

# SLCC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020

# REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

Cllr Sue Baxter, Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils

# THANK YOU



- Stepping up to the plate
- Adaptability to change and a new way of working
- Patience with some cllrs and helping them into this new normal
- Being there for your community

# REFLECTIONS: THE JOURNEY



- Lobby Day
- My own parish council
- NALC refocussed priorities
- Speed of sector response, using local knowledge, human focussed, not weighed down by process or bureaucracy
- Building connections between residents and the voluntary/community and statutory sectors

# REFLECTIONS: FRUSTRATIONS

**AFTER MONDAY  
AND TUESDAY  
EVEN  
THE CALENDAR  
SAYS  
WTF**

- What went less well?
- Engagement with government, their focus elsewhere
- Clarity, guidance
- Financial impact and support
- Patchy local level engagement and communication

# REFLECTIONS: CHALLENGES



- Period of uncertainty
- Forward planning
- Budgeting, income, tax base
- Relationships
- Health and well being of staff and councillors

# REFLECTIONS: OPPORTUNITIES

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

- Keeping volunteers engaged and involved
- Renewed community spirit and rekindling of the 'local'
- New normal can help this eg people not commuting
- Kruger review
- Local elections



# BIG THINGS TO HEAD OUR HEADS ROUND



- Planning white paper, immediate plans for long term radical reform
- Devolution and recovery white paper, will they/won't they, reorganisation and empowering councils
- Comprehensive Spending Review, 1 year?
- Climate change



# REBUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STRONGER SECTOR: LOCAL



- Streamlining our decision making and using technology
- Building better relationships and engagement with community
- Improved links with partners old and new

# REBUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STRONGER SECTOR: NATIONAL



- Increasing capacity and capability
- Hard to reach councils and prospective cllrs
- Improving behaviours
- Training and development
- Identifying and sharing good practice
- Celebrate and promote success

# REBUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STRONGER SECTOR: CALL TO ACTION



- Be positive catalysts for change and placemaking
- Capitalise on your local knowledge and harness networks
- Promote your work and what you do to demonstrate relevance
- Engage positively with others: tiers, agencies and community networks
- Have a general power of confidence

**Leaders talk: The future of health challenges post COVID-19**

28 October 2020

**Leaders talk: Collaboration for health and wellbeing**

29 October 2020

**Leaders talk: Local councils and hidden disabilities**

30 October 2020

**Leaders talk: Supporting mental health in your community**

30 October 2020

**In conversation: Frome — youth first**

17 November 2020

**In conversation: Biggleswade virtual study tour**

26 January 2021

**Building back communities week**

22 – 25 March 2021

Find out more about these events at  
**[www.nalc.gov.uk/rebuildingcommunities](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/rebuildingcommunities)**

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