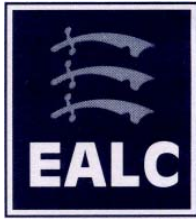


ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



# COUNTY UPDATE

No. 54

April 2008



CONGRATULATIONS  
to



**GALLEYWOOD AND WOODHAM FERRERS &  
BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCILS**  
on gaining Quality Parish Status

To date 544 Councils have achieved Quality Parish or Town Status in the country.

**These further two bring the total in Essex to 45.**

It is interesting that both these Parish Councils are involved in large scale development projects within their Parishes; Galleywood Parish Council with the Heritage Centre and Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre with the Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers Community Project.

**The EALC wish them every success.**

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This update is available free to all members of the Essex Association of Local Councils.

Membership of the EALC is open to all Parish Councils, Parish Meetings & Town Councils.

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### Office Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday:	9.00am to 4.00pm

Visits to the office of the EALC are available by prior appointment, this will ensure that the correct person is available to assist with your enquiry.

*All communications by letter or email to the EALC will be acknowledged within 5 working days.*

*Please inform us as soon as possible if no acknowledgement is received.*

## NEW PLANNING LEGISLATION

**Introduction of 1 APP Application forms - Method of Submission and Requirements for Supporting Information Submitted with Applications for Planning Permission and revision of application fees.**

New Government legislation requires that, as of April 2008, all planning applications (except for minerals development) must be submitted on 1APP forms which are the singular National Standard Planning Application Form. The new forms will supersede all existing planning application forms and will be the only way of applying for planning permission in England.

Together with 1 APP new rules will also be introduced for the validation of planning applications, including minerals developments. As from 6 April 2008, for an application to be valid (i.e. having sufficient information submitted to be able to allow the Local Planning Authority to determine the proposed scheme) specific details categorised within a local list (Validation Checklist) will be required to be submitted together with the new standard form to render an application valid.

These new requirements will come into force for all County Council Applications from the 6th of April. However due to delays in obtaining the final approval for the local Validation Checklist, and following The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (England) Order 2008 No. 550 there will be a period of transition meaning that for the rest of April we will still be accepting applications (excluding minerals applications) on the old forms. From the 1st May we will only be accepting applications for Waste developments made on the new forms; for the County Council's own applications (Regulation 3) the new application form should be used with immediate effect.

The New Application forms and further guidance will be available from this date on Essex County Council's website: [www.essexcc.aov.uk/planning](http://www.essexcc.aov.uk/planning) following the link to planning applications. Alternatively hard copies can be obtained by contacting Essex County Council on tel:01245 435555 or email:[mineralsandwasteDC@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:mineralsandwasteDC@essexcc.gov.uk).

As well as the introduction of the new 1-APP forms and the Local Validation Checklist a new fee structure will be introduced from the 6th April 2008 to ensure that we are fully complying with Government legislation. The new fee arrangement can be viewed at: [www.essexcc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/planning).

The following information was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government:

*"A new Circular on Planning-related fees has also been prepared and will come into force on 6 April, replacing Department of the Environment Circular 31/92, The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 1992. The Circular is currently being printed; electronic copies will be sent to you as soon as the proof has been cleared. Two hard copies will also be sent once the circular is printed,*

*The new fee levels are broadly in line with the lower level of increase proposed in our consultation paper of May 2007, Planning Fees in England: Proposals for Change. A summary of the responses to that consultation, together with a statement of the Government's intentions with regard to planning fees, was issued in November and is accessible on the Communities and Local Government website: [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/564596](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/564596)."*

# ESSEX TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

## **INTENSIVE SUMMER CILCA - ADVANCE NOTICE**

I have already received a couple of queries as to whether I will be running an Intensive Summer CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) as I have for the last three years. The answer is, yes.

The flyer for this will go out in the May mailing and we will need to have responses back by the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 in order to enable us time to contact all those interested and ascertain what dates they would be available to undertake the training in the school summer holidays. As usual I will draw up a table of all those interested and try to choose dates when as many people as possible wishing to undertake this course will be available.

## **CLERKS TRAINING BURSARY FUND**

There are still monies available under the above Fund, a copy of the Application Form is included with this mailing.

