

[View this email in your browser](#)



SPRING CONFERENCE

Our conference will be taking place on 14 March 2019 at the Roundwood Function & Conference Centre, Taverham. We have some excellent speakers confirmed, covering key finance, legal and planning matters, together with other topics which will be of high relevance to parish and town councils alongside exhibitors. For more information click [here](#) to download the full programme.

[To book a place click here](#)

Can you hold the Annual Parish Meeting during Purdah?

The forthcoming elections on 2 May 2019 falls within the statutory period (1 March to 1 June) that local councils hold their Annual Parish or Town Meeting – the annual assembly of residents of the area, not a Council meeting.

Many Councils use their parish/town meeting as an opportunity to report on achievements and finances during the previous 12 months. Often, Councils hold annual awards promoting outstanding actions of nominated residents. At the very least, these meetings are an opportunity for residents to ask questions of the council and responses may risk a breach of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, (March 2011), if this meeting is held within the period of Purdah.

What's Purdah?

Councils must not publish, arrange for or give financial support to the publication of any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party. Councils are required to have regard to the [Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity](#) (March 2011), when considering publicity decisions.

Purdah relates to the period leading up to an election, when Councils must take extra care when considering their publishing obligations due to the heightened sensitivity of the period. The period begins with the notice of election and ends on election day. The notice of election is no

later than 26 March 2019, but many Norfolk Local Authorities have set a date earlier than this, so local councils must apply the date set by their district or borough.

Taking care means that a platform must not be given to the achievements of the existing council and neither should the council do anything which helps to promote or endorse individual candidates. This applies to all local councils, regardless of whether their candidates are independent, or party affiliated.

However, this does not mean a council should suspend its normal business. Matters such as planning consultation must continue as it would at any other time.

So, the answer is?

It depends on what your Council plans to do or say at the APM. However, to defer the meeting until after the elections would be the safest option. It also gives your new Council an opportunity to introduce itself to residents and engage in some community consultation to help prepare the Council's action plan for the term ahead.

Home Composting Survey

Composting at home is a great way to deal with kitchen and garden waste and can help save money on buying compost and can feed plants and lighten heavy soils. Home composting can also help the environment by reducing waste sent for disposal. To allow the Waste Reduction team at Norfolk CC to find out more about peoples home composting activities, they have devised a Norfolk Home Compost survey. This will help to provide information and support people to start composting as well as those who are already home composting but may be having difficulties or need encouragement. The link to the survey is: [here](#)

To view the current Parish Clerk Vacancies in Norfolk click here

Register of Locum Clerks

We are always keen to add anyone who is interested to our locums register to receive details of any temporary clerk/internal audit vacancies arising around Norfolk

2019/2020 NALC Membership Invoices

We will be sending out our 2019/20 invoices early in March. Benefits of membership are set out [here](#).

Click here to view the Calender for Events & Training

Click [here](#) to access news from Breckland Council

Click [here](#) to access news from Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Click [here](#) to access news from Broadland District Council

Click [here](#) to access news from Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Click [here](#) to access news from Norfolk County Council

Click [here](#) to access news from North Norfolk District Council

Click [here](#) to access news from South Norfolk Council



Copyright © 2018 Norfolk Association of Local Councils, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Room 58, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2UF

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

To subscribe to our newsletter click [here](#)

This email was sent to it@norfolcalc.gov.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Norfolk Association of Local Councils · Room 58, County Hall · Martineau Lane · Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2UF · United Kingdom

