



Home Office

Protect & Martyn's Law

Forum focus on Martyn's Law

November's very well-supported DALC Forum saw discussion of the up-coming Martyn's Law legislation, which is geared towards protecting public venues from terrorist attack. Attendees heard from Counterterrorism Security Advisor Libby Clark of Derbyshire Police, who gave a detailed update on the law as it continues to passthrough Parliament. The session was wide ranging, including reminders that a number of measures are already required under Health and Safety legislation (e.g. risk assessments, appropriate training and providing a safe place to work) as well as understanding that larger events of 5,000+ should already have police involvement in the planning.

Key points included:

-It's looking like November2025 is the target date for legislation to be in place

-Currently it will cover all venues and events that hold 200+-Providing permanent measures may be cheaper in the long run than temporary measures
-Free training for staff and volunteers manning events is available at:

<https://www.highfieldlearning.com/act>

and it's expected that training will be required

-If you are responsible for a building, it's worth considering now what your mass communication plan is in the case of an incident (e.g. tannoy or a dedicated alarm, plus guidelines and measures to lockdown or escape – plans dependent on the building).

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law>

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/13/martyns-law-factsheet/>

NALC website: [Anti-terrorism and CCTV](#) For those who missed the DALC forum on 25/11/2024 you can view below:

[DALC Forum recording 25/11/2024](#)



Budgeting reminder about NI changes

Councils are reminded that there is a new threshold of £5,000 for NI payments as well as an overall increase in rates from 13.8% to 15%, which will need to be budgeted for. In response to NALC's questions about the likelihood of exemption for the sector, a Treasury spokesperson said: "The policy set by the Chancellor is to compensate those who direct public sector employees are funded out of public money. Parish councils are not directly funded by central government and so do not fall into this category.

"We recognize that this will require town and parish councils to make some difficult financial decisions, and in particular that many may need to raise their precept, and that some may need to make staffing cuts in order to meet these new costs. We understand none of these decisions will be taken lightly."

DALC Welcomes Two New Directors

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of two new directors: Cllr Rowan Clarke and Cllr Stephen Jarratt. Cllr Rowan Clarke brings extensive experience in local government, serving as a councillor for Old Bolsover Town Council, Scarcliffe Parish Council, and as a District Councillor for Bolsover East Ward. His knowledge of community issues will be invaluable to DALC as it continues to support local councils.

Cllr Stephen Jarratt, with his background in healthcare governance, will strengthen the Board's financial focus. He is the Chair of Risley with Hopwell Parish Council and a councillor at Sandiacre Parish Council. The addition of Rowan and Stephen reinforces our mission to support local councils across Derbyshire.



Have your say on remote meetings

“Let councils make the decision for themselves”, was how deputy PM Angela Rayner announced a consultation paper last month focused on remote meetings. Speaking at the LGA conference on October 24th, she said: “It’s not our place to decide whether councillors should attend meetings remotely or use proxy votes when they need to.” Councils, clerks and individual councillors are being urged to participate in [the consultation paper](#), which closes on December 19th. A NALC spokesperson said: “Your responses are vital in demonstrating the strong support for this flexibility.”



Net Zero takes aim at unmetered streetlights

OFGEM has announced a plan to switch all the UK’s unmetered street lighting to the snappily named Marketwide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS). Rosie Hazell of DALC’s energypartner Clear Utility says: “Simply put, MHHS is the ability to see how much electricity is used by each and every meter, every half an hour in real time. This information is vitally important in the push for net zero. It will pave the way for more innovative products and services, for example through the use of smart appliances, and will lead to lower bills for consumers. OFGEM’s own analysis predicts benefits of up to £4.5 billion for end users by 2045.

“In practice, the changes mean very little to customers with unmetered supplies and there is no requirement for Clerks to take any action ahead of the migration this April. The changeover will be handled entirely by your existing supplier and there should be no change to any fixed contracts that may be in force at the time so your existing tariffs will be unaffected.”

Anyone with questions about the switch can speak to Clear Utility on **01327 601122**.

