

Correspondence List for meeting dated 11 December 2019

Ref	Date received	From	Subject	Note/comment
<i>Note: CDALC = County Durham Association of Local Councils NALC = National Association of Local Councils SLCC = Society of Local Council Clerks</i>				
1	04/11/2019	CDALC	Weekly list of planning applications w/e 3 November. Email sent to all councillors 11/11/19.	
2	04/11/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 2 November. Nothing new to report.	
3	04/11/2019	CDALC	Call for agenda items for next CDALC Smaller Councils Forum meeting on 21 November.	
4	04/11/2019	CDALC	Presentations from CDALC AGM's two speakers on climate change and sustainability. Can be forwarded on request.	
5	04/11/2019	CDALC	Notice of further funding release for 'Pocket Parks'. Parish councils working with primary authority to create or renovate parks for relaxation or activities which promote physical or mental health. Grants of £15-25k with 30% match funding required. Closing date 31 December, work to be completed 31 March 2020.	
6	04/11/2019	CDALC	Call for nominations of councillors or clerks for National NALC Smaller Councils Forum. Closing date 8 November.	
7	05/11/2019	CDALC	Reminder of opportunity to request free to use ATM in rural areas where withdrawing cash is a problem. Through £1m fund from Link.	
8	05/11/2019	CDALC	6-page advice note on General Election 'purdah' period guidance, stating in essence that parish councils and any staff should remain impartial and not promote or enhance any individual standing for election or any political party with candidates standing for election. Full note can be forwarded on request.	
9	06/11/2019	NEPACS	8-pp information leaflet about the work of Nepacs in supporting prisoners, ex-offenders and their friends and families across the north east, and ways in which individuals and organisations can help – volunteering, making a donation, fundraising etc.	Leaflet can be passed on.
10	07/11/2019	Teesdale Action Partnership	Notice of cancellation of TAP Board meeting (13 November) due to General Election purdah period. Next Board meeting will be 22 January.	
11	08/11/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 7 November. No new applications to report.	
12	08/11/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 9 November. Nothing new to report.	
13	11/11/2019	CDALC	Information about, and invitation to respond to consultation on, proposals to give police new powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised caravan sites (currently defined in law as a civil matter, but proposed to be a criminal offence). Consultation runs until 5 March 2020.	Link to consultation can be provided. Does the PC wish to respond?
14	11/11/2019	CDALC	Request for feedback/complaints on the external audit service provided by Mazars for the 2018/19 audit. Comments required by 30 November.	PC was exempt for 2018/19, so not relevant.
15	11/11/2019	CDALC	Council Tax Base Calculations which DCC cabinet will be asked to approve on 13 November: for Cotherstone, increase in tax base of 4.4; increase in tax raising capacity £109.55; no LCTRS grant; decrease in Band D to standstill -0.98% (25p).	Further details will be included with December budget/precept consideration.
16	11/11/2019	My Neighbourhood plan.co.uk	Sales promotion for professional Neighbourhood Plan writing services. Forwarded to Jim Boaden for information.	
17	12/11/2019	what3words.com	Offer of information leaflets and/or text about what3words to include in PC publicity.	

