

Correspondence List for meeting dated 8 July 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 | 03/06/2020 | Digital Durham | Details of Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme to help install ultrafast broadband to homes and businesses. Eligibility - rural properties with broadband speeds of less than 100 Megabits per second may be eligible for vouchers worth £1,500 per home and up to £3,500 for each SME business as part of a group project of two or more premises. Voucher beneficiaries must subscribe to a broadband service for minimum 12 months. Scheme is from Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), run by partnership of Durham County Council and Building Digital UK (part of DCMS). | |
| 2 | 04/06/2020 | SLCC Branch | Branch news: annual regional training meeting cancelled; July branch meeting, with national president will be by Zoom; training opportunities (as per item 56 on previous list). | |
| 3 | 04/06/2020 | Calor | News of 'public supporting' period until 5pm 16 July - public vote of whether you 'like' or 'share' a project to go through to the final stage. A search on DL12 postcode reveals only one project in the running - Barningham Village Hall new windows. | |
| 4 | 04/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | June update on Covid-19 information, advice and guidance specific to the voluntary and community sector. | |
| 5 | 04/06/2020 | Cemetery visitor | Concern about headstones covering in grass cuttings, despite parish councillors reporting recently that the contractor was doing an excellent job. Resident disagrees, thinking that it might look OK from the road, but on closer inspection this isn't the case. (No address supplied for response.) | |
| 6 | 04/06/2020 | CDALC | Request to share information about cemetery plot prices – for Trimdon Foundry PC. | |
| 7 | 04/06/2020 | CDALC | News of: 1) government's 'Opening the High Streets Safety Fund' which DCC are leading on and for which they've been allocated £460k with funding being for: action plans, information campaigns and changes to the physical environment and 2) DCC consultation (until 31 July) to identify where current street layout could be improved to enable social distancing and to encourage travel by foot and cycle. | |
| 8 | 05/06/2020 | DCC Pres Office | Press release - financial backing still offered for grocery shopping and delivery schemes across Co. Durham. Case studies from Citysafe, Durham City, Consett's 'food4u' foodbank and Shildon Alive are provided. | |
| 9 | 06/06/2020 | Power for People | Request to write to MP asking them to support the Local Electricity Bill being debated in House of Commons on 10 June (if made law, the Bill would lead to new community-scale clean energy infrastructure). | |
| 10 | 08/06/2020 | DCC Planning | Weekly list of new applications w/e 7 June. No new applications to consider. | |
| 11 | 08/06/2020 | CDALC | Roadworks report w/c 6/6. Nothing new to report. | |
| 12 | 08/06/2020 | CCLlr Richard Bell | Request that Parish Council respond to consultation on County Durham Plan with support for a relief road for Barnard Castle and encourage individuals to do likewise (as per item 38 on previous correspondence list). | Does the PC wish to respond? |
| 13 | 08/06/2020 | Neighbourhood Watch Network (via resident) | News of Neighbourhood Watch week (7-13 June): Big Virtual Lunch, cartoon competition and a Facebook Live Quiz on 12 June. | |
| 14 | 08/06/2020 | London Hearts | Charity offering grants of £200 to parish councils. The charity supplies and procures defibrillators and cabinets all across England (so the £200 is in effect a discount on purchase from them). | |
| 15 | 08/06/2020 | CDALC | Links to published government guidance on safe working in offices and outdoor working during coronavirus crisis. | |

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| 16 | 08/06/2020 | CDALC | Further links to government guidances on public parks, children's play areas, outdoor gyms, ball courts, sports activities, public toilets, cafes and visitor centres; Visitors Safety Group information for landowners and countryside managers; urban centres and green spaces; the phased return of sport and recreation; management of allotments; and advice from BHIB Councils Insurances on the expectations of local councils regarding playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment. | |
| 17 | 09/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - highlight on Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership using some of the additional £1.4m given to County Durham Area Action Partnership to help groups working at grass roots level across the county. | |
| 18 | 09/06/2020 | CDALC | Advice/warning that Parish Councils who put AGAR information on their website with a Period of Public Rights commencing other than the following day (ie some specified date in the future) will have an 'other matter' raised in their audit, and next year will not be able to give a positive assertion that the exercise of public rights was carried out correctly. | Clerk has posted the AGAR on the website on 31 May, with exercise of public rights period commencing 1 June. |
