
STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Community Engagement Strategy

Introduction

The Parish Council represents the Community of Stanton and seeks to improve the quality and range of local services to reflect the needs of the residents and businesses. We are committed to working closely with all community and voluntary groups so that needs can be identified. Included in this strategy is the commitment to working in partnership with our local authority and other agencies.

Stanton Parish Council encourages residents to become actively involved in decisions that affect them and the community.

The Parish Council aims to achieve this by using the following strategies.

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

- Minutes of the monthly meetings are published on the notice board, web site and in the monthly magazine – The Steamer – which is delivered to every household in the village. The Agendas are published prior to each meeting on the notice board and web site and a signpost entry is placed on 'Next Door' and 'Facebook' with links to the website. Regular articles on the Facebook page promote response to issues affecting the Community.
- Monthly Parish Council meetings are advertised via the Facebook page, web site, village magazine, 'Next Door' and notice board and invite the public to attend the public forum at the commencement of the meeting to raise issues or make comment on items on the agenda.
- The web site links to the village website and the websites of Local and County Councils

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Invitations are sent to village organisations to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to report on the activities of the group and allow residents the opportunity to ask questions or submit their views.
- Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting is posted on the notice boards, Facebook, Next Door, on the website and in the Village Magazine (The Steamer).
- Residents are encouraged to raise items at a Council meeting or referred to a particular Councillor for advice and guidance and to submit their views, either in person or in writing.
- Facebook posts are given a discussion platform to allow comments to be made. Facebook responses are fed back to the relevant organisation.
- Details of how to contact the Clerk and Members of the Council are displayed on the notice boards, on the website and in the Newsletter. A leaflet has been delivered to all addresses in the Village outlining what the Parish Council does.
- Requests for assistance are responded to in a timely fashion and information given in respect of enquiries dealt with by other organisations.
- The Parish Council work closely with any other organisation wishing to reach the community and signposts via the Facebook page, web site, Next Door and Village Magazine to the relevant organisation.
- The Council aims to be proactive in getting information to, and obtaining the opinions of, all sections of the community – especially the hard to reach groups such as the elderly and the housebound by working closely with the relevant village organisations and professional services such as GP's, the Police and Utility services.

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Councillors are members of many groups within the Community which enables those groups to be more aware of the role of the Parish Council. Information affecting a specific section of the Community can be delivered directly to those groups by the Councillor.
- Where necessary, public meetings will be held and where appropriate, consultations and surveys will be carried out and the results made available.
- The Parish Council holds an Annual Firework event at which all Councillors are present (When available). This promotes community cohesion for all and allows diverse groups to mix in a social environment.
- A Community Recognition Award has been introduced by the Parish Council which is presented at the annual Parish Meeting and encourages residents to thank and reward those people living in Stanton Parish and who deserve recognition for community activity, environmental achievements or in some other way contribute to the life of the Parish.

Revisions

Date of review or revision	Reason	Author
3/8/20	Accessibility	J Hart
19/4/21	Review	J Hart