

## Correspondence List for meeting dated 10 June 2020

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	07/05/2020	CDALC	Notice and call for agenda items for Smaller Councils Forum meeting, 21 May, 2pm.	
2	07/05/2020	Plunkett Foundation	Video and slides from Public Works Loan Board webinar. (Comprehensive Q&A document to follow).	
3	07/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - all 12 North East councils have written joint letter to Prime Minister calling for more financial support to cover their financial pressures and help them lead the coronavirus recovery.	
4	07/05/2020	DCC	5-page 'Stakeholder briefing note' covering: public health response and what DCC is doing.	
5	07/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release -Household Waste Recycling Centres to re-open on Monday 18 May and bulky waste goods collection service to resume then also.	
6	07/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - Durham County Council has drafted in 40 social work students to help vulnerable children and adults during the pandemic. Students were already on placements with the council and have been given jobs as social work assistants.	
7	10/05/2020	PLay@Cotherstone	Request for additional financial assistance to mitigate the loss of local fundraising events this summer.	To be considered at 10/6 meeting.
8	11/05/2020	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 9/5. Nothing new to report.	
9	11/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release -news that Durham County Council's AAPs (in our case Teesdale Action Partnership) have been £1.4m to assist community centres and village halls, eg. To cover three months of bills or to support groups who are currently helping their local community.	
10	11/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - DCC's international relations team has worked with schools to create a virtual friendship tree.	
11	11/05/2010	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 10 May. No new applications to consider.	
12	11/05/2020	CDALC	(link to) List of funding schemes available to local community organisations (eg. churches), produced by Rural Services Network.	
13	11/05/2020	CDALC	Request to share information about what parish councils are doing/have done about distributing newsletters.	
14	11/05/2020	CDALC	Update on government's newly released guidance and links to the official website and 50-page plan. NALC will continue to analyse and raise issues with government based on feedback from councils, but emphasises that councils should still not be meeting in person, that staff should work from home if possible, and follow government advice for employers otherwise.	
15	11/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - food parcels being delivered in East Durham thanks to East Durham Area Action Partnership grant.	
16	13/05/2020	CDALC	Information about re-opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres. Email forwarded to all councillors 13/5/20.	
17	13/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - reminding members of public to adhere to social distancing when visiting parks, beaches and open spaces.	
18	14/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - Co. Durham Fire & Rescue service, through the County Durham Together partnership, is helping deliver food parcels in Chester-le-Street.	
19	14/05/2020	Able Community Care	Promotion of stickers, free of charge to individuals or older people's groups, for doors, stating 'Do Not Knock - no uninvited or unexpected callers ...'.	
20	14/05/2020	Durham Community Action	Update on Covid-19 advice, ACRE updates, funding, volunteering advice, safeguarding and training and Food Durham update.	