- The Bursary limit is 75% of the cost of the training course.
- Maximum bursary of £200.
- This Bursary is aimed at smaller councils with a turnover (ie annual budgeted income) of under £25,000.
- You can only make one application per year.
- Training must start with 12 months of confirmation of the bursary. Confirmation usually issued within one week.
- Registration fee is now included if it is linked to training that reflects the Certificate

Must commit to registering for the CiLCA qualification if the registration fee has been included in the application.

If you require further copies of the form please contact myself, alternatively it is available on the NALC and SLCC website.

## **REVISED CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION GUIDE**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 I attended the launch of the new CiLCA Portfolio Guide 2008. The qualification has several new sections and has also dropped a couple that were there previously. This shows an awareness of the changing role of a clerk and should be seen as a positive improvement. Some of the new areas covered include VAT, Freedom of Information and the Power of Well Being.

We are awaiting further guidance on a couple of issues but as soon as this is available it will be sent to those of you already undertaking the Portfolio.

The mechanics of the changeover to the new Portfolio are as follows:-

'So that the transition over to the new portfolio guide is as smooth as possible it will be necessary to run the two editions in parallel for a short period. This is how it will work taking into consideration the revised fee structure in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April:

Those candidates who have registered prior to 1 April 2008 will be under the existing fee structure of £70 registration and £55 to re-sit regardless of which edition of the portfolio is submitted.

Anyone registering from 1 April onwards will be under the new fee structure of £150 registration and £115 re-sit.

Those candidates registering prior to 16 April will have a choice in either completing the existing portfolio or completing the new 2008 portfolio guide. Regardless of which portfolio is completed the candidate will have two years to complete (as per the existing policy).

Anyone registering from the 16 April will complete the revised 2008 Portfolio guide with two years to complete the qualification (as per the existing policy).

It is worth noting that it will be the date of registration detailed on the form that will be used to determine which fee structure and/or edition of portfolio guide to be completed.'

The new Portfolio guide is available electronically on the NALC website on the following link

[www.nalc.gov.uk/Training/CiLCA.aspx](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Training/CiLCA.aspx)

***If anybody has any queries on the way forward please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be contacting those already registered for the Certificate individually.***

## **FORTHCOMING COURSES – PLACES STILL AVAILABLE**

8 <sup>TH</sup> May 2008	Minutes & Agenda
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	Risk Management (refund following attendance)
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2008	Chairmans Day 2
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	Planning for the Future of your Village

For the above and any other queries on training do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

Some provisions set out in Part 4 of the **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** (“the 2007 Act”) have been brought into force by virtue of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Commencement No.5 and Transitional, Saving and Transitory Provision) Order 2008 SI no. 917 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

The following provisions directly affect parish and community councils:-

### **Appointment of Councillors**

Section 76 of the 2007 Act inserts s.16A to Local Government Act 1972 to provide that a parish council may appoint persons to be councillors of the council. S.76 of the 2007 Act has been partially brought in with the effect that Secretary of State can now make regulations about the appointment of parish councillors and the holding of office after appointment.

The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about–

- a. the appointment of persons under s.76
- b. the holding of office after appointment.

The regulations may, in particular, make provision about any of the following matters–

- a. persons who may be appointed;
- b. the number of persons who may be appointed;
- c. the term of office of persons appointed;
- d. the right of persons appointed to participate in decision-making by the council (including voting);
- e. purposes for which a person appointed is to be treated as an elected councillor;
- f. the filling of vacancies.

Regulations containing the conditions by which a parish council will eligible are expected to come into force on 1 July 2008.

### **The Power of Well Being**

Section 77 of the 2007 Act has been partially brought in with the effect that Secretary of State may make an order prescribing conditions which must be met by an eligible parish council who wishes to exercise the power to promote well-being under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Regulations containing the conditions by which a parish council will eligible are expected to come into force on 1 July 2008.

### **Best Value**

Section 136 of the 2007 Act amends section 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 so that parish councils in England and community councils in Wales are no longer subject to the duties of best value.

## The A12 Inquiry

The first inquiry in Britain into the operation of a major trunk route has begun. The A12 runs for 121 miles between London and East Anglia and has unofficially been the "Great East Road" since Roman times, connecting Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk to London including major ports and towns. The A12's significance for the national economy is increasing.

