

EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Policy is to improve the way in which Earnley Parish Council engages and consults the community which is defined as all of the people living or working within the Parish boundary, including local groups and organisations and partner organisations.

The Council recognises that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its parishioners and the locality.

The Parish Council strongly believes the whole community should be involved in decisions affecting them and their neighbourhood and in shaping the future of their parish.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Key Objectives	What we are going to do to achieve our objectives
To Strengthen Partnership	Work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies, organisations, local businesses and voluntary groups
To promote Communication at all levels	Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, newsletters and press releases
	Meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and include an opportunity for residents of the parish to engage with councillors
	Encourage public feedback, both positive and ideas for improvement and development. By including the community through questionnaires, by staff and councillors canvassing opinion and by any method which is relevant to the subject being considered
	Agenda, minutes, meeting schedules and contact details are posted on the three parish council notice boards as well as uploaded to the Parish Council website as required under the Local Government Act 1972. Minutes of all Council meetings and its Committees are available at the Witterings Public Library
	Informative leaflets are available from the parish clerk on request and are brought to the meeting for distribution to members of the public who attend and can also be downloaded from the website. New leaflets will be added as necessary.
	Consulting all parishioners on important issues will be key to the strategy. It will ensure those most affected can put forward an opinion and given an opportunity to fully participate.

	<p>Ensuring Consultations include all members of the parish by identifying the hard to reach groups. This may require establishing different engagement channels for them, such as visiting the School, Nursery, Youth Club and the British Legion in neighbouring villages</p>
	Support local projects and participate in local events
	Support local organisations and engaging with them and assisting them in meeting their own aims and objectives
	<p>The Parish Annual Meeting is the ideal opportunity to bring the community together and allow residents to question and review how the elected members help shape the community. The Parish Council should determine the "interest theme" for each annual meeting to encourage maximum turn out by the community. The main objective of the annual meeting must be to provide and encourage two-way communication between the community and Councillors</p>
To manage the Council's resources wisely	Have good financial control through legal procedures and quality auditing to ensure that resources are spent on the needs of the community
	Focus resources on what matters to our community using the targets identified in the Parish Plan
	As an open and transparent Parish Council, both Members and the Clerk seek to offer a high quality professional service to all whom they serve. Both Members and the Clerk are keen to maintain relevant Codes of Conduct in their business
To promote a Sustainable Community	To achieve targets identified in the Parish Plan (2016-2021)
	Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote building resilience for the future, this includes being proactive in emergency planning and flood awareness
	Work to encourage balancing the current needs of people, the economy and the environment without compromising the future. Be sensitive to our environment and contribute to a high quality of life
	Promote safety and inclusion opportunities and good service for all
	Work wherever possible with the business community to sustain economic vibrancy
	The Parish Council is committed protecting, maintaining and enhancing the parish council assets.

Adopted on: 26th January 2017 Minute No: 08.17(1)

Reviewed: 18th May 2026 Minute ref: 38.26.2