

Report from the NALC conference:

1. It was good that Levelling Up was on agenda but I got impression that Alex Norris MP (shadow minister for levelling up) wasn't all that informed about our sector. He was talking more about increasing the role of regional councils and down to larger Town Council level.
2. Interesting speaker re: creating Dementia-Friendly Communities and need to give support to full-time carers. Possible link this in with Warm Space provision that a lot of communities are trying to create. I didn't get answer about funding for this. Suggestion is to use spaces that are already being heated. And to integrate into existing community services and community groups.
3. Baroness and Cllr Sharon Taylor (chair of Co-operative Councils Network) worth looking at the network. She said it also deals with Co-operative Housing.
4. Good the Housing Crisis was on the agenda and the problems we all know too well were laid out but no solutions really. Freddie Poser of Priced Out; it was good to see a young speaker.
5. **Civility and Respect - take home is that we all need to put on our PC agendas to sign the pledge. And we should all call out bad behaviour at meetings when it happens; not afterwards or the next day...**
6. Important that climate change is still on the agenda and really the role of a PC is to engage with and inform local communities and set good examples.
7. Communities Prepared gave good talk on resilience - importance of having emergency action plans in place.
8. For those with elections in 2023; talk about how to encourage more diverse Cllrs to stand but really aimed at larger councils.
9. Finally Lee Rowley MP parliamentary under Secretary of State on dpt for levelling up (for a week so far) did seem to know what PCS are. He sounded very fresh and in listening mode but I did wonder how long that would last!

[] Some good questions and points made in the chat - seen by speakers and most popular questions were answered.

[] Cost £70; fortunately I got a free ticket as on Nalc committee. I'm not sure if DAPTC or other Dorset PCs were there as you couldn't see list of attendees. I made comment that £70 is too expensive for PCs to justify expense.

[] shame there were no networking possibilities but that point was made by many in the chat!

Cllr J Parish