

Little Paxton Parish Council

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council has developed a community engagement strategy with the aim of constructing a standard for engagement with its residents and partners.

It recognises that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its residents and their locality.

The Parish Council strongly believes that its residents should be involved in the decision making process upon issues affecting them and their neighbourhood and in shaping the future of their parish.

AIMS

The aim of the strategy is to improve the way in which the Council engages with residents, relevant partners and those working within the community through:

- the communication of current, relevant and easily accessible information
- a pro-active consultation process
- adhering to the principle of inclusivity
- a commitment to listening to views in order to initiate, develop and enhance services
- a stronger, more active and cohesive community.

OBJECTIVES

To improve, plan and shape the future of the Parish according to local needs and priorities.

To have a Community Led Plan that is current and up to date.

To improve the quality and delivery of services.

Adopted 05/11/2020

To use engagement to provide information in the Council's decision making, ensuring decisions are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the community.

To enhance the general well-being of the community.

To be a stronger, more active and cohesive Parish.

HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED?

Community engagement will be achieved by the Parish Council by communicating, consulting, supporting and working together with its residents, partners & businesses.

COMMUNICATION

Communicating with members of the Parish will be achieved in many ways to ensure all sections of the community are reached.

The Village Views or similar quarterly magazine informs residents on important issues and will be developed as a medium for consultation and include articles from members of the Parish & village organisations on topical issues. Village Views is delivered to every household in the village and is available on the Community website.

The Council website www.littlepaxtonparishcouncil.go.uk has a wealth of local information and is updated on a weekly basis. Special events and important notices will continue to be added regularly. All agendas are advertised as required under the Local Government Act 1972, including on the website, and minutes of meetings are included on the website within a calendar month of the meeting.

Information leaflets posted on the parish notice-boards will also be posted on the Parish Council website or where appropriate made available as a download.
information.

Meetings of the Council and its standing Committees are open to the public and include an opportunity for members of the Parish to engage with councillors.

Articles are submitted on a monthly basis to Think Local & The Villager magazines which are circulated to every household in Little Paxton and in some parts of the neighbouring community.

The community at large receives information events and issues through regular items in the local press and local radio station.

News articles are submitted the monthly Church magazine Quartet. Council event dates are submitted to the monthly The Villager, Think Local & bi monthly B Inspired magazines.

Adopted 05/11/2020

The Council regularly posts Council activities & new articles on its social media page www.facebook.com/LittlePaxtonParishCouncil & Twitter page.

Questionnaires are used to gauge opinion and community needs.

Councillor Surgeries are available on request.

CONSULTATION

Using the afore mentioned communication processes, will enable the Parish Council to consult all parishioners on important issues, will be key to the strategy. It will ensure those most affected are able to put forward an opinion and given an opportunity to make a difference.

Ensuring consultations include all members of the Parish by identifying the hard to reach groups such as youths, the elderly, the house-bound, the disabled, ethnic minorities etc. may on occasions require different forms of engagement channels.

The Council uses social media to consult and engage with residents.

SUPPORT

Supporting local organisations, understanding their needs and objectives, advising and where possible, giving financial aid and engaging with them will assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.

Supporting local projects and participating in local events will raise the awareness of the Council and its aims and objectives.

WORKING TOGETHER

Working together with residents, partners and businesses in finding solutions to local problems will ensure they will be accepted and fit for purpose.

Acting together to carry out agreed action plans, will engage the community in working with the Council to enhance the environments and the quality of their lives.

Acting together in decision making and policy drafting will ensure they have a voice and can make a difference.

Adopted 05/11/2020

MEASURING SUCCESS

Success will be measured by predefined targets, including annual reviews of consultation outcomes, monitoring residents' participation in consultation processes and increases in their involvement in local projects and events.

STRATEGY REVIEWS

Annual reviews of the consultation processes and results will be used as a continual improvement process for changes or amendments to the strategy.

Review date November 2021