

DRAYCOTT AND CHURCH WILNE PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council intends to have meaningful engagement and collaboration with the community as part of its working practice.

1. INTRODUCTION

Draycott Parish Council has developed this policy with the aim of constructing a standard for engagement with its residents and partners.

It recognises that the services it provides should aim to reflect the needs of its parishioners and the locality and that its residents should be involved in decisions affecting them and their neighbourhood and in shaping the future of their parish.

2. AIMS

The Parish Council aims work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners, statutory bodies, organisations, local business, voluntary groups and residents by;

- informing, consulting and involving
- being inclusive and engaging with all of its residents and partners
- Through proactive networking and Parish Council representatives, encourage partners to approach the Parish Council with clear, well thought out constructive ideas which will benefit all sections of the community and on which there can be joint working
- ensuring views are listened to and used to develop, enhance and improve services, the environment and the quality of life for residents

3. 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 are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the parish
- To enhance the well being of the parish
- Focus resources on what matters to our community
- Attain maximum benefit from management of the Council's assets
- Have good financial control through legal procedures and quality auditing to ensure that resources are spent on the needs of the community

4. HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED?

Community engagement will be achieved by communicating, consulting, supporting and working together with its residents.

Communication

The Annual Parish Council Newsletter is produced annually and published on the Parish Council web-site.

The Draycott Parish Council Facebook page is used to pass on information from the council and other pages – we advertise local groups activities, information from Derbyshire County Council and Erewash Borough Council as well as links to pages on the website where important information has been updated

The Parish Council website has a wealth of local information and is continually updated. 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.

The Breaston and Draycott Village News – the council publish updates on activities in the booklet that is distributed to houses each month as well as advertising the meetings

Meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and include an opportunity for members of the parish to engage with councillors. All meetings include a time for public participation at the start of the meeting.

Annual Meeting of the Parish – the council “host” the meeting of the parish, which is held between March – May each year. We host it in a large venue to accommodate and encourage attendance. We ask local groups to provide a written update which the clerk turns into a community group booklet which is available on the website

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by telephone during the Clerks hours of work or via email or via the contact us option on the website

Consultation

The Council will consult parishioners on important issues and will aim to ensure those most affected are able to put forward an opinion and given an opportunity to make a difference. It will aim to ensure that consultations include all members of the parish by identifying the hard to reach groups such as youths, the elderly, the housebound, the disabled, ethnic minorities etc. that may require establishing different engagement channels for them.

Support

The Council will aim to support local organisations and engage with them to assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.

The Council will aim to support local projects and participate in local events to raise awareness of the Council and its aims and objectives.

The Council will aim to support members of the parish in shaping the future of their parish and enable the bringing about of a more cohesive community.

Working Together

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

Working with residents 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.

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

5. ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council members and officers will engage with the community through partnership working, especially with statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Parish Councillors may also sit as observers on local organisations on invitation.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

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