Tree tragedy highlights risk strategy failings

Outside of Derbyshire, but a salutary lesson for us all. A father walking his dog was killed when a three-ton branch fell on him from a tree that had previously been identified as a risk, a court heard. Chester magistrates fined Cheshire East Council £500,000 after it admitted breaches of health and safety legislation, having heard that another limb from the same tree had fallen the previous year, but a recommendation that it be crowned was not carried out. The Health and Safety Executive told the court that the council had no “robust” tree risk management policy in place at the time of the accident in August 2020.

Members are reminded that DALC’s next tree Survey and Inspection course will take place on 11/03/2025 [click here to book](#)

Respect orders’ launched in bid to reclaim lights

Police and councils are due to get new powers aimed at cracking down on anti-social behaviour, according to Home Secretary Yvette Cooper. Announcing new ‘respect orders’, she said they supported the Government’s mission to “take back our streets.” Under the new rules, which will be piloted across England and Wales before forming part of a new Crime and Policing Bill, persistent offenders could be banned from village and town centers, and from drinking in public. Failure to comply would be a criminal offence punishable by up to two years in prison.

Police will also be able to seize vehicles involved in anti-social behaviour without issuing a warning, in a bid to tackle what she called “a scourge” of off-road bikes and e-scooters.



Keeping your community safe new resources launched

Case studies from parish and town councils across the UK form part of a new information resource aimed at improving community safety. Examples include organising local safety events, collaborating with environmental officers, and reducing dangerous driving. The new NALC resource can be found [here](#) (NALC login required) and is geared towards helping local councils tackle the varied elements of community life that help residents feel safe



Mumsnet urges councils to publish parental leave policy

As part of its '[Publish Parental Leave' campaign](#), Mumsnet has received NALC's backing to encourage parish and town councils to publicise their own policies. Mumsnet users had voiced concern that asking about parental leave at interview could harm employment chances, prompting the campaign aimed at making policies more accessible. NALC has now published its own [Staff Handbook](#) in full, giving councils a reference for updating policies if required.



Zero hours' & probation tackled by new employment bill

Although not expected to become law until 2026, measures included in the Government's new Employment Rights Bill need to be considered by local councils, says our HR advisor Chris Moses. Proposals include allowing zero-hours contracts as long as they aren't deemed "exploitative", and changes to claim periods for unfair dismissal. Chris outlines some of issues in his briefing note [here](#).



NALC to host a free event on having a .gov.uk domain

There is an online event on [the importance of parish and town councils having a .gov.uk domain](#), on 9 December 2023 between 12 pm and 1 pm, delivered by the ParishCouncil Domain Helper Service. The event will discuss the benefits of having a .gov.uk domain, why your council should use one for its online activity, how to get a .gov.uk domain, the help available to do so, and good practices for making the most of your council's domain. To attend the event, visit the event listing on the day and join the event



Christmas & New Year opening

The DALC office will be closed from Friday 20th December to Monday 6th January. We will, of course, be monitoring queries and will respond to anything urgent. In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Upcoming training

HR Appraisals
14/1/2025

The Role of Internal Audit
15/01/2025

Allotments 1
21/01/2025

Key points include tenancy agreements, common issues, and practical solutions for effective allotment management.

Clerk Essentials part 1
27/01/2025

Clerk Essentials Part 2
30/01/2025

New Clerk Finance (plus second course free if you attend)
28/01/2025

Allotments 2
04/02/2025

Key Points site Facilities / Health and Safety aspects of Allotment Management

Data Protection GDPR
24/02/2025

FOI
25/02/2025

Tree Survey and Inspections
11/03/2025

DALC Portal Training
20/02/2025

Councillor Essentials
27/02/2025

HR Essentials
06/03/2025

Charity Training Part 1
17/03/2025

This course covers the essential aspects of charitable trusts, including their nature and purpose, the requirements for establishing a charitable trust,

Charity Training part 2
18/03/2025

This course provides an overview of trusteeship, focusing on the general roles and responsibilities of trustees, including custodian, holding, and management trustees.

Grants and Funding
13/05/2025

Sustainability
15/05/2025

Please keep an eye out as we'll be adding even more new courses for the new year. You can book [online here!](#)

Round Robin- shared experiences

The latest responses to Round Robin requests are available to all members: Click on the links:

[Request for guidance on remembrance parade arrangements](#)

[Caretaker responsibility allowance payment details](#)

[Request for information on emergency plans](#)

