

260505 – Item 26 -Correspondence

1. Correspondence received 30/03/2026

Dear Moretonhampstead

Membership to the Devon Association of Local Councils 2026/27

Thank you for your membership of DALC over 2025/26, we have been delighted to have you on board and we very much hope you will continue your membership with us for 2026/27.

At DALC, our mission is to empower and support local councils in Devon to serve their communities effectively. We champion good governance, strong community engagement, and effective partnership working to help strengthen the capacity of local councils through a comprehensive range of services including:

Expert advice and guidance

Access timely, accurate support by email or phone from our experienced team, along with specialist advice on finance, HR, health and safety, and general legal matters through our trusted partners. You can also have a look in our website's [Knowledge Bank](#) for assistance!

Regular updates and information

Stay informed with weekly e-bulletins ([catch up on recent issues here!](#)), [website updates](#), and a wealth of resources including legal briefings, publications, and toolkits covering a wide range of local government topics. Over the last year, we have been working hard to keep our members up to date with the process of local government reorganisation, sharing resources and providing opportunities for members to discuss the issue.

We particularly love hearing about your achievements, and sharing those to highlight the amazing work happening across Devon, so please do tell us what your council has been working on by emailing enquiries@devonalc.org.uk.

Training and professional development

We [provide extensive training for councillors and officers](#). Over the past year, we've introduced nine new courses on subjects such as biodiversity, TUPE, and project management – alongside our core programmes on Being a Good Councillor, Code of Conduct, the planning system, Charing Local Council Meetings, Clerks Essentials, and more.

Our Training Officer can arrange [bespoke in-house training sessions](#) tailored to your council's needs, covering topics including conflict management, communication skills, and being a good employer.

If you're short on time, have a look at our [e-learning opportunities!](#)

Members can also join us at our annual conference; this year that will be held on 7 October 2026 at Exeter Racecourse so save the date!

Networking and sector influence

Connect with DALC and other councils through our free events and meetings - we delivered 10 free Connect Events in the last year ([catch up with them here!](#)).

We work closely with partners across Devon and nationally to ensure that the voice of parish and town councils is heard. Through these partnerships, we collaborate with local authorities and others on key issues including local government reorganisation, highways, rural deprivation, storm recovery, health and wellbeing, community resilience, and more.

You can help us focus our energies on the issues that matter most to you by sharing your views with us, joining our meetings for members, and taking part in consultations, surveys, and polls to ensure that the voice of Devon's towns and parishes is heard.

Membership of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

DALC membership automatically includes NALC membership, giving your council access to a national organisation and opportunities to influence national conversations around the sector. [Read more about what NALC does here.](#)

To get involved with NALC, you can [register for their website](#), join national [committees](#) or take part in one of their [national networks](#) to contribute to the broader national conversation. Or why not shine a spotlight on your council by signing up to NALC's [Local Council Award Scheme](#), or entering the [Star Council Awards?](#)

Full details of the services we offer can be found in our [Member Service Level Agreement](#). This year, we have also added a [Civility and Respect Policy](#) to reaffirm our commitment to fostering positive, professional working environments across the sector.

How to renew your membership for 2026/2027

Your membership fee for 2026/27 will be £636.99 (inc. VAT), based on an electorate figure of 1,402.

You will receive a separate invoice via Quickbooks later this week – please wait for this invoice before making payment. If you haven't received an invoice by mid April, please do contact us on enquiries@devonalc.org.uk.

To confirm your membership for the coming year, please complete our [short membership renewal form](#) by Saturday 31st May 2026.

Please note that if payment is not received by 31st July 2026, your membership will automatically lapse, and access to all DALC services will be withdrawn.

If you have any queries about the contents of this letter, please call 01392 241131 or email enquiries@devonalc.org.uk

Kind regards,

Rebecca Walker, Chief Executive Officer

Devon Association of Local Councils Ltd

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P.S. Councillors and officers can [register for our website here](#) and [sign up to our e-bulletins here](#).

2. Summary of Correspondence received from Wellmoor

Three items of correspondence were received from Wellmoor. The first outlined a proposal to work with the Parish Council on a monthly series of posts and posters celebrating local volunteer-run organisations, presented from a position that is neutral and not strongly branded as Wellmoor. The aim is to highlight their contribution to the community and encourage new volunteers. Wellmoor suggested that they could produce the posts while the Parish Council could provide certificates, similar to those issued during Covid.

The second item drew attention to the [Dartmoor Preservation Association's Public Access Fund](#), suggesting potential partnership opportunities with MDT/Environment Network on physical access improvements such as footpath clearance, bridge repairs, vegetation management, signage, step-free stiles, or parking. Wellmoor asked whether the Council has any priority areas it would like to progress.

The third item referred to a funding stream for sustainable flood-prevention projects deliverable through local partnerships (e.g., Highways, DNPA, MDT). Wellmoor asked whether the Council would be interested in pursuing this jointly and offered to prepare a proposal for a future meeting. Cllr Fileman-Wright requested that Wellmoor send further information to the Clerk, but this has not yet been received

3. Correspondence received 18/04/2026

To the parish council

I am writing to you as chair of trustees for the Museum of Dartmoor Life, which is in Okehampton but whose theme is Dartmoor, with information for councils either on the moor or close to it.

Please find attached a summary report of the work of the Museum of Dartmoor Life in 2025 which I hope will be of interest to councillors and others. It is a remarkable record for a museum with a part time manager and otherwise run by volunteers.

We continue to look for ways to improve. We are currently preparing for a bid to the NLHF, to improve the quality of the building, and thus protect the collection, and to set our long term vision with the community.

The 2026 exhibition is reviewing the stored parts of the collection and thinking about what we should be collecting. All sorts of surprises have arisen! These have made for a thought provoking and attractive exhibition.

We want as much community engagement as possible on what should the museum collect and hold. In other words, what should the museum be about?

We would welcome visits from individuals or groups, particularly perhaps groups whose discussions may be particularly illuminating, such as councils.

If coming as a group, there will be no charge. Please contact Kristy, the manager, in the first instance if you plan a group visit. Kristy is employed for three days a week but if the visit is during open hours, I or another trustee will try to be present. Kristy can be contacted on manager@dartmoorlife.org.uk

Here is the link to the museum website <https://www.dartmoorlife.org.uk/> which has lots more information.

Fifty years ago the first meeting was held to consider the establishment of a museum, it was standing room only in the Charter Hall in Okehampton. Where now? Please come and see the museum, the current exhibition and give your thoughts.
