



ENGAGING PARLIAMENT TOOLKIT



PURPOSE

This toolkit will help parish and town councils and county associations confidently champion our priorities and strengthen their engagement with parliamentarians. With 10,000 parish and town councils and 100,000 councillors across England, our collective voice is powerful. As new opportunities arise, working together has never been more important to ensure the most local tier of government is heard, supported, and empowered.



PRIORITIES

We champion the interests of parish and town councils, ensuring their voice is heard where it matters most. While parish and town councils serve local communities, the decisions that shape their work are often made at a national level. That's why it's vital we come together behind a shared vision, focusing our efforts on clear, targeted priorities and asks that deliver real impact. You can [read more about this work in our manifesto](#) or by clicking the images below.



BUILDING CAPACITY



DIVERSE FUNDING



EMPOWER COMMUNITIES



LOCAL LEADERSHIP



PARLIAMENTARIANS

To engage effectively, it helps to understand who parliamentarians are, what they do, and what shapes their priorities. There are three different tiers of government: Westminster (government and parliament), principal authorities (county, district, unitary, metropolitan and London Boroughs), and parish and town councils. This section outlines their key roles and how parish and town councils can work with them to make an impact.

Members of Parliament +

Peers in the House of Lords +

Ministers +

Select Committees +

All-Party Parliamentary Groups +

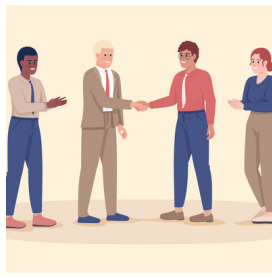


WHAT YOU CAN DO

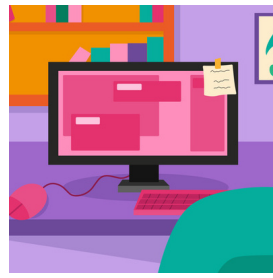
There are several ways you can engage with parliament and raise local issues at a national level. Click the sections below to explore how you can attend, meet, respond, speak, submit, and share to make your voice heard.



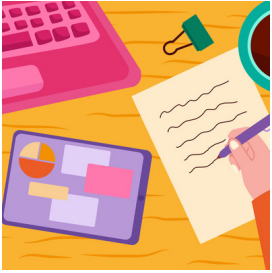
ATTEND



MEET



RESPOND



SHARE



SPEAK



SUBMIT



TELLING YOUR STORY

To influence decision-makers, you need more than opinion. You need clear evidence and real-world examples. Parliamentarians are far more likely to engage with issues that are backed by data and brought to life through local stories.

Start capturing the impact of your work. Gather local evidence, frame issues clearly, and link what's happening in your community to national priorities such as funding, service delivery, or devolution. Use short, focused case studies to show the difference parish and town councils are making.

Your evidence also helps us strengthen the case for greater support, influence policy, and unlock funding opportunities for the sector. We encourage you to **share your stories** with us.

Make it a habit to document and share your impact. Your story can help drive real change.

Collecting evidence +

Writing effective case studies +

Top tips +

Useful examples +



FOLLOWING UP

Be sure to follow up with your MP after you have engaged with them. MPs and their teams receive hundreds of emails each day. While they aim to respond to all correspondence, some messages may be missed. Maintaining consistent, timely, and effective engagement over time is essential.

Follow up turns contact into influence. Through regular interaction with your local MP, you will strengthen your long-term relationship and help ensure your MP clearly understands your local priorities. MPs are more likely to raise issues in parliament or with ministers when they have consistent, trusted local insight.

Here are some simple steps to follow up with your MP



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Parliament

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NALC are urging parish and town councils to encourage MPs to attend White Ribbon Day parliamentary reception.

News



📅 03 Jun 2025



📅 09 Jan 2024

NALC LAUNCHES WESTMINSTER FORUM TO STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

We have launched the Westminster Forum to champion and amplify the voice of parish and town councils.

LEVELLING UP COMMITTEE INQUIRY ON THE OFFICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Our response to the Levelling Up Committee's inquiry on the Office for Local Government.

Consultation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

We are the only recognised national membership organisation for community, neighbourhood, parish, and town councils. We believe these vibrant and dynamic councils are at the centre of community effort, delivering services and giving their communities a democratic voice.



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