

LOCAL COUNCIL CONSULTANCY (LCC) – A YEAR ON

By Clive Stilwell, Associate Manager, LCC



Pictured left Clive Stilwell, Pictured right Reg Williams

Previous issues of The Clerk have included updates from me on the progress we have made since LCC was launched a year ago at National Conference. Now that we have passed our first birthday, I thought readers might be interested in what we have been doing and how we have grown in our first year.

An initial pool of Associates was recruited at the time of our launch and it has steadily grown to reach fifty at the time of writing this article. In addition, we have a pool of thirty Locums, some of whom were on the previous SLCC list but many more of them have joined up since the launch of LCC. Our projects now range far and wide – we have carried out quite a number of Clerk job evaluations from Devon to Northumberland, helped a Council to set up a team to run a new Crematorium, managed two building projects and skateboard park, facilitated a workshop for a Parish Council to develop a new long-term strategy, helped a Council with the recruitment of a new Clerk, developed and delivered bespoke training for Councillors and for Council Staff and also helped the Society CEO with some support on future office accommodation needs.

Behind the high-profile project assignments, our Locum service has

grown from strength to strength. We offer Councils a full service, taking care of tax and NI in order that Councils comply with HMRC guidance on off payroll working and developing an employment contract between SLCC and the Locum to ensure they are paid for their hours and recompensed for any travel costs.

One such Locum appointment was for Flitwick Town Council in Bedfordshire. Emma Harris, Flitwick TC's RFO and HR Officer, approached LCC in November 2018 when her Council needed to appoint a Locum. After an apparently successful recruitment campaign it looked like a Locum might not actually be needed until a quick change of plan had to be implemented when the Council's preferred candidate for the permanent post had to withdraw. Jane Hatton, LCC's appointed Locum, took up her role in February 2019 until mid-July when her assignment came to a close.

Emma Harris said that the Council were very pleased with the placement and that it had worked well for them. *"I'd like to say thank you to both the LCC and Jane who helped us out of a tricky time when we found ourselves without a Clerk over the Election period. Despite the Locum service being fairly new we received a very professional service from start to finish."*

LOCAL COUNCIL CONSULTANCY



AN SLCC ENTERPRISE

Jane was, and still is, the Clerk at Assington Parish Council in Suffolk. Jane's appointment as the Locum was a trailblazer for LCC in that new systems had to be put in place to manage the process. Despite a couple of early hitches, everything eventually worked out.

"I enjoyed my time with Flitwick Town Council which was only meant to be for 3 months and I ended up staying for over 5

months. All the staff and Councillors made me feel really welcome and were always ready to help and assist me. I found the whole experience really rewarding especially helping the Council go through the Election period smoothly."



JANE HATTON – LCC LOCUM

LCC has now placed four Locums and quoted for, or completed, over forty projects. At its mid-year review in July, LCC reported to CEO Rob Smith that it was almost on track to cover its costs in its first year despite some high initial set up costs.

LCC will continue to be represented at SLCC's Regional Training Seminars and at its residential Conferences. Do come along and talk to us about your current challenges and find out if we might be able to help.