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Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping well and were able to enjoy a break at the weekend. Our news today is as follows:

NATIONAL ALC UPDATE FOR PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS – CORONAVIRUS

For updates on what is happening for us nationally, ensure you visit <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus> on a regular basis. This is being updated daily throughout the current emergency.

If you would also like to keep up-to-date with the government information as it comes out then you can sign-up to their [Covid-19 response bulletin](#).

Holding meetings – NALC strongly encourages councillors and staff to follow government guidance on social distancing and self-isolation. We would encourage local councils to consider if they need to hold scheduled meetings at all. NALC's opinion is that the likelihood of a successful legal challenge is low. NALC are expecting government guidance on holding meetings remotely early this week and will then produce further guidance. Local councils should evidence decisions, for example by asking councillors to confirm their votes by email to the clerk for the clerk to keep as a record.

Local councils supporting their communities – Local councils are ideally placed to inform and support residents as they already do in supporting vulnerable or lonely people. Many councils have set-up an emergency response group of councillors and volunteers to assist with collection/delivery of medicines, shopping or simply being a voice at the end of the phone. You can read more about their work, and that of other local councils, in NALC's newly published [Coronavirus case studies](#) publication.

FUNDING OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Every clerk/council should have received a 'wellbeing' email from John over the weekend outlining how your council can now obtain funds to support activities in your community. Let me know if you have not received this, or if you have questions. We expect to be able to deliver more funding streams in the coming weeks – more on that later.

NORFOLK – WHAT IS HAPPENING AND SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Locally, news and guidance is coming both from the district councils and the county council, but we understand that <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus> is to becoming the main 'one stop shop' for information within Norfolk.

THE EDP are also collating news of what is being done around county, and it is good to see our town and parish councils featuring there.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We are aiming to send a weekly newsletter each Monday, and a further one if warranted. Meanwhile, we are here to take phone calls and to respond quickly to emails from subscriber councils.

Gabbie and Russell are taking part in a national conference call each Wednesday morning and would like an opportunity to share messages, enable interaction on how everyone is getting on and to learn how we can best support you. We have looked at the options, and have chosen to try using the Zoom platform (which is also being used for our national conference calls). For this week, we propose:

Wednesday 25 March 2020 afternoon – Clerk Conference calls

South Norfolk, Broadland and GYBC member councils at 2pm. Please email [Gabbie](#) for a link to the call.

North Norfolk, Breckland and KLWN member councils at 3.30pm. Please email [Russell](#) for a link to the call.

Wednesday evening – Chairman Conference calls

South Norfolk, Broadland and GYBC member councils at 5pm. Please email [Gabbie](#) for a link to the call.

North Norfolk, Breckland and KLWN member councils at 7pm. Please email [Russell](#) for a link to the call.

Other members of our team will also be available to answer questions.

Additional conference sessions will be held on Thursday 26 March if demand is too high.

OUR SUPPORT FOR YOU

We are on hand to provide support and advice by phone and also promptly by email – Russell on countyofficer@norfolcalc.gov.uk, Gabbie on trainer@norfolcalc.gov.uk (both of us providing advice, support and lobbying), John on wellbeing@norfolcalc.gov.uk (well-being issues, generating council funding), Helen on it@norfolcalc.gov.uk (council websites, communications), Sarah on support@norfolcalc.gov.uk (clerk mentoring, support) and Maddy on admin@norfolcalc.gov.uk (our administration, finance).

Please give priority to paying our subscription invoices at the present time so Norfolk ALC and National ALC can continue to support you

Take care and keep safe.

Best wishes from Russell, Gabbie, John, Helen, Maddy and Sarah, as well as the NALC Executive.

To book a training course click here

Click here to view the Calendar for more Events & Training

To view the current Parish Clerk Vacancies in Norfolk click here



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