The A12 Inquiry was commissioned by Essex County Council in February 2008. It is being undertaken by an independent group of four commissioners, who are scheduled to provide their findings to Essex County Council at the end of June for publication in July 2008.

The A12 between the M25 and the A14 provides the spine road network through eastern Essex and south east Suffolk. There is increasing concern regarding accidents and incidents on the road as well as regarding capacity for proposals for growth areas/growth points of the Thames and Haven Gateways, the Heart of Essex and in the Harlow/Stansted Gateway area.

Cornhill Direct, an insurance company, reported a survey of 4,000 drivers in February 2007 which identified the A12 London to Yarmouth road as being the worst in the country. At present traffic flows (2006 data) range from just over 60,000 to over 80,000 vehicles per day depending on the location along the route.

All these immediate and medium-long term concerns point to the need for a clear strategy for improving the operation of the route in the short term, and its capacity in the longer term.

The terms of reference for the enquiry are to review the present and likely future performance of the A12 trunk road in Essex and to make recommendations which will enhance the level of service to all of its users including, where appropriate, improvements to information, emergency arrangements and capacity.

To have your say, please email to [A12inquiry@essex.gov.uk](mailto:A12inquiry@essex.gov.uk) or visit: [www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/gui.jsp?channelOid=114620&guideOid=114637](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/gui.jsp?channelOid=114620&guideOid=114637).

Please note that the period for comment closes on **19 May 2008**.

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## 2008/09 PAY NEGOTIATIONS

The Employer and Trade Union sides of the NJC Executive for Local Government Services are in negotiations in relation to the 2008/09 pay settlement. As you will be aware NALC/SLCC follow the NJC recommendations.

The Trade Union side tabled a pay claim for 6% or 50p per hour, whichever is the greater, on basic pay with effect from 1 April 2008.

The Employers have responded and made an offer of 2.2% on all spinal column points with effect from the same date.

The two sides have agreed to meet again on Wednesday 2 April. NALC will issue further updates on the progress of negotiations in due course.

## VAT & PETROL ELEMENT WITHIN THE NJC CAR ALLOWANCES 2008/09

### **Effective from 1st April 2008**

As in previous years, in response to requests from authorities, the figures below also show the amounts of petrol element and VAT applicable to each Group.

|                                          | <u>451 - 999cc</u> | <u>1000 - 1199cc</u> | <u>1200 - 1450cc</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Essential Users</b>                   |                    |                      |                      |
| Lump sum per annum                       | £753               | £849                 | £1,095               |
| per mile first 8,500                     | 34.0p              | 36.9p                | 45.8p                |
| per mile after 8,500                     | 13.3p              | 13.6p                | 15.8p                |
| Petrol Element                           | 9.227p             | 9.804p               | 10.695p              |
| Amount of VAT per mile in petrol element | 1.374p             | 1.460p               | 1.592p               |
| <b>Casual Users</b>                      |                    |                      |                      |
| per mile first 8,500                     | 42.9p              | 46.9p                | 58.7p                |
| per mile after 8,500                     | 13.3p              | 13.6p                | 15.8p                |
| Petrol Element                           | 9.227p             | 9.804p               | 10.695p              |
| Amount of VAT per mile in petrol element | 1.374p             | 1.460p               | 1.592p               |

## Improvement East

An efficiency partnership called Improvement East (IE) will operate in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Hosted by EERA "Improvement East" came into being on 1 April 2008. the Partnership combines the former Regional Improvement Partnership - Building Capacity East (BCE) and the Regional Centre of Excellence East (RCE).

Partners include all 60 local and fire authorities across the region together with EERA, IDeA, Audit Commission, GO-East and the East of England Development Agency.

The purpose of the Improvement Partnership is to coordinate, challenge, support and accelerate the drive for improvement and efficiency in localities to a higher level than would otherwise be possible.

Following consultation with partners and stakeholders the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for the East of England was finalised and submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government on 3 March 2008. The document sets out the key challenges facing the region and outlines the agreed priorities that the Partnership will focus on in assisting authorities to achieve real improvement and efficiency over the next three years.