| 19 | 09/06/2020 | Teesdale Action Partnership | News of funding available for activities for children, young people and families during the Summer Holidays 2020 - for local community groups and organisations in Teesdale to deliver enriching holiday activities including healthy food. Grants between £250 and £2,500. Closing date 22 June. | |
| 20 | 09/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | News of new funding stream - National Lottery Community Fund Coronavirus Community Support Fund - of £200m - to help small to medium organisations in England, with objectives to: increase community support to vulnerable people and to reduce temporary closures of essential charities and social enterprises. Grants can cover service costs (where demand is increased or income disrupted) and to refocus service to better address needs in light of Covid-19. Demand for grants is high. | Email forwarded to Play@Cotherstone 10/6/20. |
| 21 | 10/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release -following consultation on whether to keep the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on dog control introduced in June 2017, DCC will keep the measures in place for a further 3 years. DCC report that in the 3 years to May 2020, there was a 32% reduction in stray dog reports, a 45% reduction in dog fouling and an 18% reduction in dog fouling warden investigations. | |
| 22 | 10/06/2020 | Multi Sport & Play | Sales promotion for 5-litre gel dispenser for high traffic areas, eg. playgrounds. No touch, foot-pedal operated dispenser (POA). | Filed and unsubscribed. |
| 23 | 10/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - companies in and around Consett will receive help through DCC grant of £9,900 to Do Business Network through the Area Action Partnership. | |
| 24 | 10/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | Community Energy Fortnight: Building Resilience (13-28 June). Online events on theme of harnessing our power for a better future. | |
| 25 | 10/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news that DCC will restart planning committee meetings on 16 June to determine more significant applications. However increased range of delegated powers have been given to planning officers to clear a backlog of applications - applications will be made in consultation with local councillors, with final decisions taken at director level. (item 55 on previous list refers). | |
| 26 | 11/06/2020 | CDALC | Passing on request from DCC that any public toilets which are the responsibility of a parish council should be open from next week if the council is confident that it is safe to do so and a risk assessment, especially for cleaning, has been put in place. | |
| 27 | 11/06/2020 | CDALC | Invitation to Clerks, Chairman and Councillors to take part in 'Zoom for beginners' one-hour session either at 4pm on Wednesday 17 June or 6.30pm on Thursday 18 June. Aimed particularly at those councils who haven't met since lockdown and need encouragement. Will cover main functions and how to manage your settings to ensure your safety. | As this PC has already held meetings, probably not a priority, but individual councillors are welcome to attend to boost their confidence/ask questions. |

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| 28 | 11/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news that Tow Law Town AFC has been awarded £1,800 from the Area Action Partnership to cover utility costs incurred during coronavirus outbreak. | |
| 29 | 11/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | News of Small Charity Week (15-22 June) to celebrate and raise awareness of the smallest charities that contribute to the lives of millions. | |
| 30 | 11/06/2020 | Enquirer | Family history researcher wanting to access births, marriages and deaths records in Cotherstone for around 1850s. | Refer to Durham Record Office? |
| 31 | 12/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - Durham County's Music Service is extending its offer of online home teaching to adults of any ability, either one to one, or in a pair of family members. | |
| 32 | 12/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - work to start on replacing Witton Park Bridge near Bishop Auckland. | |
| 33 | 12/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news that town centres will begin to re-open from 15 June. DCC is working with retailers and landlords on plans and guidance for safety. | |
| 34 | 12/06/2020 | Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council | 4-page update on Covid-19 and the County Council's response. Paragraphs covering: Countywide recovery; restoration and recovery of council services; NHS Test and Trace; essential services; schools; adult social care; financial support for businesses; funding announcements; AAP funding; community hub; remote meetings; leisure and culture. | |
| 35 | 12/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - Street Space consultation. invitation for public to have their say on how social distancing is maintained as emergency measures are being implemented in town centres and on pavements and cycle routes. DCC has applied for funding for measures which will create safer spaces for people walking and cycling. Deadline for comments is 31 July. | |
| 36 | 12/06/2020 | DCC Planning | Weekly list of new applications w/e 11 June. No new applications to consider. | |
