



Parish Liaison Meetings

The LRALC Chief Exec's
Experience

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“Not just an interested group of people.....”



The Local Picture

- All 8 parished principal authority areas hold parish liaison events.
- LRALC attends them all.
- Mixture of regularity from annual to monthly.
- Mixture of attendees, format, and popularity!
- Rutland faces many challenges (large number of PMs, lots of small PC, etc).

LRALC's Role

LRALC status comes from its member councils – we are our members.

100% membership across Leicestershire and Rutland, including PMs.

Also aim to work closely with ALL 8 principal authorities – some very closely.

Areas where LRALC and the principal authority work closely together tend to be most engaged.

North West Leicestershire District Council and Leicestershire County Council good examples.

Collaboration is key to the relationship and LRALC often plays an intermediary role in this.

Model for Collaboration Between Parish & Town Councils & Principal Authorities

Compete	Co-exist	Communicate	Co-operate	Co-ordinate	Collaborate	Coalesce
<p>Competition for resources, arguments over service delivery, protectionism over assets, competing for public attention – and talking openly about the others' weaknesses.</p>	<p>No systematic connection between tiers of council, but little negative impact on each other.</p>	<p>Sharing (both ways) of information between the tiers and keeping each other informed. Some formalised networking (e.g. forums).</p>	<p>Tiers interact as needed, often on an ad hoc basis on discrete projects and activities. Talking positively about each other's respective roles and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Tiers systematically adjust and align work with each other to achieve better outcomes for communities than would be possible working separately.</p>	<p>Longer term, more formalised interaction based on shared mission, goals, shared decision-making and shared resources where appropriate.</p>	<p>Fully cohesive and integrated business plans and corporate objectives. Integrated service delivery with co-production to achieve the best outcomes for communities.</p>

The Relationship Must...

Benefit	Benefit the people of Rutland
Be	Be built of mutual trust and confidence
Add	Add value to both parties
Reduce	Reduce complaints and avoidable contact
Minimise	Minimise competition for resources and instead maximise use of resources
Apply	Apply to any model of parish liaison meetings instigated

Case Study & Lessons to Learn - NWLDC

Prior to covid their physical meetings were very successful and were:

Attended by all councils (last council engaged).

Held 4 times a year and thought given to dates.

Attended by mixed representatives (clerks and councillors).

Based upon enabling parishes, not doing to them.

Chaired by a senior officer.

Comments from NWLDC parish officer

- Officers understanding parishes properly is key (training, close working with LRALC).
- Respecting resource limitations of many parishes (e.g. clerk working hours, meeting schedule).
- Reinforcing LRALC messages (newsletter, RR).
- Mixed audience of clerks and councillors very important.
- Treating parishes as equals – NWLDC Parish Charter now in place.
- Good comms and ability to rely on parish clerk as SPOC.
- Ensuring speakers are briefed (focussed, benefits to PCs/PMs, what they need to do).
- Meetings short, sharp, focussed, and kept to time.

My view.....

- Holding meetings monthly is too frequent (monthly means lots covered but to a lesser extent).
- Focus can't just be on parish OR county council priorities, has to be two-way street.
- Should avoid the parochial (both at individual parish level, and wider county level).
- Need for wider best practice focus, across LRALC area and further afield (national).
- Currently seems to overly focus on things parishes can't control.
- Agenda items need to be drawn widely (planning group may not know what they don't know).
- Is a place for clerk only meetings for operational matters (LCC run 4 per year).
- LRALC has role to play presenting views to scrutiny, etc., and helping shape proposals at early stage.



Any
questions/alternative
views?
