

STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

1. Aims and Objectives

Community Engagement is the process by which community organisations and individuals build ongoing permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the community.

The Parish Council aims to engage with all residents, voluntary groups and businesses in the Parish to consult and involve them in the decision making process.

This will involve:

- Informing the community of policy directions from government
- Consulting the community as part of a process to develop government policy, or build community awareness and understanding
- Involving the community to ensure that issues and concerns are understood and considered as part of the decision making process.
- Collaborating with the community by developing partnerships to formulate options and provide recommendations
- Empowering the community to make decisions and to implement and manage change.

2. Defining the Community

Stockton is a rural parish to the east of Southam. The principal authorities are Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council. There are approximately 550 residential properties accommodating approximately 1500 people of all ages.

The community may be defined as consisting of:

- Residents of the Village
- Users of Parish Council Services
- The Village Hall Trustees & their users
- The users of the Playing Fields
- Head Teacher and Governors of Stockton Primary School
- Young people who live and/or go to school in the Village
- Retail and other and Businesses in the community
- Interest groups – clubs and societies e.g. Brownies, Scouts, Football & Cricket club, W.I. etc
- Voluntary organisations
- Church Groups

3. Provision of Information to the Community

The Parish Council will inform all sectors of the community of all their activities through the publication of Minutes of Meetings, Agenda for Meetings, Annual Reports, Newsletters, public notices, including consultation of Local Development Frameworks, Local Plan, Planning Applications, and all matters relating to the organisation, administration and finance of the Parish Council.

Information will be made available via:

- Parish Notice Board
- Parish Magazine
- Annual Reports

- Public Meetings
- Annual Parish Meetings
- Minutes of Parish Council Meetings
- Parish Council Web-Site and Facebook

4. Opportunities for Community Involvement

Agendas for meetings are published on Notice Boards 5 days before the meeting itemising all items for discussion or consideration.

Prior to each Parish Council meeting, residents have the opportunity during an Open Forum to address Parish Councillors with their views, on any matter of concern.

Contact with the Clerk is available directly from the web-site

Contact details for all parish councillors is published in the Parish Magazine monthly and on the website.

Where important issues have been identified, public meetings will be held inviting resident participation.

5. Opportunities for Formal Representation to the Council

Residents, community organisations and businesses are encouraged to send written representations to the clerk at least 10 days before the date of the next meeting. These representations will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting and copies sent to all Councillors. After formal discussion, the applicant will receive a written response of any decision or action taken by the Parish Council.

6. Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council is actively involved in community organisations and activities and some Councillors are from time to time Trustees or Elected Members of those organisations.

These include:

- The Village Hall
- Stockton Primary School
- Feldon Community Forum
- Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Councils for grass cutting in the parish.
- Warwickshire County Council for the maintenance of public footpaths.

7. Roles of Council Members and Officers

Councillors and the Clerk engage with the community by inviting members of the public to attend Parish Council meetings and setting time aside at the beginning of a meeting for public questions or comments. Contact details for the Clerk are available on Parish Council notice boards, and all Councillors contact details are published on the web-site and in the Parish Magazine.

8. Specific Areas for Community Involvement

Stockton has prepared a Parish Plan in 2006 and the Actions required have, in the main been implemented.

Affordable Housing was identified as a priority within the Parish and the community later consulted on possible locations by a public meeting.

Public meetings were held concerning all planning applications for major housing developments during 2013/14.

This policy was amended by Stockton Parish Council on 19th June 2023 and will be reviewed in three years' time, at the AGM.

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