

TOWN CLERK BRIEFING NOTE

62 COUNTY ASSOCIATION

At the last meeting Members noted that the Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC) Joint Liaison Committee had rejected a proposal that Quality Councils be given a 10% discount on their SALC subscription and that the SALC subscription formula for 2008-09 would be 22p per elector (up 1p).

Last the year SALC introduced a more equitable subscription rate which is based on the number of electors within each Parish. Unfortunately, this resulted in Rye's total (SALC and National Association of Local Councils) membership renewal fee rising by 62% to £830.18. Following representations this was reduced to £649.80 for one year only.

The combined SALC/NALC invoice (not yet issued) for 2008-09 will be **£867.15** (see summary of recent rates – below).

Subscription Year	NALC element	SALC element	Total
2006-07	not identifiable	not identifiable	£511.52
2007-08 (invoiced)	£153.14	£677.04 ¹	£830.18 (+62%)
2007-08 (offer-accepted)	£153.14	£496.66	£649.80 (+27%)
2008-09	£158.75 ²	£708.40 ³	£867.15 (+33%)

Notes No. of electors (as at 1.12.06) = 3,220
 1 based on 21p per elector
 2 based on 4.93p per elector
 3 based on 22p per elector

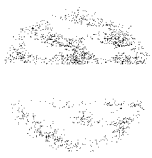
Members are reminded that membership of NALC is via membership of SALC and SALC members only can join RALC.

Unlike other County Associations, SALC receives no grant funding from either West or East Sussex County Councils.

Currently, only one Rother Parish is not a member of NALC-SALC-RALC – Burwash; however, a couple of Parishes are believed to be 'undecided'.

Rye has two representatives on RALC: Cllr Souster, who is one of RALC's representatives on Rother's Standards Committee; and me, one of RALC's representatives on the SALC East Sussex Executive Committee (and also RALC Clerk).

3.12.07



SUSSEX & SURREY ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL COUNCILS
AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

President
Rt. Hon Earl of Lytton

Director
Trevor Leggo

President
Mrs Sarah Goad JP H.M. Lord-Lieutenant

2nd October 2007

To all member councils in SALC

Subscriptions 2008/2009

At its meeting on 1st October, the Joint Liaison Committee of SALC gave very careful consideration to the subscription levels for next year. We are conscious that whatever we do will not please everyone and we wanted to set out the reasons for our decision.

SALC's fixed costs are £79,000 per annum, this is the amount we pay AirS for serviced accommodation in Sussex House, all salaries, travel, I.T. support etc. are included in this figure.

We collect the amount that councils are required to pay NALC annually, this totals £30,000 and is based on the formula of 4.93 pence per elector agreed at the NALC AGM on 12th September.

We try to run our training events at a price that is attractive to all sizes of council; this year we expect to bring in a surplus of around £6,000.


Increasing the subscription from 21 pence per elector to 22 pence will provide an income of £101,000, you will see this is the absolute minimum we need to raise and is dependent upon support from training income and balances. The SALC ceiling of £1,500 for the largest councils remains unchanged.

We have looked at the subscription levels levied by a dozen County Associations across the Country and we stand up favourably amongst them. Where we are at a disadvantage is that seven of those we have examined receive significant funding from County or District Councils; we receive nothing in this way but as you know, we will receive a substantial amount from the two Local Area Agreements if we achieve the Quality Council target in March 2009.

Last year a number of member councils expressed concern over the increase for 2007 /2008; in many cases a satisfactory outcome was achieved for those with a large increase by reducing the increase for that year. For clarification, the subscription for next year will be based on the substantive amount.

SALC is your Association, you are represented by town and parish councillors on the Executive Committees and the two Vice Chairmen undertake an audit panel function with regard to the finances. I hope you find this letter helpful but please contact either of us for clarification if you wish.

Roger Kent
Chairman
East Sussex Association


Rodney Jackson
Chairman
West Sussex Association

PRO4 ITEM 62

Rye Town Council

From: "jacqui simes" <jacqui.simes@ruralsussex.org.uk>
Sent: 10 August 2007 14:32
Attach: SLA SALC - Sx.doc
Subject: SALC budget

Dear Clerk

In order to try to allay any concerns and incorrect assumptions about the nature of the SALC budget and to ensure everyone has a common understanding, I thought it might be useful to remind member councils of the way that we operate and how your subscription income is spent. It is important for Councils to know that the Executive Committees of SALC are advised by Mulberry & Co. Chartered Accountants of Ewell, acting as independent Treasurer and our accounts are subject to Audit by Armida, Chartered Accountants of Uckfield.

Action in rural Sussex [AirS] provides the service for the two County Associations in Sussex, Surrey is dealt with separately. The service provided is governed by a Service Level Agreement, [copy attached]and you will see that for £79,000 this year SALC is provided with staff, accommodation, IT support, telephone charges and sundry other infrastructure benefits.

As far as staff costs are concerned my post is paid the equivalent of LC3 and Jacqui's LC1 to which must be added employers on cost. We occupy around 250 square feet of office and storage space in Sussex House with access to meeting rooms as part of the deal.

Two years ago SALC undertook an exercise to review its arrangement with AirS and looked at the cost of renting alternative accommodation plus the cost of support arrangements, the difference was found to be very marginal and introduced the issue of lone working; the matter was not pursued.

A further £30,000 is paid to NALC as the capitation charge for 600,000+ electors making up the total of £110,000 I mentioned in the Bulletin.