This region has been awarded a total of £21.7m over the next three years to support this agenda. Local Government Minister Mr Healey also announced a new Improvement and Efficiency Support Prospectus .

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## REQUEST FROM MAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### **Second Hand Chairs**

If you are refurbishing a village hall and are looking to sell your old chairs.

Please give me a call on **01621 773557**

Mayland Parish Council

We are looking to purchase about **50** chairs.

Thank you. Jenny Rackham



The following are articles from the National Association's Direct Information Service. This is a fortnightly newsletter containing a round up of all the news and special sections on health & safety, documents & publications and legal issues.

For more information about the **Direct Information Service** please visit:  
[www.nalc.gov.uk/publications/dis/index](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/publications/dis/index)

## Information from NALC DIS.

### 681/6 – Eco-towns programme

15 locations have been shortlisted for next stage of eco-towns programme. The country's first eco-towns took a step closer to becoming reality today as Housing Minister Caroline Flint today announced 15 potential locations will go forward to the next stage, providing the opportunity for a major boost in affordable housing across the country whilst tackling climate change.

Housing Minister Caroline Flint said: "We have a major shortfall of housing and with so many buyers struggling to find suitable homes, more affordable housing is a huge priority. To face up to the threat of climate change, we must also cut the carbon emissions from our housing. Eco-towns will help solve both of these challenges.

"Building in existing towns and cities alone simply cannot provide enough new homes. I understand this is an issue that can raise strong opinions, but everyone now has the opportunity to express their views before any decisions are made - because this is an issue that affects us all.

"Based on an evaluation of the bids, the Government can announce no new homes would be built on Green Belt land. In addition more than 30% of the overall new houses will be affordable housing.

"The publication of the short-listed locations also reveals that they make significant use of previously developed brownfield land including former MoD land, military depots, disused airfields and former mining pits and industrial sites. The short-listed locations address regional priorities such as a severe shortage of suitable housing (such as Elsenham and Ford) or the regeneration of former industrial areas (Marston Vale and New Marston).

More than 40 proposals have not been taken forward for being undeliverable or not ambitious enough to meet the high environmental and affordability standards set by Government.

To ensure the final eco-towns incorporate the best and most innovative proposals for sustainable living, Caroline Flint MP has also announced she intends to form a panel

of experts who will work with developers to improve their plans. To be formed of leading figures from the fields of climate change and sustainability, energy, planning, transport, and business, the Eco-town Challenge will provide expert advice to bidders and challenge them to deliver the most sustainable developments possible.

Ms Flint MP said: "Some really innovative green ideas have been proposed - from free public transport for all residents to using the waste heat from nearby power stations to heat homes and businesses. But today I am setting the bar high and challenging bidders to go further.

"I have already rejected more than 40 proposals and those promoting eco town schemes cannot rest on their laurels. That is why I want a panel of experts challenging developers to meet the highest standards possible for sustainability, affordability and creativity.

"Eco-towns will be the first new towns since the 1960s and will tackle the combined challenges of climate change, the need for more sustainable living and a real shortage of housing for families and first-time buyers. The Government has said it wants to build five eco-towns by 2016 and up to ten by 2020 as part of ambitious plans to build 3 million homes by 2020.

"With new communities being designed from scratch, eco-towns will also present an excellent opportunity to incorporate the best standards and latest developments in public services at the very heart of these new communities.

"We will now consult widely for three months to get preliminary views on the benefits of eco-towns and these short-listed locations, the first of four key stages to becoming an eco-town. A final shortlist of locations will be published later this year, after which each potential eco-town will need to submit a planning application."

### **681/9 – New style youth centre programme**

National children and young people's charity 4Children today described the Government's launch of £190m initiative as a full-frontal assault on figures of anti-social behaviour and crime amongst young people in inner city areas. Marking a departure from the targeting of 'problem' teenagers with ASBOs, the investment symbolises a move from Government to provide support and after school music, art, drama and other positive activities in high-quality community facilities for teenagers. The centre programme, christened Myplace by the Government, is welcome recognition that much negative behaviour can be avoided if young people have a positive and relevant places to go.

