



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Simon Clarke MP

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Dear Lucy,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February, to Luke Hall MP, about how parish councils are governed.

There is no specific oversight body which governs town and parish councils. In the event of a town or parish council seeking advice or guidance, I would encourage them to contact the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) who work to promote and improve local councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks, the professional body for council clerks in England and Wales.

On the point Councillor Stubbs raises about funding to establish a community hub in Little Thetford, the Government is at an early stage in designing the scope of a £150 million Community Ownership Fund which will support community ownership of local facilities.

I would also like to clarify the ongoing Government support for the work of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). For the financial year 2019-20, ACRE received just under £1.7 million to support the work of 38 rural community councils across England. We are currently finalising the level of support for the next financial year. ACRE also manages the £3 million Village Hall Fund on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Following our departure from the European Union, I would like to assure you that MHCLG and our counterparts at Defra are working together on what is needed to replace previous EU funding programmes to ensure we support our rural businesses and communities.

Yours ever,

SIMON CLARKE MP