

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Aim

The aim of this strategy is to give residents a voice and to involve them in decisions which affect our community. The Parish Council aims to engage our residents and encourage their participation in decision making to secure improved services and create a more active and engaged community.

This strategy sets out how we intend to achieve this.

Providing Information

The Council will communicate clearly, factually and regularly through:

The continuing development of the village website which details all our services and activities.

Including a report on Parish Council activities in every edition of the Parish Magazine.

Preparing and distributing an Annual report on Council activities to all households and businesses within the Parish.

Ensuring that all meeting agendas and minutes are published on the website, on Notice boards and are available to view by prior arrangement with the Clerk.

Providing regular reports on Council activities to the local press.

Encouraging Participation

All Council meetings are open to the Public and will include time allocated for public participation.

The Council will organise an annual Parish Meeting in April or May of each year. This will provide an opportunity for local organisations to promote their work and for residents to raise issues formally or informally with Councillors.

The Council will organise regular "Surgeries" where residents can raise issues and concerns on an individual basis.

Working in Partnership

The Council will continually strive to improve and develop its working relationship with key partners and stakeholders through:

Inviting the Police and local Borough/ County Councillors to make reports to full council meetings

Hosting a regular meeting of the local SNAP group in the Parish.

Identifying opportunities to arrange information or consultation meetings with key local Organisations and service providers.

Exploring opportunities for the Council to become more actively involved in working with key groups within the Community such as the School, The Church and the Village Hall.

Specific Areas For Involvement

The Council aims to consult as widely as possible when considering new projects or planning proposals which could impact significantly on the Parish or when preparing key documents. If additional meetings are required details will be published on the website, on Notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and where necessary through direct leafleting.

The Role Of Councillors

Councillors are the decision makers of the Council and welcome informal discussions with Parishioners. Contact details for all Councillors will be published on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

On an annual basis Councillors will review the effectiveness of this strategy and agree any appropriate improvements.