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21	14/05/2020	DCC Democratic Services	Update on procedures for notifying a casual vacancy - in light of new coronavirus regulations and no elections being possible until May 2021.	
22	14/05/2020	CDALC	Invitation and agenda for Smaller Councils Forum meeting (Zoom), Thursday 21 May, 2pm. Two representatives from each council can attend.	Does any councillor wish to give this meeting a try?
23	15/05/2020	CDALC	Links to snippets of advice/help — DCC FAQs for what to do if you have Covid-19 symptoms while at work; latest Public Health England campaign resources link; recorded webinar on comparison of Zoom, Skype, MS Teams and GotoMeeting software; and reminder of NALC Coronavirus comprehensive and authoritative website relevant to the parish council sector.	Happy to forward any link to any councillor
24	15/05/2020	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 14 May. No new applications to consider.	
25	15/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release -almost £8.5m allocated in Co. Durham for road repairs and to prevent potholes forming - awarded from Department for Transport's Pothole and Challenge Bid funds.	
26	15/05/2020	CPRE	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England newsletter (10page PDF) can be forwarded on request.	
27	18/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - encouraging community venues to apply for financial support to assist through coronavirus pandemic (Business Support Grants scheme extension means some community centres and venues which might have thought themselves ineligible should now apply.)	
28	18/05/2020	CDALC	Roadworks report w/c 16/5. Nothing new to report.	
29	18/05/2020	CDALC	Updated guidance from NALC on holding remote meeting (on risks, security and telephone conference calls), and recommendation from CDALC that ALL parish councils should explore holding remote meetings. Links to other advice: Working safely during coronavirus; Safer public places - urban centres and green spaces; Guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation; and Coronavirus FAQs.	
30	19/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - DCC is working with school on phased re-opening, advising on risk assessment etc.	
31	20/05/2020	CDALC	Request to share information about HR providers – for Ferryhill Town Council	
32	20/05/2020	CDALC	Highlighting grant opportunities for: community centres (Business Rates Grants scheme) and community renewable energy projects (Rural Community Energy Fund grants up to £140k).	
33	21/05/2020	Durham Community Action	News: Community Hubs Development Programme; new National Lottery 'Coronavirus Community Support Fund' of £200m aimed at small to medium organisations who are working to increase community support to vulnerable people affected by Covid-19 crisis, and to reduce temporary closures of charities and social enterprises; details of online 'Share & Learn' meeting, 10-11am Thursday 28 May; online session 'using social media to stay connected' 10-11.30am Tuesday 9 June; Volunteers Week 1-7 June; link to latest guide on Covid-19 response funding; Food Durham; Rural Community Energy Fund; and Mental Health Awareness Week 18-24 May.	
34	22/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - reminding residents to stay safe over the Bank Holiday weekend - stay at home where possible, unless buying essentials or getting exercise.	
35	22/05/2020	DCC	Call for expressions of interest in South Durham Community-Led Local Development programme grants. Map shows this parish is not eligible.	
36	22/05/2020	CDALC	Three items: request to share information about mechanical grave diggers (for Trimdon PC); a presentation from HR Services Partnership on 'Returning to Work after Lockdown'; and 'Friends against Scams briefing for councillors to raise awareness of Covid-related scams. Latter item circulated to all councillors 23/5/20.	
37	22/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - County Durham Plan consultation will run over 8 weeks from 26 May. Much of the content of the Plan has been accepted by a government planning inspection, subject to a number of modifications. This consultation invites comment purely on those modifications. Modifications include the removal of proposal for a relief road at Barnard Castle. Details at <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp">www.durham.gov.uk/cdp</a>	