SALC periodically compares its subscription level with those of other County Associations, it is difficult to obtain direct comparisons because of local factors such as financial support from very generous County and District Councils, office space donated in kind and the differences in the size of membership. This information will feature in the report to the Executive Committees at the end of September.

Surrey County Association operates under a separate SLA with AirS and SALC benefits from Surrey sharing some of the office costs and fully funding Christine Swan whose presence in the office is often beneficial to Sussex parishes. A small proportion of my salary is also funded by Surrey.

I hope this information is helpful.

Trevor Leggo
Director
Local Governance & Local Councils

Tel. 01273 476342
Mob. 07825 506649

Service Level Agreement

Nature of the Agreement

This Agreement is between Action in rural Sussex [AirS] and Sussex Associations of Local Council [SALC] and sets out the services provided by AirS in support of SALC.

Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement will be for three years, it will come into force on 1st April 2007 and expire on 31st March 2010

Charges

Provided that the level of service remains unchanged, the cost to SALC will increase by the level of inflation [RPI] each year on the anniversary of the Agreement. Any requirement to change the level and nature of the service will be set out clearly in writing between the parties and any adjustment to the charges formally advised.

Parties to the Agreement

Parties to the Agreement will be the Joint Liaison Committee [JLC] of SALC and the Trustees of AirS represented by the Director of SALC and the Chief Executive of AirS.

Resolution of disputes

In the unlikely event of a dispute remaining unresolved between the JLC and the Trustees of AirS, the matter will be reviewed by an 'Independent Person' agreeable to both parties and the Independent Person's decision will be binding on both sides.

The Agreement

AirS will provide the following services and facilities for SALC :

[a] Staffing

AirS will employ a suitably experienced person to manage the day to day activities of SALC at a salary level consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the post, 'The Director'.

Line management of the Director will be undertaken by the Chief Executive of AirS in consultation with the Chairmen of the East and West Sussex Executive Committees.

AirS will employ a level of support staff to match the requirements of SALC based on the standards set down by the JLC.

Staff employed will have access to Human Resources support.

[b] Accommodation

AirS will provide SALC with sufficient office space for its furniture and immediate storage requirements. Meeting space will be made available through AirS booking arrangements.

[c] Technology support

AirS will provide access to its corporate I.T. Systems and support for SALC through its I.C.T. Manager, best endeavours will be used to ensure a minimum of down time and recognising the objective of the JLC to respond to all enquiries within 72 hours of receipt. Telephone services will be provided by AirS to an agreed standard.

[d] Training & Development

Staff engaged in work for SALC will be afforded the opportunity to develop their potential through appropriate training and other staff employed by AirS will receive regular briefings on the projects and activities of SALC.

[e] Integration

Both parties recognise the symbiotic benefits of supporting each other for the benefit of rural communities in Sussex and will work together to fulfil this objective. It is recognised that staff employed by AirS can offer a range of skills and expertise that may be of benefit from time to time to town and parish councils.

Annual Charges 2007 / 2008

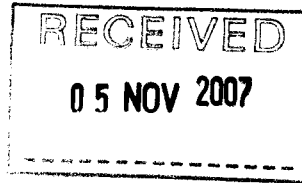
Annual charges will comprise the following elements:

- Direct staffing costs, salaries & employer's oncosts
- Accommodation based on desk space occupied
- Service support, including IT, payroll, HR advice
- Governance & strategic development

Total Charge

£ 79,195 +vat

Rother District Council



THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

THE DOG CONTROL ORDERS (PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2006

Removal of Dog Faeces

Notice is hereby given that Rother District Council intends to introduce the following Order pursuant to its powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

This Order will apply to any land within the administrative area of Rother District which is open to the air, including covered land which is open to the air on at least one side and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) of the following descriptions:

- (a) Any highway, footways, footpaths, twittens, promenades, steps and towpaths within the area of Rother District Council and any adjoining verges or ornamental areas, which are maintained at the public expense.
- (b) All pedestrianised areas within the Rother District Council.
- (c) All Parks, Gardens, Recreation and Sports Grounds, Commons, Amenity Areas of other open spaces owned, occupied or maintained by or on behalf of any of: Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council, a registered social landlord/housing association, any town or parish council within Rother District, any other public authority or any charity.
- (d) Any cemetery, burial ground or churchyard.
- (e) Any public car park or parking space.
- (f) All beaches and dunes.

This Order will require that, if a dog defecates at any time on the land to which the Order applies, the person who is in charge of the dog must remove the faeces from the land forthwith.

There will be exemptions for blind people with guide dogs and disabled people using trained assistance dogs. The Order will not apply to any woodland, marsh or agricultural land and any Access Land as defined in Part I of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Fixed penalty notices

The Council intends to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce the proposed Order under Section 59 of the Act. The payment would be £75. Failure to pay the fixed penalty notices may result in prosecution.

Consultation

Any representations regarding this Order must be received by 14 December 2007 for consideration before a final decision is taken. Please write for the attention of David Edwards, Legal Services Manager, at the address below or e-mail david.edwards@rother.gov.uk with "Dog Control Order" in the heading.

Please note that this notice is only about an Order requiring the Removal of Dog Faeces. The order would replace various Byelaws and Orders which already require the removal of faeces from many areas within the District. The Council may in future consider making Orders prohibiting dogs from certain areas, requiring dogs to be on leads, limiting the numbers of dogs under one person's control etc., but any such proposals would be subject to further consultation and a further notice inviting representations on them would be published in due course.

Dated 9 November 2007

Head of Corporate Resources
Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN39 3JX