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18	12/11/2019	CDALC	DCC's latest Section 106 ('Planning Gain') list of monies available to spend, with the advice to PCs to keep abreast of any proposed development and get involved with DCC Planners before the planning application is processed, in order to try to persuade the developers and planners to spend any s.106 monies locally to meet the needs of the community. Eligible monies: Taylor Wimpey/Deerbolt site - £4,000 open space contribution in vicinity of site; and Kier Housing/Deerbolt site - £40,845 for offsite play space within the Barnard Castle West electoral division.	
19	14/11/2019	CDALC	Invitation to Smaller Councils Forum, 21 November, 2pm in Horden.	Clerk unable to attend and sent apologies.
20	18/11/2019	CDALC	Contact details of Barrie Alderson, Outdoor Facilities Co-ordinator in respect of Pocket Parks Funding opportunity.	
21	18/11/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 17 November. No new applications to report.	
22	18/11/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 16 November. Nothing new to report.	
23	18/11/2019	CDALC	Advice for parish councils who have employees in the DCC Local Government Pension Scheme (re possible increase in Employer contributions).	Not applicable.
24	19/11/2019	CDALC	Details and link to vote in online election for NALC Smaller Councils Committee. Only one candidate is from 'the north' — Stephen Rickitt from Meldon PC in Northumberland. Stephen clerks for five rural PCs all with precepts below £8k and electorates below 500 and as p/t chief office for Northumberland CALC. He wants the national body to stop providing one-size-fits-all whilst recognising that smaller councils need practical and workable templates. Sees a risk of unwieldy policies being only nominally adopted, leading to greater problems should something go wrong.	Does this PC wish to vote for Stephen (deadline is 13 December).
25	19/11/2019	CDALC	Details of Rural Community Energy Fund, aiming to develop community-led renewable energy projects. Grants cover up-front costs, eg. For solar PV, heat pumps, hydropower and low carbon heat networks, that are prohibitive to communities. Two stages - up to £40k for consultancy and professional costs to determine if a project is feasible and stands a good chance of getting planning permission, and then up to £100k for implementation. PCs are eligible.	
26	20/11/2019	KBT Network	Promotion of 'We're Watching You' dog fouling campaign materials. 'Special offer' of A3 glow in the dark sign for £25 each (min order 10) and A4 bin stickers at £5 each.	
27	20/11/2019	Teesdale Action Partnership	Promotion of 7th Middleton Mart Christmas Fair, 30 November 10-2pm, with more than 50 stalls and free entry and parking, followed by Christmas Lights switch on and family disco.	
28	21/11/2019	Durham Community Action	November news: Durham Community Action Annual Review (16pp PDF), training dates for 2020, Community-Led Housing events, ESF grants of £10k available to help disadvantaged or excluded people move closer to the about market through increasing skills.	
29	21/11/2019	DCC Licences	Details of road closure near Fox&Hounds, 5 December for up to 2 days. Email forwarded to all cllrs 22/11/19.	
30	22/11/2019	SLCC	News bulletin: Leadership in Action event in June 2002, review of HS2 network, Bristol Airport expansion plans decision delay, (new) Advice Library on the SLCC website (600 documents in 90 categories, including advice notes (statement of fact or law), guidance notes (how to do something) and model documents (can be adapted by local councils), training programme.	
31	22/11/2019	SLCC local branch	Winter 2019 newsletter: award of 'Best Branch Growth' and dates for 2020 branch meetings.	
32	25/11/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 23 November. Nothing new to report.	
33	25/11/2019	CDALC	News of National Lottery's 25th birthday grant scheme (between £100 and £1k to bring people together at an event between 1 February and 18 November 2020). Competitive scheme, with initial random selection, and application window open 23 November to 6 December only.	Email sent to all councillors 25/11/19.

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34	25/11/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 24 November. No new applications to report.	
35	26/11/2019	CDALC	Details and flyer about Armed Forces Outreach Service - helping all forces personnel, reservists, veterans and their families, with housing, benefits, employment, health and wellbeing, schools and finances. Contact details provided for two Outreach workers. Also, encouragement for PC to sign up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant (supplement to the national Covenant (key principles: no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen; and in some circumstances special consideration may be appropriate, especially for the injured or bereaved)).	Does this PC wish to sign the Armed Forces Community Covenant.
36	27/11/2019	CDALC	Request to share information about risk assessment templates for parish council-owned informal areas of green space with trees — for Eldon PC	
37	29/11/2019	CDALC	Details of further Community Led Housing events (Sunderland and Gateshead) and link to Durham Community Action's training programme	
38	29/11/2019	Power for People	Seeking support for the Local Electricity Bill — which if made law would empower communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. A draft resolution for a Parish Council to support this is provided.	Does this PC wish to consider this at a future meeting?
39	02/12/2019	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 1 December. No new applications to report.	
40	02/12/2019	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 30 November. Nothing new to report.	
41	02/12/2019	rradar	Welcome email: guidance on legal services available under the PC's insurance policy.	Filed for future reference.
42	03/12/2019	CDALC	Request to share blank performance appraisal template suitable for sole employee of PC, and composition of Clerk's appraisal panel — for Hetton Town Council.	
43	03/12/2019	CDALC	Notice of government-set sum for Section 137(4)(a) spending: for 2020/21 the sum is £8.32 per elector.	