

Wickham Parish Council

Community Engagement Strategy

Adopted 19th July 2010

1. Aims and Objectives

1.1 Wickham Parish Council is committed to high standards of community engagement. The Council is directly accountable to its local community: all who live, work or study within the parish boundary. The Council aims to improve the quality of life for the community it serves and to be responsive to its needs.

1.2 The Council endeavours to work with the community and consult as widely as possible. It will continue to build relationships and increase partnership working with residents, the business community, voluntary organisations, service providers and local authorities.

1.3 This statement sets out how the Council will keep the community informed of its work and ensure it is able to contribute to the Council's activities and decision making.

2. Provision of Information to the Community

2.1 This Council ensures that documents reflecting its decisions are published and readily available to the community. Documents include meeting agendas, minutes and annual reports of the Council which are:

- published on the Council's website www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk
- posted on notice boards at the Community Centre, Wickham Square, Knowle South Square and Old Knowle adjacent to Totsome Cottages (information provided limited by size of board at Old Knowle)
- available to view by prior arrangement at the Clerk's home or before Council meetings

A newsletter is included in every edition of the Parish Magazine to provide updates on the Council's work and news items included on the Latest News page of the website.

2.2 The Council's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme (Information Guide) is available to view and download from its website www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

3. Opportunities for involvement and representations to the Council

3.1 All Council meetings are open to the community and time is set aside for public participation.

3.2 The Police, Winchester City and Hampshire County Councillors have an opportunity to make reports to full council meetings and councillors and members of the community may ask questions and raise issues of concern.

3.3 The Council hosts a Parish Assembly, an annual meeting of the parish, between 1st March and 1st June inclusive. This provides an opportunity for local organisations to promote their work and for members of the community to informally discuss concerns with councillors.

4. Involvement in Partnerships

4.1 The Council has representation on a number of local organisations that make decisions affecting the local community. Reports on meetings attended are made to the appropriate committee or to full council.

5. Specific Areas for Community Involvement

5.1 The Council aims to consult widely when considering new projects, should controversial planning applications be received and when preparing documents such as the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan. If additional meetings are arranged or consultation documents produced, details will be published on the notice boards and website and in the Parish Magazine.

6. Contacting the Council

6.1 The Clerk is the Proper Officer of the council and will usually be the first point of contact for information about the Council and its work. The contact details for the Clerk are published on agendas, the website, notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and at the end of this Statement.

7. Role of councillors

7.1 Councillors are the decision makers of the council and members of the community are welcome to contact them for informal discussions. Contact details for councillors are available from the Clerk and are also published on the notice boards, website and in the annual report and December newsletter which are delivered to every household in the Parish.

8. Specific Areas for Community Involvement

8.1 The Council aims to consult widely when considering new projects, when controversial planning applications are received and during the preparation of documents such as the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan. If additional meetings are arranged or consultation documents produced, details will be published on the notice boards, website and in the Parish Magazine.

Please feel free to contact to contact the Clerk for more information on anything in this Statement.

Nicki Oliver Parish Clerk, Heatherdene, Turkey Island, Shedfield, Southampton SO32 2JE
Tel 01329 835019 email clerk.wickham@parish.hants.gov.uk

Signed.....

Date.....