

CPALC Members

Passionate about parishes

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Where CPALC stands on The Good The Bad and The just plain Ugly

DETAILS CATEGORY: [CPALC EDITORIAL](#)
 CREATED ON 23 JANUARY 2013 WRITTEN BY HERBERT SMITH

I have read the forum tread on Campaigning for a parish council ombudsman with interest. Campaigning in general and especially for the extension of the role of the Local Government Ombudsman has and does create a lot of discussion within the CPALC team.

Within the team we have many years of hands on experience in the sector as councillors, trainers, county secretary and county chairman. Almost certainly we have more direct experience than NALC's staff.

It is our practical experience that 30% of councils are stunning, superb, selflessly working with and for their communities. 40% are to quote the Hitch-hikers Guide to The Universe "Mostly harmless" doing little, costing little and mostly ignored. The last 30% are however a problem. These are so bad that they undo all the good done by the others.

CPALC was created to do those things NALC has in our opinion abjectly failed to do over the last 50 years or so.

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CPALC's primary aims are to promote local democracy i.e. Town and Parish Councils and to empower ALL whether they be residents, councillors or clerks.

Information empowers, we are the first generation to live in a true information age. Just as the printing press changed the world so the internet is effecting change we cannot yet begin to appreciate.

We believe in balance and the need to give everyone access to information, training and debate to change and improve. It is we believe, important to take the majority of councillors, clerks and residents in the direction of gradual change. All should see the need for change.

Metaphorically throwing stones would we believe only result in a pyrrhic victory alienating those we wish to work with to enhance our communities. As in all things there are good and bad residents, councillors and clerks. Change happens and stays changed when ALL desire change.

CPALC is not a single pressure group but a community straggling along the same road.

There is another reason for my rather measured tone, we fear that the Government may be considering some variant of the "Scottish Solution" i.e. toothless community councils with no powers just talking shops.

If you really want to help CPALC then as a resident, learn and use the rule of 10 to force elections, if you're a councillor train and really understand that you act for and with your community and if you're a clerk train increasing your skills can only help your elected members enhance their communities.

Finally ask yourself why should a private organisation need to promote local democracy when every one of you pays for NALC?

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Posted: 1 day, 7 hours ago by [julian](#)

[#1433](#)

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AdelineMore, I'm a stage further down the road than you as I stood and got elected. Only one Councillor greeted me on my first meeting and sitting in a room with 20 odd people who hate you for having the nerve to get elected is not for someone of a weak disposition. The Chairman only spoke to me after a year and that was when he phoned me to say how much he supported me and how much he disagreed with the Clerk. He then asked me to vote for him as someone was standing against him!

We must be comfortably within the 30%

CPALC have been a great boost to me and its nice to know other people are standing up to the plate and supporting local democracy.

Posted: 1 day, 12 hours ago by **AdelineMore** #1432



I have some concerns about my PC, which could fall into your final 30%. I am intending to stand for election this year, but fear retaliation and at least hostility. I need your support.

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