

# **WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Community Engagement Policy**

Adopted: February 2018  
Reviewed: June 2023  
Next Review Due: June 2025

Wortwell Parish Council intends to have meaningful engagement and collaboration with the community as part of its working practice.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Our key objectives (What we are going to do to achieve our objectives)**

##### **To Strengthen Partnerships**

Work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies, organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

- Through proactive networking and Parish Council representatives, encourage partners to approach the Parish Council with clear, well thought out constructive ideas which will benefit all sections of the community and on which there can be joint working.

##### **To promote Communication at all levels**

Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, newsletters and press releases.

- Give the public the opportunity to ask questions at all of its public meetings.
- Encourage public feedback, both positive and ideas for development, by visiting the website and during public participation at Council meetings. By including the community through questionnaires, by staff and councillors canvassing opinion and by any method which is relevant to the subject being considered.

##### **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.
- Attain maximum benefit from management of the Council's assets.

##### **To promote a Sustainable community.**

Acknowledge the diversity of what heritage means to Wortwell and seek to maintain this through active engagement in the Wortwell Survey of Parishioners and providing opportunities for villagers to express their views during Public Participation at Parish Council meetings.

- Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote building resilience for the future, this includes being proactive in emergency planning
- 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 services for all.
- Work wherever possible with the business community to sustain economic vibrancy. digital media to record meetings is allowed. Separate arrangements are in place to protect those who may not wish to be recorded. The Parish Council works in

partnership with community organisations, the business sector and voluntary organisations to enable wider community involvement.

- The Council recognises that there are residents who may have specific needs or less chance than others to get involved such as the elderly, young people, those who are based rurally without transport etc. and will seek to use different ways in which to promote social inclusion.
- This could include having a presence at local events, ensuring regular information on what we are doing is provided through the website, on our noticeboards, newsletters and annual reports.
- We aim to use clear and jargon free opportunities to engage.
- Feedback from community engagement will be included in Parish Council Minutes, on the website, through Annual Reports and newsletters.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

- There are opportunities for individuals/groups and partner organisations to ask questions at the beginning and end of every public meeting of the Council.
- The Parish Council can be contacted by telephone or via email during the Clerks hours of work.

### **INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS**

- Wortwell Parish Council will work proactively wherever possible to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

### **ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

- Wortwell Parish Council members and officers will engage with the community through partnership working, especially with statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Parish Councillors may also sit as observers on local organisations on invitation.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Parish Council intends to seek the views of local residents on the services that they provide, but also on wider issues which affect people living locally. Consultation will be directly through the Parish Council. Consultations initiated by other statutory bodies will be separate to the Parish Council and information gathered through them will be issued through the relevant authority.

### **COMPLAINTS**

Complaints made under this policy should be referred to the Clerk as identified under the Council's Complaints Policy.