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## News letter

June 2021

[www.surreyalc.co.uk](http://www.surreyalc.co.uk)



Hi Everyone

I hope you are all keeping well and that you have been able to find a way of managing your meetings during the continuing restrictions. For those that have undergone elections I hope that it is all settling down well.

We have been kept very busy at Surrey ALC with requests for advice and other support related matters. I have had very good reports from members about the quality of advice you have received from Wellers Hedleys, LLP with whom we have an arrangement as part of your subscription.

I am aware that there are some concerns over duplication of information. Our experience is that Members read information when it comes through in different forms of communication and which is relevant to their parish. It is very difficult to select what we should and should not send so we feel it is better that our members receive all the information and can select what is useful. Fortunately with emails they can be easily removed with a press of a button!!!

I have highlighted below some areas that relate to our services and may be of interest to you.

Thank you to all members who have paid up your Membership subscriptions. We really appreciate it. A gentle reminder to those that have not paid that the deadline for subscriptions is the 30th June.

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Thank you for your support and feedback – long may it continue

Anne

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#### Clerks/Chairmen Forums

We have reintroduced Clerks and Chairmen's Forums. These are one of the best ways of ensuring that we are communicating with you and a great opportunity to receive updates and to ask questions of/give feedback to me and the Surrey Board Chairman. Over 30 clerks attended their first forum in early June and the Chair's Forum is on the 29<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30.

Initially we are keeping the forums fairly straightforward, however we will look at inviting representatives from other organisations - Surrey Police and SCC - to join us for an update on key issues that affect you all. Any other suggestions for 'visitors' that you would find useful would be very welcome.

#### Survey

As we are settling down into our new way of working it is now time to find out if there is a need to refocus some of our services. Next month the Surrey Board will be asked to agree a survey intended to understand your council and requirements. We really would appreciate it if you could respond to the survey. I promise it will not be too onerous.

#### SLCC

We recognise the importance of Surrey ALC and the local branch of SLCC working much more closely together for you benefit. The Chair (Iain Lynch) and myself will be meeting up soon to talk about how we can achieve this.

#### Surrey ALC Board

The Board is due to meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. There is a need to strengthen the Board and recruit new Directors who have skills and experience that will enhance SALC's services. We have information on our website asking for expressions of interest. We are very pleased to have had responses from interested members

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(from Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley area). Ideally, ultimately we would like to see a Surrey Board that has representation from across the whole County. This would be effective from mid October (after the AGM).

Anyone interested can have an initial informal chat with myself or our Chairman, Steve Cosser. Please visit our website for more details.

#### AGM

A date for your diaries - Surrey AGM will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Details will be sent out in September.

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#### Training Programme

It has been great to see many of you at training events. It is effectively the same team of trainers that ran the SSALC training. The training is currently modular and being delivered by Zoom with each module lasting on average around 90 minutes. This has proved to be very successful as not only are members happier with shorter time but it has allowed us to have much more focus on particular areas that affect the way a council, and its members, undertake its business. Feedback has suggested that the more established/experienced members have also found it useful as a refresher. More topics are regularly being added to the programme and it is worth checking the website regularly – see further details below.

We believe that the service provides very good 'value for money' particularly as Surrey Members get a discounted price under our arrangement with Mulberry and Co!

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## Website

Anna has continued (as she did with SSALC) to focus on improving our website and has taken into account any feedback on how to find details on training, documents etc. It is so frustrating when using a website that it is not clear on the various 'go to' pages which holds the specific information being looked for...

Anna monitors it very closely and is always looking for improvement – she always welcomes feedback and ideas. It is after all about what you need.

Visit the website at [www.surreyalc.co.uk](http://www.surreyalc.co.uk)



- NALC is working with the Police Commissioners Association to develop better working together between Police Commissioners/County Associations/Town and Parish Councils. We intend to make contact with the new Surrey Police Commissioner.
- Remote Meetings – NALC's response to the Government consultation, informed by feedback from Town/ Parish Councils has now been submitted and can be found on their website. It might also be worth looking at their 'Transparency Consultation' section..
- NALC is holding an online event in September with the theme of 'High Streets and Markets' and has also launched its first ever one day online conference on Future Communities 2021. Maybe worth putting the date – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 – in your Members diaries.



