

ERNLLCA

East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire
Local Councils Association

Newsletter June 2011

OFFICE SHUT DOWN

Please note that the ERNLLCA office will be closed due to annual leave for two weeks commencing Monday 27 June 2011. The office will re-open on Monday 11 July 2011.

CILCA SUCCESS

Many congratulations to Jill Pick, Clerk to Skerne and Wansford Parish Council, who has become the latest Clerk to an ERNLLCA member council to pass the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Well done Jill!

QUALITY STATUS SUCCESS



Libby Woodhouse, Clerk to Flamborough Parish Council being presented with her Council's Quality Status Certificate by Alan Jones, Head of Communications at the National Association of Local Councils. Looking on is the ERNLLCA President, Tom Glossop. The presentation took place at the ERNLLCA Spring Conference

The Localism Bill

ERNLLCA member councils have asked if a day conference could be arranged on Localism once the full content of, what will be, the Act is known and how this will affect local councils. The logistics of this are being examined and member councils will be informed in due course.

ERNLLCA Annual General Meeting 2011

Member councils are being advised that the deadline for the submission of resolutions to the AGM will be 31 July 2011.

This year's AGM will be held at Haxey Memorial Hall on Saturday 17 September 2011, starting at 2.00pm. The agenda will be sent to member councils no later than Friday 19 August 2011. In the past all member councils have received two copies of the Annual Report and Accounts together with copies of all documentation relating to the meeting. In an effort to reduce waste, all councils will receive a copy of the agenda and meeting notice, however the Annual Report and Accounts will only be sent to those councils which advise ERNLLCA that they will be sending delegates to the meeting or those which specifically state that they would like to receive a copy. The report and accounts will be placed on the ERNLLCA website.

CRB Checks

In June 2010 the Government announced it was halting registration with the Vetting and Barring Scheme (known as VBS) and that a review would be carried out. The Government has announced provisions to revise the vetting and barring arrangements. The key changes will be included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, as follows:-

- ◆ a merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a "proportionate" barring and criminal records checking service;
- ◆ a large reduction in the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults;
- ◆ portability of criminal records checks between jobs;
- ◆ an end to the requirement for those working with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS and then be continually monitored by the ISA; and
- ◆ stopping employers knowingly requesting criminal records checks when they are not entitled to do so.

The Bill is expected to become law early in 2012 although it may take some time for the regime to be implemented. Until then, the existing measures will continue to apply.

Regional Training Conference

Member councils have previously been advised that the 2011 Conference is to be held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Willerby on the weekend of Friday 23 September to Sunday 25 September 2011. The regional conference has never before been held in the ERNLLCA area and it is hoped that member councils will wish to take advantage of this and attend, either as day or weekend delegates. This is high profile event. The key-note speaker will be Claire Cooper, Deputy Director at the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Full details are available on the ERNLLCA website or by contacting the ERNLLCA office.

UPCOMING ERNLLCA TRAINING EVENTS

Meeting Procedure 2011

Monday 25 July - Pocklington
Tuesday 26 July - Goole
Wednesday 27 July - Brigg
Thursday 28 July - Grimsby

Role of the Clerk 2011

Wednesday 7 September - Pocklington
Thursday 8 September - Worlaby, nr Brigg
Wednesday 14 September - Grimsby
Thursday 15 September - Goole

Bookings are still being taken for all sessions but some are nearing capacity.

Details will be issued during August about further training opportunities during October and November.

2011 Spring Conference

Delegates from across the Humber sub-region gathered at the Hallmark Hotel, North Ferriby on 10 June 2011 for the annual ERNLLCA Spring Conference. Now in its third year, 55 delegates were welcomed to the conference by ERNLLCA's President, Tom Glossop. Tom introduced speakers who in turn addressed a range of issues which impact on local councils.

Peter Ashcroft, Head of Planning and Development Management at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council spoke about the issue of planning and how the Localism Bill might bring about changes. He reminded delegates about the revisions that have already been put in place and explained the new tier of planned changes proposed at neighbourhood level. He also explained the Community Right to Build Order and the potential role local councils will have in any revised process.



(Rob Walsh explaining the new approach to standards)

Delegates went on to hear a presentation from Rob Walsh, Executive Director Business Services at North East Lincolnshire Council, who summarised the current position with the Code of Conduct and then went on to alert everyone to the probable forthcoming changes. He explained that the existing Code will be replaced with a voluntary code and that the existing mechanism for dealing with complaints will also be changed. However he drew everyone's attention to the retention of the Register of Interests and the fact that criminal penalties could ensue where interests are not registered or declared. Indications from Government are that a fine of up to £5000 could be applied and/or disqualification from holding office for up to 5 years.

Following lunch, Alan Jones, Head of Communications at the National Association of Local Councils, addressed the conference on the need for effective communications with the public and press. Alan spoke about how effective communication enhances the reputation of a council and stressed the need for councils to have a media strategy. He explained how a press release should be constructed and the basic steps involved in handling a difficult media situation.

The conference concluded with a presentation by an old friend of local councils in the ERNLLCA area, Alan Johnson, who took delegates through the responsibilities members have in respect of a council's finances. Alan stressed the need for effective planning through a structured budget and the specific responsibilities that apply at "year-end".

The evaluation forms reveal a high level of satisfaction with the day although the ERNLLCA Officers have noted the comments made about the refreshments and quantity of food available at lunchtime, information which will help with the planning of future conferences.

Department of Communities and Local Government Select Committee

The Committee released its report into Localism on 9 June, 2011. This follows an Inquiry conducted by the Committee between November 2010 and May 2011 involving submission by relevant stakeholders in the form of written material and the conducting of eight Oral Evidence hearings.

The main findings of the report are - that power is still too centralised in England; the Government should specify in writing the future limits of its wishes to intervene locally; local facilitation of service choice is to be encouraged in the Big Society climate and the Minister for Decentralisation does need to encourage Government Departments to work in a more cross-cutting way. The National Association of Local Councils submitted written evidence to the Committee at the start of its Inquiry and has responded to the Report, arguing that local councils have been, are and will be central to any localism agenda. The Report can be downloaded from the following web-link <http://www.parliament.uk/clg>

NALC's Communities in Action Conferences and Exhibitions - Delivering more for local people

19 July, St Paul's Mercure, Sheffield

Why attend:

- Do you want your local (parish or town) council to deliver effective services in response to local needs and aspirations?
- Do you want to improve how your community or local council influences and helps shape service delivery in your area?
- Do you want to find out what the new era of localism and Big Society means to very local government?

By using existing and forthcoming new strengthened powers, communities and local councils can get in the driving seat to make places better. Find out more at the Communities in Action Conference.

Places at these events are strictly limited; book now to avoid disappointment. Further information and booking forms are available at: <http://www.nalc.gov.uk>

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During June and July all of the district committees will hold their annual meetings at which representatives to the organisation's Executive Committee will be appointed, together with other annual appointments. The schedule of meetings is:-

COMMITTEE	DATE	VENUE	TIME
North Lincolnshire	Thursday 30 June 2011	Pittwood House, Scunthorpe	6.00pm
East Riding (North East)	Tuesday 12 July 2011	Driffield Town Council Chamber	7.30pm
East Riding (Central)	Wednesday 13 July 2011	South Cave Town Hall	7.00pm
North East Lincolnshire	Thursday 14 July 2011	Grimsby Town Hall	7.00pm
East Riding (Holderness)	Tuesday 19 July 2011	Withernsea Town Council Chamber	7.30pm
East Riding (West)	Wednesday 20 July 2011	Stamford Bridge Methodist Hall	7.30pm