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38	26/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - hot meals being delivered to elderly residents thanks to grants from the £1.4m available through DCC's Area Action Partnerships, case studies of Sherburn Community Centre and Fishburn Youth and Community Centre.	
39	26/05/2020	CDALC	Further update on County Durham Plan (modifications) consultation, including removal of Barnard Castle relief road on grounds of insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the relief road will be needed in the future or that any benefits it would bring would outweigh the adverse impacts. Representations are invited on the proposed main modifications and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment, between 26 May and 21 July. Measures have been set out to enable safe participation in the consultation (including provision of hard copies of the documents, on request) and an extended timescale, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.	
40	26/05/2020	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 25 May. No new applications to consider.	
41	26/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - DCC has been installing rainbows and messages of thanks on road surfaces across the county (including Barnard Castle) to show support to NHS workers.	
42	26/05/2020	CDALC	Request to share information about electricity meter supplier/installation/charging for Christmas Lights and electronic traffic warning signs - for Witton Le Wear PC.	
43	27/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - DCC has provided further information to schools on plans for phased reopening, advising that 15 June is a more realistic date for reopening to begin rather than 1 June, though ultimately the decision rests with each school.	
44	28/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release -news that at its first virtual cabinet meeting on 5 June, actions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic will be acknowledged and steps set out for how the County Council will restore services and recover from the crisis. Message recalled 6 minutes later.	
45	28/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release -news that at its first virtual cabinet meeting on 5 June, actions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic will be acknowledged and steps set out for how the County Council will restore services and recover from the crisis.	
46	28/05/2020	Glasdon	Sales promotion for PPE waste management - disposal bins and social distancing signage. Filed and unsubscribed.	
47	29/05/2020	CDALC	1) Copy of DCC's response to CDALC about the suggestion in a letter from Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State of Housing Communities and Local Government) that parish councils ask their principal authority for some of the money (£33m) which DCC has received from government for its Covid-19 response. DCC state that their Covid-19 response has currently cost just under £50m and therefore only if a parish council is facing financial hardship because of the Covid-19 situation should it contact DCC or CDALC, with a robust business case, and the County Council will then assess the organisation's financial health and decide what, if any, support can be provided. 2) News that DCC has decided to delegate most of its planning decisions down to officer level in view of not having Planning Committees meeting at the moment. Parish Councils may still 'call in' any application to committee as long as this is properly done, including the relevant material planning grounds. Link provided to 11-page DCC report which sets out details of the decision.	
48	29/05/2020	CDALC	Links to documents and news of templates to use for risk assessing activities in anticipation of re-opening services, offices etc and of council staff returning to work. NALC templates to follow next week.	
49	29/05/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - outdoor markets across Co. Durham to reopen from 1 June (Barnard Castle will be Wednesday 10 June).	
50	01/06/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - Headliner accounted for online theatre festival 'On Stage: Online' (Gala Theatre with Durham University), 16 acts, 11-14 June.	
51	01/06/2020	DCC Planning	Weekly list of new applications w/e 31 May. No new applications to consider.	
52	02/06/2020	CDALC	Copy of HMRC Covid-19 update covering flexible furloughing and employer contributions.	

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53	02/06/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - DCC launch new discretionary rate relief scheme prioritising small businesses in shared offices or workspaces, regular market traders, bed and breakfast operators who pay Council Tax instead of business rates; and charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief. Support offered also to private nurseries previously ineligible, small manufacturing business with small retail outlets, businesses involved in the supply chain to hospitality and leisure businesses. Businesses must demonstrate ongoing fixed property costs and evidence significant loss of income.	
54	02/06/2020	CDALC	VAT guidance on digital services from non-UK suppliers (eg Zoom), and increase in Homeworking Allowance.	
55	02/06/2020	CDALC	Update from Stephen Reed, Planning Development Manager at DCC on the County Council's changes to the planning making processes as a result of Covid-19 situation. In summary - planning process continues to function; officers are home working but able to carry out site visits where these are essential and can be done safely; officers happy to join PC meetings remotely; virtual Planning Committee meetings will soon resume, streamed live through YouTube, with existing rights to attend and speak being fully retained, but with such representation being notified 48 hours prior to the meeting rather than 24 hours; ALL decisions on applications now potentially delegated to officers, however the right of a PC to 'call in' an application for determination by Planning Committee still remains.	
56	02/06/2020	CDALC	Call for interest in attending online (Zoom) training (free of charge) on: Clerk's Foundation training; Councillors' Foundation training; CiLCA mentoring; how to return to work safely in the current climate; and VAT question and answer session. Sessions would be less than 2 hours and have a restricted number of participants. No date set yet. Response needed by 14 June.	Is this of interest to any councillor? Or other courses you'd like to see offered?
57	02/06/2020	CDALC	Open Letter to all councillors from Sue Baxter, Chair of NALC. Email forwarded to all councillors 3/6/20.	
58	02/06/2020	CDALC	Copy of NALC call for parish council input to a rapid review of the impact of Covid-19 on high streets and town centres. Deadline for contributions is 5 June.	
59	03/06/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - Witton Gilbert Primary School pupils create handmade posters to help DCC spread public health messages.	
60	03/06/2020	DCC Press Office	Press release - Shielding residents urged to take extra care as lockdown restrictions are eased.	