

## **National Association of Local Councillors (NALC)**

Annual Conference, 30-31 October 2017. Report by delegate Cllr Julia Buckley

### **Partnership Working – Milton Keynes (leader = Cllr Peter Marland)**

5 year plan for area so different administrations don't "burn the house down" after every election.

Huge savings under austerity (£111M over 6 years) lead to thinking differently about service provision. Instead of "dumping" services without budget from district level to parishes, they are entering into "partnership" agreements, whereby there is a negotiated devolution. The district authority reduces services to a "baseline" (e.g. trimming hedges only 3 times a year), and then local parishes can then "top up" if they wish to, but are not obliged, and there is no sense of services dumped.

**Newport Pagnell** – Section 106 (CIL) funding – apparently the amounts stated for the parish from the district were not accurate – and after much enquiring, insisting and research the stated £7,000 in one calendar year, transpired to be over £88,000. Suggestion to ask to be round the table with the developer at the point of negotiation, to ask specifically, for higher amount for your own ward.

Local Councils Charter – 4 local parishes signed up as a group for larger buying power to make savings. Also offered "3 tier training" for Councillors from all tiers on planning – in the same room, very effective.

### **Public Standards Committee**

Comments from Councillors that Code of Conduct has "no teeth" or enforceable sanctions  
Questions welcome on [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk)

### **Borrowing Capital Funding (DCLG)**

The Local Government Act 2003 enables parish councils to borrow capital monies to fund infrastructure and capital projects from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This could be for maintenance or repairs (e.g. refurbish a building, modernising a building,), or for more innovative projects (e.g. new street lighting that is more energy efficiency, or purchase of land upon which to build something for the community).

In order to qualify, the Council needs to show Council approval, public consultation, increased precept, business case etc. DCLG then assess application for "responding to social need".

Explore Community Land Trust for additional funding to contribute if possible.

Interest rates are currently 1.5 – 2.9% depending on number of years (5-50) of loan repayments.

We can send through an informal enquiry on eligibility, to [Parish.borrowing@communitiescsi.gov.uk](mailto:Parish.borrowing@communitiescsi.gov.uk)

>>Could this be an avenue for the cemetery land if needed?

(long term long, with small annual payments would match the income profile for graves)

>> Other ideas could be to purchase land to run our own BTC car park?

>>Re-develop secret tunnels under the library for underground car park?