

Wednesday 9th October 2019  
Memorial Court, Northwich

## Welcome

How do you know what you don't know? This was the opening question at a recent training course that I attended. Following the initial panic of the impending 'let's go around the room to find out what you've all come to learn about' it became clear that it is only by engaging with others that the real gaps in our knowledge and skills can be identified. I would, therefore, like to welcome you to the third Cheshire Branch Conference and encourage you to not only learn something new but to also identify something that you didn't know that you didn't know.

Our sector provides us with an enormous number of learning opportunities. As an example, as we look towards our next budget setting process we will, no doubt, be amazed by the diverse suggestions of possible items which are put forward for inclusion. Each idea, however bizarre at first glance, is a learning opportunity. I would not be surprised if a plea for help through the SLCC Forum would not only yield helpful advice but



also interest from fellow Clerks who think that their community is also ready for that big idea.

As we all continue to strive to improve our local communities, to deliver positive, tangible outcomes for residents and to seek creative solutions to local issues it is worth remembering that our colleagues are a great source of advice and support.

I encourage everyone to use this opportunity to learn from the speakers and the experiences of our colleagues and to return to our communities better equipped to tackle the challenges ahead.

*E.M. Maddock*  
Elizabeth Maddock  
Branch Chairman

## Branch Meetings

Meetings of the branch are held every two months. These are an opportunity to network with fellow clerks, discuss issues, share best practice and generally provide a pillar of support in what can be an isolated profession.

All meetings are free for members to attend, include refreshments and contribute to your CPD points!

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wed 4th December  
TBC

Fri 24th January  
Northwich

Wed 25th March  
Warrington

Fri 5th June  
Holmes Chapel

Wed 29th July  
Northwich

Fri 25th Sept (AGM)  
Warrington

## Our Conference Programme

0900-0925	<b>Arrival and Networking</b>	
0925-1010	<b>Update on your SLCC</b> Rob Smith, SLCC Chief Executive	
1015-1100	<b>Getting Press Releases Published</b> Emma Dalzell, Bare Bones Marketing (Main Room)	<b>Funding without the Precept</b> Nikki Hewitt, ChALC and Claire Jones, CCA (Breakout Room)
1100-1130	<b>Break and Networking</b>	
1130-1215	<b>Website Accessibility Regulations</b> Adam Keppel-Green, Knutsford TC (Main Room)	<b>Going for Gold An Overview of the Local Council Award Scheme</b> Nicola Clarke, Alsager TC (Breakout Room)
1220-1300	<b>Public Rights of Way</b> Jack Cornish, The Ramblers Association	
1300-1345	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>	
1345-1430	<b>Climate Change and Councils</b> Cllr Jane Smith, Animal Welfare Party	
1430-1510	<b>Youth Councils and Engagement</b> Tina Cartlidge, Holmes Chapel PC (Main Room)	
1510-1530	<b>Break and Networking</b>	
1530-1615	<b>Developing Assertiveness and Dealing with Difficult People</b> Richard Masters MBE, Castleview Training	
1615-1620	<b>Conference Close</b>	

## Our Speakers

### Rob Smith SLCC CEO

Rob has been the SLCC's Chief Executive since January 2017.

Rob has a depth of experience in both the public and private sectors. He has held senior leadership roles at Carnival Corporation, London Underground and Great Western Railway.



### Emma Dalzell Bare Bones Marketing

Emma is an award-winning marketer, working in senior roles in global organisations such as Citibank, and E.ON.

Based in Middlewich, her company offers support in web design, social media, marketing and event management.



### Nikki Hewitt ChALC

Nikki has worked at ChALC for the past 7 years and amongst other duties processes borrowing approval applications through MHCLG.

Nikki will explain how to begin the borrowing process and what supporting evidence is required to get approval.



## Our Speakers (cont)

### Claire Jones CCA



Claire has worked for Cheshire Community Action since 2011 advising community groups on aspects such as grant support and governance.

Claire's will cover grant support for council projects, outlining some of the main funders and how to apply looking at several case studies.

### Jack Cornish The Ramblers Association



Jack leads the 'Don't Lose Your Way' programme at the Ramblers which is focused on empowering and supporting volunteers to put historic rights of way back on the map before the 2026 deadline.

Find out how to research and register lost rights of way and the importance of the deadline.

### Richard Masters Castleview Training



Richard was awarded the MBE for an outstanding contribution to learning, development and employee relations. He is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) and had a long career in the Civil Service, now delivering Civic Service training.

### Adam Keppel- Green Knutsford Town Council



Adam is the Town Clerk to Knutsford Town Council, training officer for the Cheshire Branch of the SLCC and a member of the SLCC Board.

Adam will take you through the new regulations and provide practical advice on how to comply.

### Cllr Jane Smith Animal Welfare Party



Jane is a councillor in Alsager and the UK's first elected 'animal politics' councillor (for Animal Welfare Party). During the past five years at Alsager, Jane has concentrated on environmental and animal issues. Alsager was the first Cheshire town to declare Climate Emergency.

### Nicola Clarke Alsager Town Council



Nicola has been a clerk since 2007, is Town Clerk at Alsager Town Council and a committee member of the Cheshire Branch of the SLCC.

Nicola helped Holmes Chapel become the first Quality Gold council in Cheshire in 2017 and will be encouraging clerks to debate the scheme.

### Tina Cartlidge Holmes Chapel Parish Council



Tina became clerk to Holmes Chapel in 2019 and the council has set up a youth council with 11 members.

Tina will talk you through the journey the council went on you'll hear from members of the council themselves.

### Change to Programme

Unfortunately due to an injury Richard from Came and Company is unable to be with us today. This has meant we've had to cancel the session on 'Risk Assessments for Events' - our apologies to anyone who was planning to attend this session.

# ALCC

Association of Local Council Clerks

The Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC) is the only trade union dedicated to supporting people working in the local council sector across.

For more info or to join visit:  
[www.alccunion.co.uk](http://www.alccunion.co.uk)

## Our Exhibitors



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## Your Training and Development

Have you thought about what your training needs are? Have you told us?

Please complete the training needs section of the evaluation form to let us know the areas you'd like to see training on over the next 12 months. The Cheshire Branch will do its best to provide this through next year's conference, branch meetings or by organising a course locally.

## Cheshire Training Bursary

The Cheshire Branch offers a training bursary to help members access training they may not otherwise be able to.

The scheme is open to full members of the Society who are affiliated to the Cheshire Branch and applications can be made at any time during the year by completing the application form on the branch website and submitting it to the Branch Secretary.

The bursary is intended to be a last resort and we expect that councils should provide adequate training for their clerks. However we understand that many councils do not or have budgets which are too small to prevent attendance at certain events which could help you develop professionally.

A bursary may be awarded in full or a contribution towards the costs may be offered. Before applying you are expected to have attended at least one branch meeting in the preceding six months and you are then expected to write a review of the event you attend for potential publication in The Clerk magazine and on the branch website.

The bursary could fund:

- CiLCA support
- SLCC Conferences
- Branch training events

Find out more at:  
[www.slcccheshire.co.uk](http://www.slcccheshire.co.uk)