| 37 | 15/06/2020 | DCC | Request from Community Led Local Development office to complete survey from Business Durham on Covid impact. | |
| 38 | 15/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - case study of two student social workers who carried out work placements as part of their training in adult and health services, in partnership with Think Ahead graduate programme. | |
| 39 | 15/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - case study warning from County Durham woman whose elderly mother was scammed out of thousands of pounds, part of Scams Awareness Fortnight organised by Citizens Advice. | |
| 40 | 15/06/2020 | CDALC | Details of Covid-19 Risk Assessments - process, templates, record keeping etc. A separate risk assessment must be done for every facility/open space, workspace operated by the Parish Council. References to 43-page NALC/BHIB Insurance guide, HSE guide, and government website. | |
| 41 | 15/06/2020 | CDALC | Details of new draft National Code of Conduct for consultation. Full email, with the model Code of Conduct circulated to all councillors 16/6/20 and placed as agenda item for discussion at July meeting. | |
| 42 | 15/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - appointment of Temporary Chief Executive Sharon Caddell for the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. | |
| 43 | 16/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - how County Council funding is helping Framwellgate Moor School work with Durham Deafened Support to help people with hearing impairments. | |

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| 44 | 16/06/2020 | Teesdale Action Partnership | 6-page PDF Annual Report of Teesdale Action Partnership 2019/20. Can be forwarded on request. | |
| 45 | 16/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news and case study of County Council grants given to support business owners through coronavirus. £96.5m funding has been given to 8,651 businesses. Any business who has not applied is encouraged to do so. | |
| 46 | 16/06/2020 | Noticeboards Online Ltd | Sales promotion for noticeboards. Filed (and used). | |
| 47 | 17/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - DCC's Adult Learning Skills Service have been working with East Durham Trust to deliver community learning to families and individuals in learning packages which also include a meal. | |
| 48 | 18/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news that Durham City's Park & Ride services will re-open on 29 June at Sniperley and Belmont, while Howlands will remain a Park & Stride site, operating solely as a car park. On the same day parking charges will be reinstated in the Council's car parks and on-street pay and display bays (although still free to NHS and critical care workers). | |
| 49 | 18/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | June news bulletin: new guide to help Community Buildings work through re-opening after Covid-19, free online training on 'Volunteers and the Law' and 'Understanding Safeguarding for Voluntary and Community Organisations' new online platform for advertising volunteering opportunities, Community Homes on the Map, Food Durham and Third Sector Trends in the North East report 2020. | |
| 50 | 19/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - promotion of DCC's Employability Durham Team - for residents over 25 who have lost their job or are losing for new employment. | |
| 51 | 19/06/2020 | CDALC | Due to popular demand, another 'Zoom training for beginners' session is being held Wednesday 24 June, 10am (60-90 mins duration). Need to register in advance if you're interested. | |
| 52 | 19/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - DCC's Leader Simon Henig will join in a virtual meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 24 June with the Mayor of Tübingen in Germany and the Mayor of Ann Arbor in Michigan to share plans and discuss their joint desire to tackle change and reduce carbon emissions. Public can observe via Zoom link and ask questions. | |
| 53 | 19/06/2020 | DCC Housing Regeneration Team | Copy of simple 2-page Summer 2020 edition of Warm Homes Newsletter giving information on DCC's current schemes offering free help and advice on home energy bills, energy debts and grants for new boilers and heating. Can forward on request if you know of any residents this might interest. | |
| 54 | 19/06/2020 | Citizens Advice County Durham | Invitation for individuals to complete online survey of people's views, whether service users or not, to build a picture of what needs there are and how the service can best be designed for the future. Survey is at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CACDsurvey2021 | |
| 55 | 19/06/2020 | Durham County Council Leader | Latest Stakeholder briefing on Covid-19 and the County Council's response: Countywide recovery, restoration and recovery of services, essential services, schools, adult social care, NHS Test and Trace, financial support for businesses, funding announcements, AAP funding, community hub, remote meetings. Please ask if you'd like Clerk to forward to 4-page document. | |
| 56 | 22/06/2020 | DCC Planning | Weekly list of new applications w/e 21 June. No new applications to consider. | |

