

WOLVEY PARISH COUNCIL

Communication and Community Engagement Strategy

Introduction

The purpose of this strategy is to guide Wolvey Parish Council's communication and engagement with its residents and partners. The council recognises that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its parishioners and locality.

As a council we want to ensure that communications are two-way: telling people about the council and also listening to what people tell us about themselves and the service improvements they would like to see.

The Community Engagement Strategy will enable all local people, businesses and stakeholders to become involved in decisions which affect them and their neighbourhood and which shape the future of their parish.

Aim

Wolvey Parish Council will ensure that it communicates with all its residents in a timely and effective manner, to inform and consult them about matters which affect them. The parish council will publicise the services offered by the council and will endeavour to ensure communication is clear and appropriate.

The key stakeholders with which the council must communicate include: residents; staff; councillors (Parish , Borough and County); MP; Rugby Borough Council; Warwickshire County Council; local Village businesses; community groups; village organisations; Gamecock Barracks; school; police & press.

Objectives

- To improve, plan and shape the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities
- To improve the quality and delivery of services
- To use engagement to inform decision making, ensuring decisions meet the needs of the parish
- To enhance the well-being of the parish
- To be a stronger, active and cohesive parish
- To work towards improving and enhancing the environment and the quality of life for residents

How this will be achieved

- Parish Council meetings are open to the public and include an opportunity for members of the parish to engage with councillors. All meetings include an item for public participation.
- Councillor surgeries are available at least once a month. Some surgeries will be arranged in conjunction with the local Police.
- Agendas for all meetings will be sent to Parish and District councillors, and posted on the village notice board, the parish council website and in the village shop window.
- Contact details for all councillors and the clerk are available on the village notice board and the parish council website.
- A Meeting Report will be sent for inclusion in every issue of 'the Link' (Wolvey Church magazine) Parish Council activities will also be advertised in the Link.
- Wolvey Parish Council newsletter – Your Community Connection will be produced quarterly and distributed to every household in the parish free of charge

- Wolvey Parish Council website: www.wolvey.org will be reviewed and improved so that special events, important notices and local information are added and updated regularly. All agendas are advertised as required under the Local Government Act 1972, including on the website, and approved minutes are included on the website. If possible, direct links will be made to the Rugby Borough Council Planning Portal and the websites of Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council..
- Email: parishclerk@wolvey.org
- Village Notice Board. The parish council section of the new village notice board will continue to be regularly updated to provide information about the activities of the parish council and its partners.
- Leaflet drops to raise awareness of specific issues and promote parish council initiatives eg Christmas tree lights switch-on evening
- The Annual Report will be included in the summer issue of the parish council newsletter
- The Parish Council will continue to attract as many participants as possible to the Annual Parish meeting, by means of a varied programme
- The council will continue to support the village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- The council will continue to liaise with the local police on local issues
- The council will continue to support local groups and organisations and engage with them in meeting their own aims and objectives
- The council will support local projects and participate in local events. This will assist in raising the awareness of the Council and its aims and objectives
- The parish council will work to fulfil the actions agreed in the Wolvey Parish Action Plan
- The parish council will support the work of local initiatives eg the Environment Group, and the Walking Group
- The parish council will facilitate and launch new local initiatives eg Summer festival to involve all village groups.
- For any village initiatives consultation will be undertaken with residents in the vicinity before the commencement of any work.
- The parish council will work actively to improve communication and engagement with Gamecock Barracks.
- Consultations / Parish surveys will be carried out to consult on issues of local concern.
- Networking
- Word of mouth

As approved by Wolvey Parish Council at its meeting held on 19th January, 2009

Signed:
Chairman

Date: