

Newsletter – November 2023

Derbyshire ALC



In this newsletter:

- [1 - Welcome... to our new training & advice manager](#)
- [2 – Community Ownership Fund £££ for councils too – Chinley shows us how](#)
- [3 – * Reminder! * DALC AGM – November 14th](#)
- [4- The A-Z of safeguarding – new template + training](#)
- [5- Remote meetings – an update](#)
- [6- Derbyshire to share new region’s £1.14 billion funding pot](#)
- [7- Tree giveaway – Woodland Trust wants to hear from us!](#)
- [8- Going electric – DCC survey needs our input](#)
- [9- Nature depletion – what can councils do?](#)
- [10- Fire regulations update](#)
- [11- Training courses coming up](#)
- [12- Next DALC forum session - invite](#)

1- Welcome... to our new training and advice manager

Please welcome Yvonne Colverson, DALC’s new Training and Advice Manager! Yvonne starts work on November 1st, and brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having previously been a parish council clerk and also delivered advice training and advice for SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). Yvonne will take over the training@derbyshirealc.gov.uk email address. We hope you’ll join us in welcoming her to DALC.

2- Community Ownership Fund £££ is for councils too – Chinley shows us how!

Since the Community Ownership Fund changed its application criteria to allow parish and town councils to submit bids, we’ve heard of several projects ‘in the pipeline’. But we’re delighted that Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council, in the north-west of the county, have now shared the fantastic news of a £250,000 grant towards the rebuild of their community centre – with construction due to start next Spring. Clerk Georgina Cooper explains: “The current building is close to the end of its useable life and is in desperate need

of replacing... although it continues to be the hub at the heart of our community with varied activities and events taking place every day of the week for residents of all ages.

“Earlier this year, we found out that the Community Ownership Fund was open to parish and town councils to apply to. The fund’s brief ‘to save community assets and empower communities to shape the things that matter to them’ was a perfect fit for our project.”

“Although we continue to fundraise, the COF money has enabled us to move our project forwards and we are now getting everything ready to begin construction in spring 2024.”

The COF has recently [updated its guidance on applications](#), with step-by-step information and tips on how to submit a strong bid. The Fund is also co-ordinating free webinars on [creating strong applications](#) and [raising match-funding](#), which you can sign up for via the links.

3- Reminder! DALC AGM is November 14th

This year’s DALC AGM will take place **online** at 10am on Tuesday 14th November, 10.00am. We welcome councillors and clerks from all our member councils – [register for your free place/s here](#).

4- The A-Z of safeguarding – new template + training

Ever-present in today’s news, safeguarding is an issue which councils contact the DALC office about – whether it’s identifying potential abuse victims or to check they’re fulfilling legal obligations. We’re pleased to announce that we’ve now created [a new safeguarding policy template](#), which can be downloaded by any of our member councils, and we will be following this up with a safeguarding training course on January 23rd at 10am. The online session, focussed specifically on our sector, will be led by a safeguarding expert who is also a parish councillor, and will provide attendees with a basic awareness of child and adult safeguarding, types of abuse, and also highlight prominent cases. It will also:

- Recognise who is at risk
- How to respond to abuse
- How to reduce the likelihood of abuse
- Ensure the council is fulfilling its legal obligations

For Enhanced subscription members, up to three free places per council are available - £30 per delegate for other members.

5- Remote meetings – an update

Unfortunately, the House of Lords amendment to enable remote council meetings wasn't included in the Levelling up and Regeneration Act, which has now received Royal Assent – despite extensive lobbying from all sectors of local government.

6- Derbyshire to share new region's £1.14 billion funding pot

With Royal Assent granted to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, the county councils of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire – plus Derby and Nottingham city councils – are in line to share £1.14 billion in funding as part of the new East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). The devolution deal, agreed in August 2022, will fund projects including transport, education and skills, housing, the environment and economic development. It will also include a mayoral election for the new EMCCA region, due to be held next May.

7- Tree giveaway – Woodland Trust wants to hear from us!

Despite giving away over 13 million free trees since 2010, the Woodland Trust still isn't getting many applications from parish and town councils – even though they're all eligible for up to 420 free trees per application window! So, if your council wants to get planting, get applying! The Spring 2024 delivery window is open now – further [details on how to apply can be found here](#).

8- Going electric – DCC survey needs our input

Following on from our DALC forum on the hot topic of Electric Vehicle charging, Derbyshire County Council has urged us to promote their consultation survey about how to develop a charging infrastructure throughout the county. The [survey, which can be accessed here](#), closes on December 31st, and is open to all residents as well as councils, businesses and visitors. In relation to our sector, DCC have asked councils to consider whether parish-owned land might be suitable for charging points, or whether private owners such as tourist sites or restaurant/hotel car parks might have space. DCC is also seeking to provide charging options for residents without off-street parking, providing overnight charge through street-light power feeds.

9- Nature depletion – what can councils do?

Following on from its climate change and nature conservancy work with principal authorities, policy thinktank Shared Intelligence is inviting parish and town councils to [join a free webinar](#) on 9th November to discuss turning environmental plans into action. The 75-minute webinar will feature Friends of the Earth analyst Sandra Bell among others, and will address how parish and town councils can plan action towards net zero and address nature depletion.

10- Fire Safety Regulations update

New guidance has been published in relation to Section 156 of the Building Safety Act, which came into force on October 1st. Anyone with duties under fire safety legislation should read the latest [worknest guidance here](#), the [Government advice here](#), and contact their insurers for any further information.

11- Training courses coming up

We have a number of training courses over the course of the next month or two so why not take the opportunity to book a place. Courses are online unless a venue is listed – and **please note** all courses marked **(EM)** are courses to which Enhanced Membership councils can send up to three delegates free of charge. [Full details of all courses, with booking link, can be found here.](#)

Site Facilities and Health & Safety – Thursday 2nd November 2.00pm (£40)

Playground Inspection Training – Tuesday 7th November 9.00am-2.30pm, Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale (£140 – includes certificate)

(EM) Councillor Essentials – Tuesday 14th November 6.00pm, Cromford Mills (£50)

Clerk Essentials – Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th November 10.00am (£80 for both days)

(EM) HR Appraisals – Thursday 23rd November 10am (£30)

Understanding Planning – Wednesday 6th December 6.00pm (£55)

(EM) Code of Conduct – Thursday 7th December 6.00pm (£30)

12- Forum session

Our next forum session will be to discuss the Environment Act 2021 and what councils can and are doing to comply with the legislation. The [government has produced guidance to support councils in complying with the duty](#)

Forum will be held on Wednesday 22nd November at 2.00pm for both clerks and councillors.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4663925358?pwd=SUNVcFcyG5JalFsZVZGSkhXVGpyZz09>

Meeting ID: 466 392 5358

Passcode: DALC22

Best regards

Wendy Amis