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| 57 | 23/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - support of £9,500 from DCC's 3 Towns Area Action Partnership is helping support the provision of hot nourishing meals to vulnerable people in Willington, Crook and surrounding area. | |
| 58 | 23/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - DCC is celebrating Armed Forces Day on 27 June and promoting its policies aimed at creating fair and equal opportunities for those who serve. | |
| 59 | 24/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - News of grants to community groups from the Stanley Area Action Partnership to support people during coronavirus pandemic. | |
| 60 | 25/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release -LINKCD was launched in July 2019, bringing together community-minded organisations and training providers to support people in County Durham who face multiple obstacles to gaining employment. New partners Northern Learning Trust and Bernicia Homes will soon join other partners Karbon Homes, Livin Housing and Changing Lives, along with DCC's Employability Durham. | |
| 61 | 25/06/2020 | CDALC | Guidance and links to sources of help on re-opening play areas and community centres. | |
| 62 | 25/06/2020 | Teesdale Action Partnership | 4-page TAP bulletin June 2020. Can forward on request. | |
| 63 | 25/06/2020 | CDALC | Details of forthcoming Good Councillor online training course (3 x 1 hour sessions) on 9, 16 and 23 July. Email forwarded to all councillors. | |
| 64 | 26/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - story of two unlikely friends making creative art pieces to combat isolation during lockdown. | |
| 65 | 26/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release -DCC has launched a temporary 'drive-through' birth registration service (at Aykley Heads, Durham). | |
| 66 | 26/06/2020 | Durham County Council Leader | Latest Stakeholder briefing on Covid-19 and the County Council's response: Countywide recovery, restoration and recovery of council services, schools, adult social care, shielded population, outbreak control, financial support for businesses, AAP funding, community hub, statues and monuments, apprenticeships, selective licensing, climate change and BRASS virtual festival. Please ask if you'd like Clerk to forward to 4-page document. | |
| 67 | 26/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - joint letter from North East councils to region's MPs asking for government commitment to additional Covid-19 financial support. | |
| 68 | 29/06/2020 | CDALC | Roadworks report w/c 27/6. Email sent to all councillors 29/6/20. | |
| 69 | 29/06/2020 | DCC Planning | Weekly list of new applications w/e 28 June. No new applications to consider. | |
| 70 | 29/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - Publicity for Durham BRASS online festival, 13-18 July. | |
| 71 | 29/06/2020 | Pennine Journey Supporters Club | Plea for the parish council's support for the campaign to have the status of 'A Pennine Journey' long distance footpath changed to that of a National Trail and to lobby County Councillor and MP on this. Explanatory Memorandum (1page) can be forwarded on request. | |
| 72 | 29/06/2020 | CDALC | Request for any parish councils which operate public toilets to liaise with DCC about their possible re-opening. | |

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| 73 | 30/06/2020 | CDALC | Request for views from member councils on whether the CDALC AGM (scheduled for 10 October) should be postponed to March 2021 (if possible) or cancelled for 2020 altogether, with existing officer roles carried forward. | Does the PC wish to respond? |
| 74 | 30/06/2020 | Durham Community Action | Link to details of a series of short, fully-funded online workshops on Strategic Planning, Consultation and Engagement and Financial Management — designed to support voluntary and community groups prepare for 'life after lockdown'. | |
| 75 | 30/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - DCC has worked to support St Bede's RC Comprehensive in Peterlee as it prepares to join a multi-academy trust. | |
| 76 | 30/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services have been inspected by Ofsted and CQC and have shown significant improvements over the last three years. | |
| 77 | 30/06/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - news that a report to DCC cabinet will states that DCC has provided bus operators with £4m support to enable services to continue through coronavirus pandemic. | |
| 78 | 30/06/2020 | CDALC | Update on holding meetings — NALC and SLCC strongly advise local councils to continue to meet remotely without the need for face to face contact and CDALC support this view. | |
| 79 | 01/07/2020 | DCC Press Office | Press release - AAP support of £12k to Trimdon Village and Trimdon Grange to help older people improve their mental health. | |
| 80 | 01/07/2020 | CDALC | NALC legal update — covering 6-month member absence advice; electric charging points (power to contribute to installation and receive income from charges); a report on a case involving wild animals (fish); and new Legal Briefings L02-20 and LO3-20 on new employment rights and the postponement of local government elections of April 2020; updates to Legal Topic Notes LTN87 (EU procurement figures) and LTN8 on elections. | |