



BURTON UPON STATHER PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

1. Aims and Objectives

Burton upon Stather Parish Council is an open and transparent Council, which values the opinions of the community which it serves. It continues to listen to the needs and concerns of the community and will do everything within its power and financial constraints, to make the Parish a better place to live and work.

The purpose of this document is to deliver a standard policy for engagement with residents and partners, whilst recognising the services that the Parish Council provides must reflect the needs of its residents and the locality.

This policy aims to improve communication between the Parish Council and the residents of the Parish in order to increase awareness of local issues and council involvement, encourage public participation and receive feedback.

Burton upon Stather Parish Council aims to:

- a. Represent and promote the interests of Burton upon Stather, Normanby and Thealby:
- b. Pay attention to the needs of all the residents including the hard to reach groups
- c. Provide the best possible amenities and services by the efficient use of available resources
- d. Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area
- e. Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination
- f. Be open and accountable in all it does
- g. Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing the ecological and environmental assets
- h. Encourage partnership working
- i. Ensure all information published is clear, concise and widely available
- j. Improve, plan and shape the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities.
- k. Improve the quality and delivery of services
- l. Use engagement to inform decision making, ensuring decisions are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the parish
- m. Enhance the well being of the parish
- n. Be a stronger, more active and cohesive parish

2. Achievement of Aims

To achieve these aims, the Parish Council will:

- a. Work closely with residents, businesses and community groups
- b. Engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making
- c. Monitor services and plan for the future
- d. 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
- e. Ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective residents

3. Provision of Information to the Community

Burton upon Stather Parish Council has many avenues through which it communicates with its community:

- a. The Parish Office on the High Street, Burton upon Stather, DN15 9DE is open Monday to Thursday, 9am to 1pm.
- b. The Parish Council's website <https://www.buspc.org> provides comprehensive information on the work of the Parish Council
- c. The Parish Council provides six notice-boards around the Parish which are used to display Council information.
- d. The Parish Council's Newsletter is published regularly throughout the year and is distributed to all households. It is also available on the Parish Council website
- e. All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public and a period is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions relating to items on the agenda
- f. Contact details of all the Councillors and the Clerk are published on the Parish Office notice board and the website.
- g. A website containing all relevant information about the work of the Parish Council including meeting minutes, financial statements and how to contact the Council; this also includes links to other organisations including the unitary authority
- h. Publishing of agendas and other information, on the notice boards for all Council meetings
- i. Publishing of minutes, on the Council website, for all Council meetings
- j. The Parish Council's involvement in the Annual Parish Meeting
- k. Public meetings are called to gauge public opinion about important issues affecting the town such as major planning applications
- l. Ensures Members and Officers attend, as appropriate, meetings of 'Outside Bodies' as well as those comprising community groups and other levels of local government and agencies

4. Future Outcomes to Improve Community Engagement

The outcomes the Council hopes to achieve are:

- a. Improved communication with the local community
- b. A better understanding within the community of the role of the Parish Council and of its Councillors
- c. Local people actively contributing to decision making
- d. To respond to views and needs of residents and address their priorities
- e. Promotion of local democracy
- f. Proactively working to improve the Parish and the lives of residents
- g. Delivering and improving upon value for money

5. Reviewing and Assessing Effectiveness of the Strategy

This strategy will be reviewed and updated annually; its effectiveness will be assessed by Councillors and Council staff and amendments and/or improvements would be recommended if benefits are identified.