In the wake of widespread concern about a lack of positive out of school activities the charity has hailed the multi-million pound funding drive for youth services as having the potential to change the face of youth in Britain – provided the Government's funding is released quickly and is targeted at the poorest communities. The investment, the first to be released as part of a transformative 10 Year Government Strategy to create things to do and places to go for teenagers, provides

a response to concerns in many local areas about rises in youth crime and family change that has resulted in many teenagers lacking safe spaces to socialise and receive support after school.

Anne Longfield OBE, Chief Executive of 4Children said: "Teenagers have been telling us that having great places to go and becoming involved in their local communities is the best way to stay out of trouble. At last we are taking heed. The Myplace programme has the potential to re-define what youth centres are and provide cash to make them happen. In 5 years time the dusty old youth club that makes do could be a thing of the past, replaced instead by inspirational new centres offering young people the environment and activities they deserve on their street corner."

### **681/10 – Rural affordable housing**

Local authorities need the power and resources to deliver rural affordable housing that meets local needs, not a centralised formula, says the South East England Regional Housing Board.

This is the Board's message to the Taylor Review - an independent study led by Matthew Taylor MP looking at ways to increase affordable housing to ensure sustainable rural communities.

The Board argues there is no need for prescriptive Government guidance as this could affect local authorities' ability to develop planning policies suited to their own circumstances.

Also, more Government funding is needed to meet the South East's rural affordable housing needs. This lack of funding undermines the ambitious national target of 10,000 affordable homes in small rural villages by 2011.

Other points in the Board's submission include:

- The loss of Government funding for Rural Housing Enablers - key tools for helping to deliver rural affordable housing - could put proposed schemes at risk
- Local authorities should have more support to ensure effective negotiations on developer contributions to affordable housing
- Community involvement is vital for the success of rural schemes - parish councils and local communities should be involved in plans to understand the benefits of affordable housing.

Cllr Elizabeth Cartwright, Board Chairman, said: "Ultimately, the main barrier to delivering rural affordable housing in the region is the lack of Government funding. The report needs to make its advice clear that Government should not make the issue worse by setting unrealistic targets and tying Local Authority hands with reams of planning guidance."

### **681/15 – Regional Development Agencies**

Regional development agencies have been given greater influence over how major regeneration budgets are spent – and offered a compromise over the allocation of skills funding. A government consultation released this week announced an expanded regional funding allocations (RFA) exercise giving RDAs and other stakeholders the opportunity to influence how resources are spent in their regions. First instituted in 2005, the process has so far enabled the regions to advise ministers on funding related to transport, housing and economic development. But RDAs have asked for the process to be widened to include more funding streams such as skills, worklessness, transport and all Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding.  
[www.newstartmag.co.uk/news/article/rdas-take-firm-grip-of-regeneration-budgets](http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/news/article/rdas-take-firm-grip-of-regeneration-budgets)

### **681/18 – New reliefs in force to bring empty buildings back into use**

Changes to update empty property reliefs come into force today acting as an incentive to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into productive use, increasing access to existing premises for business, helping to reduce rents and increase the competitiveness of the UK. Until today, empty commercial property, such as office and retail properties, received 100 per cent relief from paying business rates for the first three months, and were only liable to a 50 per cent rate thereafter; whilst empty industrial properties, such as warehouses and factories, received a permanent exemption from rates. Empty property relief last year cost £1.3bn. It is not right that empty properties are subsidised by taxes elsewhere. Local Government Minister John Healey said: "No-one wants to live or work in a ghost town of empty offices and closed-down shops. These changes will help bring empty buildings back into use, reduce rents for small independent shops and create thriving high streets and town centres."

[www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/734801](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/734801)

### **681/22 – Have your say**

Planning applications generate around one million consultation requests per year: from Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to a wide range of consultees including national agencies, regional bodies, highways departments, parish and town councils, amenities societies, utility companies and the citizen.

These consultations are often paper-based and can be expensive, time consuming and inefficient for each LPA and consultee to handle.

To help improve this process, and to complete the e-Planning process, the Planning Portal is launching a new e-Consultation Hub which will enable all the stakeholders in the planning process to complete their consultations online .

As a part of the ongoing stakeholder consultation they are inviting opinions and comment from Parish and Town Councils and are hosting an online questionnaire (which can also be printed off and returned by post) on e-Consultation and how it may affect your work.

