

2 DECEMBER 2021

FUTURE COMMUNITIES 2021

- 09.00 - 09:20 Delegates given access to online platform and await start of main plenary (or can access main exhibition area to meet exhibitors if wish)
- 09:20 - 09:25 Opening and welcome
Cllr Sue Baxter, chair, NALC
- 09:30 - 10:00 Plenary session 1: Inspiring communities

The COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted our communities and depleted resources at every level of local government. But how do we inspire communities to work with local government bodies sustainably? Hear how from new LGA President and former paralympic gold medallist Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, DBE DL, president of the Local Government Association
- 10:05 - 10:30 Meet the Corporate Sponsor Session (Zoom, breakout)

Separate breakout sessions over Zoom with NALC's three main corporate sponsors BHIB, CCLA and Blachere Illumination
- 10.35 - 10.55 Coffee Break

Delegates can again visit online exhibition hall (to arrange 1-2-1s with sponsors); or view short pre-recorded videos elsewhere on platform (elections videos from [community heroes](#) recorded earlier in 2021)
- 11.00 - 11.30 Plenary Session 2 - Levelling up, through speaking up

Understanding local concerns is key to driving change in our communities. By learning from complaints and mistakes we strengthen public trust and enhance the administrative processes that underpin our ambitions. So, is it time for local councils to benefit from the public accountability and feedback that the Ombudsman provides elsewhere?

Mick King, Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

11:35 – 12:05

Plenary Session 3: Local councils looking forward

Hear from the most famous person in the local council sector, Jackie Weaver, and her views about the importance of local councils to our communities. Hear Jackie's amazing journey over the last 18 months and why we should all look forward.

Jackie Weaver, chief officer at the Cheshire Association of Local Councils

12.05 – 12.55

Lunch with the exhibitors

Have lunch from the comfort of your own home but meet exhibitors at your leisure in the exhibition hall (arrange 1-2-1s, speak by 'phone or over video link)

View pre-recorded video sessions

13:00 – 13:55

Workshop A: Creating sustainable communities using neighbourhood plans

(To repeat

14:00 – 14:55)

ONeil Homer will tell two recent stories of how a town in Wiltshire and villages in Oxfordshire and Hampshire have used their neighbourhood plans to improve the sustainability of their settlements in the face of high environmental constraints.

They will facilitate a round table discussion with local councillors from Marlborough Town Council, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council and Burghclere Parish Councils, who are each the respective chairs of their neighbourhood plan projects. They will tell their stories, highlighting the challenges faced and the lessons to be learned for others preparing plans. This will then be followed by a question and answer session.

Neil Homer, founder and director ONeil Homer

Cllr Celia Collett MBE, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council

Cllr Mervyn Hall, Marlborough Town Council

Cllr Richard Carrow, Burghclere Parish Council.

Workshop B: Young People

This session will showcase good practice in encouraging

young people to both stand for and vote in elections. Discover great tips about how to engage young people on issues they care about in your patch.

Dan Lawes, founder and chief executive at UK Youth Politics

[Single session only between 13:00 and 13:55]

Workshop C: The Parish Digital Communication Revolution: from social media, virtual events and websites to accessibility and strategy

Good communication is vital to ensure that everyone can access information and services and have their voice heard. When it comes to parish and town councils, digital communication has never been so important as part of a council's overall communications mix.

The last 20 months have shown that using social media, websites, virtual events, and other forms of digital communication are all effective ways to get a message out, present information to a broad audience and build a strategic, two-way conversation inclusively.

Council communication and compliance experts, Breakthrough Communications and web and accessibility experts, Aubergine, will provide a practical session. Exploring ways in which local (parish and town) councils of all sizes can develop a communication strategy, leverage the power of digital tools and platforms to meet regulatory communication requirements and build and sustain a digital conversation with their communities. All whilst remaining both accessible and inclusive.

Daniel Purchase, director at Breakthrough Communications

Mark Tomkins, creative director at Aubergine

13:00 – 13:55

(Repeated

Workshop D: Building Communities

This session will share valuable tips in engaging your

14:00- 14:55)

community during the planning process, especially in rural areas. Hear how communication is vital in all planning issues helping to shape and build thriving communities.

Andrew Thompson, group planning director, Countryside Properties

Jonathan Werran, chief executive, Localis

Cllr Andrew Irwin, chair of Tangmere Parish Council

Martin Hamilton, Leeds Civic Trust

Ellen Timmins, associate planning director at Countryside Properties

Workshop E: Encouraging Community Led Action in Coming Together

Eden Project Communities believes in the power of community, the power of people collectively doing things to improve their lives, and the lives of others around them. Their focus is on encouraging community led action which they feel is key to the success and the sustainability of community projects. They believe that grass roots action, informal networks and volunteering are vital in the prevention of social issues as well as key to rebuilding society and supporting communities.

This practical session from The Big Lunch Team will explore different ways in which local (parish and town) councils of all sizes can encourage and support residents to come together, get to know each other better and to take collective action.

Tracey Robbins, head of UK delivery at Eden Project Communities

Jack Adams-Rimmer, senior neighbourhood development officer at Dunstable Town Council
Cllr Sonia Hearld, Burn Parish Council

Malin Joneleit, Public Affairs Officer at the National Lottery Community Fund

14:55- 15:15

Coffee Break

- 15:15 – 15:45 Plenary 4: The continuing importance of standards in public life
- This plenary session will give you a full overview of the current standards and civility agenda for local government. Hear how accountability in any area of public life, is critical.
- Lord Jonathan Evans, chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life
- 15:50 – 16:20 Plenary 5: Local councils and levelling up
- This plenary session will promote and examine the way in which local councils can engage with their principal authorities as needed to take on more services and assets in their areas in the context of the likely publication of the devolution white paper over coming weeks.
- Cllr Sue Baxter, chair of NALC
- 16:20 – 16:30 Cllr Keith Stevens, chair designate of NALC, closes event

NB: NALC reserves the right to change the programme at any time.

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