



Gretton Parish Council

Community Engagement Strategy and Statement of Intent

Introduction

A community engagement strategy guides us and our partners (including North Northamptonshire Council, Police and health service) on how we engage with our communities, interested people and organisations in the many services we all provide.

Aims and Objectives

It's important for everyone to have the opportunity to get involved and have their say in local issues that affect or interest them. Gretton Parish Council is committed to engaging residents by encouraging them to become actively involved in decisions that affect them and the community, to delivering better services and to improving the quality of life of residents by creating a more active and informed community. Gretton Parish Council will do this by ensuring access to relevant information to allow them to contribute by an exchange of information to the decision-making process.

The aim of the Community Engagement Strategy is to:

- To work with all members of the community by keeping them informed of events within their locality
- To improve the way in which the Council communicates with members of the community
- To listen to the views of residents on important issues
- To use these views to deliver better services
- To improve the long-term social, economic and environmental well being of residents
- To plan future development of the parish in accordance with community priorities and needs

This document sets out:

- The Role of community engagement and its importance;
- How Gretton Parish Council engages the wider community and identifies the needs and aspirations of the community.
- How the Parish Council can improve community engagement

Community Engagement

Gretton Parish Council and its partners will inform, consult and involve the community in many ways to influence local services. It will do this through various methods included but not limited to:

- Agenda and minutes are to be placed on the notice boards (three) around the village and the website
- The Annual Report and Accounts will be available on the website
- Survey, both electronic and paper based
- Website Forums
- Public Meetings
- Door knocking
- Public Participation at council meetings
- Meeting with local representatives and groups
- Having representatives on outside bodies
- Noticeboards
- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Social networking including Facebook and Twitter
- Presentations
- Councillor surgeries
- Planning for real exercises

The Parish Clerk will:

- Develop and assess Questionnaires
- Report back to Council
- Identifying the hard to reach groups
- Publish results
- Receive and store information
- Arrange visits
- Prepare presentations
- Design newsletters
- Place notices in noticeboards
- Update the website and Facebook pages

The key aspects of community engagement include:-

- Development of a network of relationships between the Council, individuals, voluntary and community groups.
- Clear and open communication to ensure that information is made accessible to all groups.
- Listening and understanding to a range of people to identify aspirations, needs and problems of local people and groups.

Effective and meaningful community engagement can provide a number of benefits:-

- The problems and needs of local people are clearly identified in order that appropriate new or improved facilities / services can be provided.
- Those participating feel empowered by being involved in decision making in their local community.
- This may result in enhanced leadership and greater interest in elections or standing for Council and in volunteering within the community.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council has an element for Public Participation. The meetings are open to the public and time is set aside, prior to the commencement of the meeting, for members of the parish to make representations on items on the agenda and on any matters affecting the parish of Gretton.

An Annual Parish Meeting (annual assembly) is held each year giving residents the opportunity to have a say on local issues, find out what the Parish Council has been doing and residents are given the opportunity to share their opinions on the services delivered by the council.

Residents will be encouraged to submit items which they wish to be brought to the attention of Councillors, or to give their opinion on a particular agenda item, to the Clerk.

Contact Your Councillors

Make an appointment, make a phone call, write a letter, e-mail a message – let your Councillor know what you think.

Contact your Councillor to:

- let them know what you think
- get advice or help
- pass on a suggestion or good idea

Contact your local council for details about your local government representatives.

Partnership Working

Gretton Parish Council is committed to working with local voluntary and community groups to improve the quality of life for residents in the parish. The Parish Council will work with Local Authorities (North Northamptonshire Council and the Police) to ensure an improvement in the quality and delivery of services. The Parish Council will work with neighbouring parish councils to find a solution to common problems.

The Parish Council will continue to support and engage with local organisations to assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives. The Parish Council will continue to support local projects and events.

Outcomes

The outcomes which we are striving for and against which the success of this policy will be measured are:-

- Improved communication through the establishment of the channels of engagement.
- More residents understanding the role of Councillors, feeling they can become involved and thereby getting the best outcome.
- Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision-making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering.
- Improved satisfaction with services provided by the Council.

Review: Annually

Adopted by Gretton Parish Council on 14/04/2025