The online questionnaire closes to responses on Tuesday 13th May 2008. The responses will be used by the Planning Portal to help them engage with Parish and Town Councils and help address any issues which may arise.

Do not miss your chance to get involved and register the opinions of your parish or town Council: [www.planningportal.gov.uk/econsultation](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/econsultation)

### **681/26 – Registration standards**

Electoral Commission wants your views on registration standards. The Electoral Commission has today launched a consultation, seeking your views on standards for electoral registration.

The consultation paper outlines a draft set of 12 performance standards to evaluate the delivery of electoral registration services across Great Britain. The draft standards cover such areas as:

- Completeness and accuracy of the register
- Accurate absent vote records and lists
- Integrity of the register
- Supply and security of the register and absent voter lists
- Participation and awareness
- Planning and organisation

The launch of the consultation document represents the final stage of the Commission's work to develop performance standards for electoral registration. These standards will help the Commission to assess the quality of electoral administration across Great Britain.

The consultation will last for 12 weeks and responses should be submitted by Friday 20 June 2008. The Commission will review the responses and publish the full performance standards for EROs in July 2008, in time for the annual canvass.

The consultation document, along with guidelines for responses, can be found on the Electoral Commission website at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/about-us/consultationpapers.cfm](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/about-us/consultationpapers.cfm).

### **681/27 – Local democracy needs you**

Local people are being given the opportunity to have their say on improving local services and reviving communities today as Hazel Blears calls for contributions to the new Empowerment White Paper, launching an online public discussion forum. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Hazel Blears is asking

people to give their opinions by email, letter, or by contributing to an online discussion forum. The White Paper, due out in the summer, will outline Whitehall's ambition to give communities a stronger voice in local decision-making and the delivery of local services, and communities are being asked to contribute their opinions on how government can change for the better. Blears has launched the introductory document **Unlocking the talent of our communities** outlining the ways local people can have their say. [www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/729418](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/729418)

### **681/31 – Local Councils and Markets**

16 June 2008

The Guildhall, Breadmarket Street, Lichfield

Delegates are invited to attend the definitive event for larger councils with markets or aspiring to operate them – 'Local Councils and Markets'.

There will be a keynote contribution on the policy relevance of local councils and markets from a senior NALC representative, stakeholder input on a local councils toolkit and what it should contain, case study sessions on local council market best practice, a session from the NABMA perspective and a General Forum with speakers. To book, go to [www.nabma.com](http://www.nabma.com)

### **681/33 – Standards Board**

Book now for Standards Board conference

Booking is now open for the Seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees with the launch of the new conference website.

The Standards Board for England has already had lots of enquiries about this year's conference, *Delivering the Goods: Local Standards in Action*, to be held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre from 13-14 October 2008.

The event has sold out for the past few years, so it is a good idea to book early to be sure of a place. The simplest way to book is online at [www.annualassembly.co.uk](http://www.annualassembly.co.uk).

The website is a one-stop-shop for information on the Annual Assembly and will be regularly updated with the latest news on sessions, speakers and fringe events.

This year the conference will focus on putting the local standards framework into action. It will also give delegates the advice, best practice examples and skills training they need to drive the standards agenda forward in their authorities.

The Annual Assembly of Standards Committees has always been a popular event in the local government calendar. It offers great networking opportunities and the chance to explore and discuss the issues that matter most to them with other delegates and Standards Board staff.

#### **Please note**

**Accuracy:** Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, NALC & EALC cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors, omissions or advice given in this publication.

