## Why have membership of support organisations?

NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and WALC (Wiltshire Assoc etc) would probably describe the benefits of membership something like this:

1. Networking Opportunities: Membership allows local councils to connect with other councils in the region, facilitating the exchange of ideas, best practices, and experiences.

2. Representation: W/NALC may advocate on behalf of its member councils, representing their interests to higher levels of government and other relevant stakeholders.

3. Training and Development: W/NALC may offer training sessions, workshops, and resources to help councils improve their governance, management, and service delivery.

4. Information Sharing: Membership grants access to relevant information, updates, and resources related to local governance, legislation, and policy changes affecting councils in Wiltshire.

5. Support Services: W/NALC may provide support and guidance to member councils on various issues, such as legal matters, planning, community engagement, and administrative procedures.

6. Collaborative Projects: Membership may enable councils to collaborate on joint projects, initiatives, or campaigns for the benefit of their communities.

7. Voice in Decision Making: By being part of WALC, local councils can have a collective voice in decision-making processes that impact the Wiltshire region.

Overall, membership in W/NALC offers local councils a range of benefits aimed at enhancing their effectiveness, efficiency, and ability to serve their communities.

In theory, I largely agree and I think we should support the National Association specifically for their lobbying power on behalf of the sector. I find their newsletters interesting and informative and have attended a couple of their online webinars (training is not their big thing)

WALC has been a disappointment after the excellent service I got from the equivalent body in Northamptonshire. I did consider recommending we leave, but a new CEO was appointed very recently so I would like to give him time to make some improvements. I have already met him and heard from him more than the whole previous year with the former CEO! Generally, I use my membership of the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks, also renewing this month) for most advice and some training, but this situation was reversed when I was in Northants! I am therefore recommending one more year with WALC.

In general, the role of a clerk can be fairly ‘lonely’ in terms of support if the council does not agree membership of bodies like these. I value you continuing to allow this. Thank you.

## What does it cost?

Membership of WALC & NALC is based on the number of electors in the village: 1812

WALC £652.32 + VAT

NALC £143.87 + VAT