



Easebourne Parish Council

Community Engagement Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Parish Council wishes to fully represent and serve all groups within the Parish. To achieve this ambition, it will employ a variety of methods of communication to reach residents, local community groups, schools and businesses. It will also seek to encourage regular participation to influence decision-making.

2. Aims

- 2.1 To develop and improve how the Parish Council engages and confers to ensure that residents, local groups, schools and businesses:
- Are informed, consulted and involved.
 - Their views are considered and used to design new facilities and services and improve existing current facilities and services.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 To engage all residents, local community groups, schools and businesses regarding the work of the Parish Council.
- 3.2 To ensure all residents, local community groups, schools and businesses can access information regarding the decisions, policies, work and plans of the Parish Council.
- 3.3 To specifically work to engage with those who are considered 'hard to reach'.
- 3.3 To formally consult with residents, local community groups, schools and businesses regarding all significant plans and projects.
- 3.4 To act upon requests, needs and aspirations received from residents, local groups, schools and businesses whenever possible within relevant legislation, regulations and financial restraints to provide or improve facilities or services.
- 3.5 To respond in a timely manner to questions and enquiries received from residents, local groups, schools and businesses.
- 3.6 To engage and work in partnership with all tiers of local government, statutory agencies and neighbouring Parish and Town Councils, to secure improvements within the Parish, and on matters which impact upon the Parish.
- 3.7 To ensure that Parish Councillors and Parish Council Staff are aware of the importance of engaging with residents, local community groups, schools and businesses and are that

Councillors are trained and have the necessary knowledge to enable them to fully represent the Parish.

- 3.8 To create and establish a stronger, more active and cohesive parish.

4. Achieving the Aims and Objectives

The Parish Council will:

- 4.1 employ all methods to communicate with residents, local groups, schools and businesses including via the Parish Council website, Notice Boards, and social media, Parish Magazine, and door-to-door leaflet delivery and taking a stall at the annual Village Fete.
- 4.2 provide opportunities for residents, local community groups, schools and businesses to contact the Parish Council via email, telephone call or letter.
- 4.3 provide the opportunities for the residents, local groups, schools and businesses to meet with the Parish Clerk or individual Councillors.
- 4.4 ensure residents, local community groups, schools and businesses are aware of all public meetings and the opportunity to present in person at these meetings.
- 4.5 encourage representation of all geographic locations within the parish and residents representing groups and collective views to become Parish Councillors.
- 4.6 organise formal consultations via surveys, meetings and exhibitions to gain views and ideas from residents, local groups, schools and businesses.
- 4.7 hold all Parish Council meetings and exhibitions in an accessible venue.
- 4.8 meet regularly with the schools and agents of the major landowner to discuss local matters.
- 4.9 work in partnership with organisations, statutory agencies and local government, and neighbouring town and parish councils for mutual benefit and to positively influence plans which impact upon the Parish.
- 4.10 attend meetings of and engage with local groups.
- 4.11 organise events which provide volunteering opportunities (such as the annual litter pick).
- 4.12 host the Annual Village Meeting and provide full opportunity for residents to raise issues, ask questions and speak to a Councillor on a one-to-one basis following formal business.

5. Policy Review

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years or before if required to ensure it continues to meet the aims and objectives of the Parish Council regarding community engagement.

This Policy was approved and adopted by Easebourne Parish Council on 14th March 2018, was last reviewed on 11th January 2023 and will be reviewed in early 2026.

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