**Web sites:** We do not endorse them or guarantee their authenticity or accuracy.

# Useful Telephone Numbers

Action for Market Towns 0845 6446202	ACAS London 0845 7474747
Action with Communities Rural in Rural England (ACRE) 01285 653477	Association of Councillors 0191 433 3000
Byways & Bridleways Trust 01256 702133	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers 01302 388820
Campaign to Protect Rural England 020 7981 2800	Civic Trust 020 7539 7900
Clerks & Councils Direct 01784 483281	Countryside Agency 01242 533222
Data Protection Act Infoline 01625 545745	DEFRA 0845 9335577
English Heritage 0870 333 1181	Environmental Protection UK 01273 878776
Essex County Council Helpline 0845 7430430	Essex Disabled Peoples Association 01245 253400
Essex Heritage Trust 01376 585794	Health & Safety Executive Infoline 0845 3450055
Health & Safety Executive Publications 01787 881165	Heritage Lottery Fund 020 7591 6000
Information Commissioner 01625 545745	Land Registry 020 7917 8888
National Playing Fields Association 020 7833 5360	Local Government Ombudsman  Tony Redmond Local Government Ombudsman Millbank Tower Millbank London SW1 4QP Tel: 020 72174620 Fax: 020 72174621  Email: <a href="mailto:inquiries.london@lgo.aug.uk">inquiries.london@lgo.aug.uk</a>
Public Works Loan Board 0845 3576610	
Ramblers Association 020 7339 8500	
Rural Community Council of Essex 0844 4773938	
Standards Board for England 0845 078 8181	

# Useful Websites

Association of Play Industries	<a href="http://www.playindustries.org">www.playindustries.org</a>
Awards for All Lottery Grants	<a href="http://www.awardsforall.org.uk">www.awardsforall.org.uk</a>
BAA Stansted	<a href="mailto:www.stanstedgrowing@baa.com">www.stanstedgrowing@baa.com</a>
Council to Protect Rural England (CPREssex)	<a href="http://www.cpressx.org.uk">www.cpressx.org.uk</a>
Data Protection Act	<a href="http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk">www.dataprotection.gov.uk</a>
Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>
Details of Rurally Based Enterprises	<a href="http://www.ruralheart.com">www.ruralheart.com</a>
Essex County Council Information Service	<a href="http://www.seamless.org.uk">www.seamless.org.uk</a>
Flood Warning	<a href="http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/floodwarning">www.environmentagency.gov.uk/floodwarning</a>
General Government Sites	<a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a>
Grants 4: Essex	<a href="http://www.grants4.info/essex">www.grants4.info/essex</a>
Health & Safety Executive	<a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a>
Information Commissioner	<a href="http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk">www.dataprotection.gov.uk</a>
Information for Local Government	<a href="http://www.info4local.gov.uk">www.info4local.gov.uk</a>
InspireEast	<a href="http://www.inspire-east.org.uk">www.inspire-east.org.uk</a>
National Association of Farmers Markets	<a href="http://www.farmersmarkets.net">www.farmersmarkets.net</a>
Department for Communities and Local Government	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>
Public and Community Transport	<a href="http://www.essexcc.gov.uk">www.essexcc.gov.uk</a>
Public Works Loan Board	<a href="http://www.pwlb.gov.uk">www.pwlb.gov.uk</a>
RoSPA Play Safety	<a href="http://www.rospace.com/playsafety">www.rospace.com/playsafety</a>
Rural Community Council	<a href="http://www.essexrcc.org.uk">www.essexrcc.org.uk</a>
Standards Board	<a href="http://www.standardsboard.co.uk">www.standardsboard.co.uk</a>
The Countryside Agency	<a href="http://www.countryside.gov.uk">www.countryside.gov.uk</a>
The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk">www.defra.gov.uk</a>
The Department of Transport & Local Government	<a href="http://www.dtlr.gov.uk">www.dtlr.gov.uk</a>
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd	<a href="http://www.wren.org.uk">www.wren.org.uk</a>

# EALC/ETP Diary Dates

2008

8th May	Minutes & Agenda	ETP
14th May	Risk Management	ETP
3rd June	Chairman's Day 2	EALC
12th June	Planning for the Future	ETP
10th June	Maldon District Annual Meeting Parish Room Southminster 19.30 – 22.00	MDA
	<i>New Course</i>	
20th June	Food Hygiene	ETP
	<i>New Course</i>	
24th June	Advanced Councillor Day 1	EALC
4th July	Health & Safety	ETP
9th July	Budget & Precept	ETP
	<i>New Course</i>	
15th July	Advanced Councillor Day 2	EALC
August	Intensive CiLCA	ETP
10th Sept	Risk Management	ETP
16th Sept	Freedom of Information Act/ Data Protection	ETP
24th Sept	<b>AGM</b>	EALC