### Thank You Day

A National Thank you day is being organised for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Parish Councils are being encouraged to get involved by using the opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to their staff and community. You can find out more [here](#)

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### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As you may have heard the Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee next year (2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022). We have received a communication from the Pageantmaster, Queen's Jubilee Beacons, encouraging all Town/Parish Councils to get involved in the lighting of beacons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. We will be sending you a letter and two attachments that outline the event and how you can take part. This includes a Guide to Taking Part to be posted on your websites and any other forms of media that you use for your communications. This is the start of the preparations and the Guide will be updated monthly on [www.queensjubileebeacons.com](http://www.queensjubileebeacons.com)

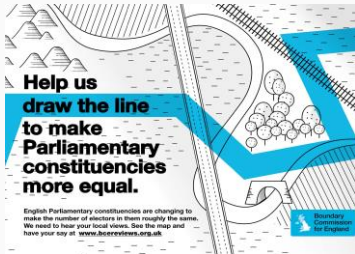
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Don't forget that as part of the NHS Test and Trace, all community centres, libraries and village halls should display a QR code. The link below takes you to the NHS website where you can apply for and print your code which should be displayed at every entrance.

<https://faq.covid19.nhs.uk/article/KA-01183/en-us?parentid=CAT-01043&rootid=CAT-01027>

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The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The changes will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight, and in doing so increase the number of constituencies from 533 to 543. Go online at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) to view and comment on the proposals. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by 2 August 2021.



#### Good Councillor Guide

Hard copies of the NALC Good Councillor Guide are available to purchase for £4 each plus p&p. To order, please follow the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCGuide>



#### **\*\*NEWLY UPDATED\*\*** MULBERRY AND CO TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

The Mulberry and Co Training Programme for Local Councils is designed specifically for Town and Parish Councils using trainers with a wealth of experience within the sector.

The programme includes Councillors & Chairmanship Training and Clerks, RFOs & Officers Training :

- New Councillors & Chairmanship Training Programme – suitable for both new and existing councillors
- New Clerks & Officers Training Programme – suitable for new staff or those requiring training/refreshing on a specific topic
- **\*\*NEWLY UPDATED\*\*** Finance Training – for both councillors and Clerks, RFOs & Officers, new and existing
- **\*\*NEWLY UPDATED\*\*** Planning Training – suitable for both councillors and Clerks, RFOs and Officers, new and existing
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Communications Training – suitable for both councillors and Clerks, RFOs and Officers and brought to you in conjunction with Breakthrough Communications, topics include Data Protection, Social Media, Website Accessibility and Crisis Management

As your council is a member of SALC who have appointed Mulberry and Co as their service provider, the training will be charged at a reduced members rate.

Further details, fees and booking forms can be found at [www.mulberryandco.co.uk/council-training-programmes/](http://www.mulberryandco.co.uk/council-training-programmes/)

All training is also available to individual or groups of neighbouring councils to book on demand, either as laid out in the programme or as a completely bespoke training session. Please contact Anna Beams at [anna@mulberryandco.co.uk](mailto:anna@mulberryandco.co.uk) to discuss your requirements.

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## SALC CONTACT DETAILS

Anne Bott:

[anne.bott@surreyalc.co.uk](mailto:anne.bott@surreyalc.co.uk)

07515 892443

Anna Beams:

[anna@mulberryandco.co.uk](mailto:anna@mulberryandco.co.uk)

03303 450596

Mark Mulberry

[mark@mulberryandco.co.uk](mailto:mark@mulberryandco.co.uk)

WEBSITE:

[www.surreyalc.co.uk](http://www.surreyalc.co.uk)



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