice for architecture and the built environment. Unique in England, the awards are a national celebration of well-designed new build, heritage and public realm projects nominated by local community organisations. What makes the awards different from other industry awards is that they recognise those buildings, places and spaces that are loved by local people, for both their high quality design and positive impact on the local community.

[Continue reading \(Source: Civic Voice\)](#)

MY COMMUNITY - CHAT AND CONNECT

My Community has created an online space where people doing amazing things in their communities can chat, connect and get help, support and advice! Join the My Community Forum and get chatting about everything that can help make your community a better place to live. Join the conversation: [mycommunity.chat](#)

[Continue reading \(Source: Open Space Society\)](#)



HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE NALC'S NEXT

COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

TO BE NALC'S NEXT COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS VISIT **WWW.NALC.GOV.UK/COUNCILSPOTLIGHT**, DOWNLOAD THE FORM, RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM ATTACHED WITH AN IMAGE TO **COUNCILSPOTLIGHT@NALC.GOV.UK**



RURAL AFFAIRS

PRINCE'S FUND DONATES £670K TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

A fund founded by Prince Charles has unveiled £670,000 in grant support for rural initiatives. The Prince's Countryside Fund said the money would support 19 projects across the UK through its grant giving programme. The fund has awarded over £8 million since it was established in 2010 to improve the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life. New projects include funding to assist rural communities in Devon, Cumbria Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Cornwall and Norfolk.

[Continue reading \(Source: Rural Services Network\)](#)



EVENTS

NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM CONFERENCE

How do we manage the threat of increased flood risk against a backdrop of rising demand for development, housing and infrastructure? Predictions suggest flooding is going to be a major threat in the UK over the coming years. Yet climate change and the need for more development is expected to contribute to the severity of future flooding.

[Continue reading \(Source: National Flood Forum\)](#)

PLEASE NOTE

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