COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Barford & Wramplingham Parish Council

Introduction

The Parish Council is the closest tier of local government to the community. Barford & Wramplingham Parish Council ("the Council") wishes to work closely with parishioners, community groups and businesses to encourage participation in decision making.

Aims and Objectives

The aim is to secure better services and to create a more active and informed community.

The Community

The Council seeks to engage with ***all*** sections of Barford & Wramplingham's community including the young, disenfranchised, disaffected and the elderly as well as the local business community, the clubs, organisations and societies which are active in the parish, its partners such as South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council, the neighbourhood policing team, the local school and the church. The Council is committed to engaging with anyone with an interest in the economic, social and environmental well being of Barford & Wramplingham.

Information access for the Community

The Council's publications schedule lists documentation available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. This information is available in hard copy from the clerk. The full accounts are available for inspection from clerk. Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Barford & Wramplingham website, notice boards and from the clerk.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

All Council meetings are open to the public and include a public session for parishioners to make representation to members. All councillors are available for informal discussion and their telephone numbers and their contact details are available from the clerk or the website.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

Representations to the Council will normally be considered at the next Council meeting. If the request is for information only the clerk will respond accordingly. The Council has a Code of Practice for handling complaints, available from the clerk. The publication of agendas on the Council's website and notice board gives residents the

opportunity to make representation to the council before agenda items are discussed. All formal representations received are responded to by letter or email.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Council is committed to partnership working where it is clear that it will benefit the parish or to fulfil its statutory requirements. For example, the Council works in partnership with other tiers of government and is represented on the Village Hall Committee. The Council has a close working relationship with both district and county Councillors.

Role of Council Members and Officers

Elected members are advocates for their community and their leadership role enables them to have a major input into the consultation and engagement process. Barford & Wramplingham Parish Councillors are accessible, their contact details published on the website and in the parish magazine. They are available to talk to residents during the public session at the start of each Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting. In a private capacity, councillors engage with many of Barford & Wramplingham's clubs, societies and organisations, where they may promote the work of the Council and be available to parishioners**.**

Contacts

Barford & Wramplingham website

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