

BURTON AGNES PARISH COUNCIL

Community Engagement Policy

Purpose

Burton Agnes Parish Council has developed this Community Engagement Policy to set out how it will communicate and engage effectively with residents, community groups, local businesses, and partner organisations.

The Council recognises that the services it provides should reflect the needs and aspirations of the community and its environment. It is committed to ensuring that residents have opportunities to contribute to decisions that affect them and to help shape the future of the parish.

Overall Aim

The overall aim of this policy is to define how the Council will engage and consult on important matters by:

- Providing clear and accessible information
- Consulting and involving residents in decision-making
- Encouraging inclusive participation across all sections of the community
- Ensuring feedback is considered and used to improve services and local quality of life

Key Objectives

- To identify and understand the priorities of the Burton Agnes community
- To support and promote local projects, events, and initiatives
- To use community engagement to inform Council decision-making
- To contribute to the development of a strong, active, and cohesive community

How We Will Achieve These Objectives

Community Engagement

- The Council will use consultations and surveys where appropriate to gather residents' views and inform decisions. Efforts will be made to reach all sections of the community, including those who may be harder to engage.
- A grants scheme may be maintained (subject to budget availability) to support local organisations and community initiatives.
- An annual report will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Information will be shared regularly via appropriate communication channels such as newsletters, noticeboards, and digital platforms.
- The Parish Council website and/or social media platforms will be updated regularly to provide timely and relevant information.
- Public and extraordinary meetings will be held as required to discuss significant issues affecting the parish.

- While community feedback is valued and will inform decision-making, elected councillors are responsible for making final decisions in the best interests of the parish as a whole.

Working with Community Partnerships

Burton Agnes Parish Council will seek to support and collaborate with local groups, organisations, and initiatives that benefit the community. This may include:

- Supporting recreational facilities, open spaces, and local amenities
- Participating in or supporting community events and activities
- Encouraging initiatives that promote safety, wellbeing, and community cohesion
- Supporting charitable and fundraising activities within the parish

Community Involvement

The Council encourages residents and community groups to engage with its work:

- Public participation will be permitted at Council meetings at the discretion of the Chair, typically with a set time allocation and reasonable limits per speaker.
- Residents are invited to attend and contribute to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Contact details for the Parish Clerk will be made publicly available via appropriate channels, along with meeting agendas, minutes, and notices.
- Requests for support from organisations working for the benefit of the community will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Intended Outcomes

- Increased resident participation in consultations and local initiatives
- Greater community involvement in projects and events
- Improved communication between the Council and the community
- Stronger community relationships and engagement

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant. Updates may be made to reflect changes in legislation, best practice, or the needs of the community.