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**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 19 (May 2021)**

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the May edition of my Bulletin. Hope you are all staying safe and well.

* **Queen’s Speech -** The Queen opened the new session of Parliament last week and delivered [**The Queen’s Speech**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=9dcbf87529&e=07b89a8048), setting out the Government’s legislative programme for the year ahead. Areas of particular interest to member councils among the [**30 bills**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=b541dca0de&e=07b89a8048) announced include the Planning Bill, Environment Bill, Procurement Bill, Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill and the Charities Bill. KALC will work closely with NALC in engaging with the government and MPs to influence the government’s proposals, including pressing for legislation on remote meetings and standards.
* **Return to face-to-face Council Meetings** – As highlighted in our e-mail on 6 May, we would strongly urge you to read the updated advice and guidance from NALC on the return to face-to-face meetings, which can be accessed via the following link <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/coronavirus-page>. We would also urge member councils to respond to the Government’s Call for Evidence on remote meetings which can be accessed via the following link - [**call for evidence**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=ef72996ef1&e=07b89a8048). **The deadline is 11.45pm on 17 June.**
* **Updated Government Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities:** On 17 May, Government updated its guidance, which can be accessed via the following link:[COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](http://COVID-19:%20Guidance%20for%20the%20safe%20use%20of%20multi-purpose%20community%20facilities%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk))
* **Covid-19 – Welcome Back Fund** – As highlighted previously, the Government has [**told principal councils to work with local councils and pass on funding**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=e7987d837e&e=07b89a8048) from the £56m Welcome Back Fund. Many of the activities covered by the fund to help boost high streets are often already delivered by member councils. Please let us know how you get on so that we can then feed this back to NALC and Government.
* **NALC Civility Event with CCLA** - NALC’s partners [**CCLA**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=c72345a68c&e=07b89a8048) are hosting a free [**Healthy Work Places, Civility in Public Life**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=8c0e2d5199&e=07b89a8048) webinar on 24 May featuring short presentations followed by a question and comment slot. Speakers include Amy Browne, stewardship lead, CCLA, who will discuss good mental health, Louise Smith, senior adviser, Local Government Association on their [**Civility in Public Life Programme**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=4bd3623fab&e=07b89a8048), and Jonathan Owen, NALC CEO, on NALC’s work with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), One Voice Wales and county associations on civility and promoting good governance in the sector.
* **NALC Star Council Awards 2021:** The closing date for entries for the this year’s NALC Star Councils Awards is **25 May**. There are 5 categories: Clerk of the Year, Councillor of the Year, Young Councillor of the Year, Council of the Year, and County Association of the Year. For further details, please use the following link: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/star-council-awards>
* **Litter Motion and Petition:** KALC has been made aware of a Petition on the UK Government and Parliament website calling for mandatory printing of car registration numbers on all Drive Thru packaging, which has been signed by over 58,000 people. If the Petition has 100,000 signatures it will be considered for debate in Parliament – see [petition](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/580772?fbclid=IwAR3or-1licyDK2gs9ohrc7Jb36vcmcQA4DzyLTRKU0-OwFAV7l_bxH2NdyI)
* **Great British Spring Clean:** The Great British Spring Clean campaign 2021 has been launched by Keep Britain Tidy. From 28 May to 13 June 2021, #LitterHeroes across the country are encouraged to get outside and get active. To help with this, Keep Britain Tidy has developed a handy pack of [**assets and resources**](applewebdata://EA2F3869-736E-4281-846F-CEF478A8EF90/handy%20pack%20of%20assets%20and%20resources%20to%20help%20you%20engage%20your%20community%20in%20the%20campaign.) to help you engage your community in the campaign. Supporters are encouraged to make a [**simple pledge**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=246e7090bc&e=07b89a8048) and let Keep Britain Tidy know how many minutes they'll clean-up for during the campaign. Pledges can be made as an individual or a group, ensuring they follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors. Keep Britain Tidy has also launched a charity **[webshop,](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=f76f79b9f4&e=07b89a8048)** where you can purchase litter picking equipment packaged in recyclable materials.
* **Government consultation – Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure:** MHCLG is currently consulting (technical consultation) on proposed planning reforms that “will allow the deployment of telecoms equipment to be quicker whilst ensuring that there are appropriate environmental protections and safeguards in place” – see [Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure: technical consultation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-technical-consultation?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=56dd73e8-69c9-467d-a7b8-8632c5c92d91&utm_content=daily). The consultation deadline is **11.45pm on 14 June**.
* **Department for Culture, Media & Sport’s consultation/call for evidence on improving broadband connectivity to very hard to reach areas**:  As highlighted in our e-mail of 28 April, this consultation can be accessed by using the following link - Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). To feed into the NALC response, please respond to [chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk) **by 1700 on 25 May 2021**. **You can also respond direct to DCMS by 11.45pm on 11 June.**
* **Government Consultations on Household & Business Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging:** On 7 May, Government launched a consultation on household and business recycling in England. Under the proposals, every household in England will receive separate, weekly food waste collections from 2023. The consultation closes on **4 July**. Defra are also consulting on other policy proposals as part of the collections and packaging reforms including introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging across the UK and introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). The consultations close on **4 June. The consultations can be accessed via the following links:** [recycling consultation](file:///C:\Users\Terry\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\UG082O9A\recycling%20consultation) and [extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging consultation](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/) (EPR) and [consultation-on-introducing-a-drs](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/) (DRS)
* **Kent County Council consultation – HGV Parking -** As part of the wider post EU exit transition period plans, DFT granted KCC powers to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) prohibiting any heavy goods or large goods vehicle which has a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,000kg (5 tonnes) from parking anywhere within 7 districts and boroughs likely to be most impacted by the traffic management plans. The areas included are Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet. This came into effect in January 2021. KCC is currently consulting on the ETRO which can be viewed on the KCC website via the following link – the deadline for responses is **3 July 2021**: [**County\_Wide\_HGV\_prohibition consultation**](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/County_Wide_HGV_prohibition/consultationHome)**.**
* **KALC/NALC Membership Subscription for 2021/2022:** Thank you to all the Councils that have already renewed their KALC/NALC membership for this financial year. For those that have not yet renewed, please remember that subscriptions should be **paid by 30 June** at the latest. Please contact me if you have any questions ([chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) or call 07475 034346).
* **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit [www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk) for further details:
* 17th June – **Writing effective press releases to get local coverage**
* 23rd June **– Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning**

Terry Martin

Chief Executive