

Great Abington Parish Council

Community Engagement Policy

Purpose

Great Abington Parish Council's purpose is to represent the views and fulfil the needs of the village community. Consulting the community on important issues and decisions is a vital role of this Council to ensure the views of the residents are taken into consideration or reflected in the decisions made. Equally any difficulties identified can be addressed and resolved as far as possible.

By working with residents to ensure that Council activities and decisions are communicated widely, using various mediums, the Council strives to improve life in the village for all. Residents will be given the opportunity to have their views heard and will be treated respectfully.

Aims

Great Abington Parish Council will:

- represent and promote the interests of Great Abington and its people of all ages in all its activities;
- ensure that the community is kept fully informed, involved and consulted with on Parish Council plans and projects
- listen to the views expressed by community members to help develop and improve the quality of life and well-being of the community.
- provide the best possible amenities and services to improve village life by the efficient use of available resources;
- actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the local area;
- promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination;
- be open and accountable in all it does.

In order to achieve these aims, the Council will:

- work closely with residents, local businesses and community groups;
- engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future (particularly those hard to reach groups);
- ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents to capture their views and learn their concerns, and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;

- ensure that residents have opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

How the Council communicates and hears the views of the community:

- The Abingtons website www.theabingtons.org.uk contains information about this Council and links to other local government services.
- All Council meetings and planning committee meetings are open to the public. At both the beginning and end of Parish Council meetings the public are given the opportunity to talk to Parish Councillors about items on the agenda or any other matters of concern. During planning meetings members of the public are given the opportunity to express their views to the meeting, prior to applications being considered. The dates of meetings are advertised on the website and on the noticeboard.
- Council meetings along with the meeting agendas are advertised on the Parish Council notice board and on the 'Abingtons' website.
- Minutes of Parish Council meetings posted on the Parish Council notice board and on the Abingtons website.
- Information on all aspects of the work of the Parish Council are included in the GAPC section of the Abington and Hildersham News.
- The Parish Council uses social media such as Facebook.
- Village groups have held public events to share views and future aspirations, which the Council has attended.
- Parish Council contact details are published on the Abingtons website, and in 'The Abingtons and Hildersham News'.

Adopted : May 2021

Chairman signs: