



## **Community Engagement Policy**

It is important that parish residents, our local businesses and community groups operating in the parish are fully aware of the facilities and service the parish council provides and the various ways they can engage with us. Effective community engagement fosters trust, transparency, accountability and cooperation and ensures that local people and stakeholders are informed, consulted, and involved in the decision-making process that affects their lives, environment, and community.

### **Principles of Engagement**

- Communication with the community will be clear, concise, open and honest.
- Communications will be designed to be accessible and inclusive so they can reach all sectors of the community.
- The Council will engage in meaningful discussions with residents and stakeholders and will seek community views whenever significant changes or major projects are being proposed by parish council, or other local or national agencies.
- The Council will provide feedback on how community views have been considered in decisions and will follow up on consultations outcomes.

### **Why do we engage with the community?**

- To inform residents of the work and services we provide.
- To inform residents of the work and services of other agencies and authorities that impact the community.
- To ensure the views of all our community are represented, including the hard to reach, underrepresented or vulnerable groups.
- To contribute to improving the quality of life in the parish.
- To provide transparent clear, accessible, and timely information on financial governance and decision making and policies.
- To help inform decision making by the elected Councillors.

The parish council welcomes the opportunities for two-way dialogue and values feedback and constructive criticism.

### **How do we engage?**

- Pucklechurch Parish council website
- Social media platforms.
- Through our noticeboards in Pucklechurch, Shortwood and Parkfield.
- Via councillors.



- Through Pucklechurch News.
- Consultations.
- Council meetings with public participation.
- Host or facilitate events.
- Through local charities and partner organisations.
- Working collaboratively with Unitary council and Mayoral Authority.
- Through local press releases.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Council will review the effectiveness of its community engagement efforts to ensure they remain meaningful, inclusive and productive.