

**CLAPHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

**1. Introduction**

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

**VISION STATEMENT**

Clapham is and will continue to be, a great place in which to live, work and play.

**2. The community**

2.1. The council is directly responsible to the people of its area, who collectively form the community. Within the community, there are a variety of different bodies and the council must therefore relate closely to those bodies as well as the community as a whole.

2.2. Clapham's community is all those people living or working or visiting within the Parish boundary, including local groups and organisations

**3. Aims and objectives**

3.1. The council aims to ensure that residents and the bodies making up the community are appropriately involved in the decision making process, particularly in relation to the provision of services and facilities. Whenever possible and practical, the council will encourage the involvement of community members in order to identify their needs and concerns.

3.2. To this end, the council will maintain and develop effective working relationships with all sectors of the community in the expectation that this will lead to:

- Improved satisfaction with public services in the area
- A greater sense within the community that people are involved in decisions which affect them
- Greater awareness within the community of the role and responsibilities of the council

#### **4. Opportunities for community involvement**

4.1. The council will engage with the community by providing:

- A website which includes a wide range of information and how the community can contact the council or councillors
- A newsletter
- An Annual Report summarising the council's activities for the year and providing details of the council's financial position
- A timetable of council and committee meetings and encouraging public attendance
- Details of agendas for all council and committee meetings on noticeboards throughout the village, as well as on the council website
- A period of time at the council meetings for questions from members of the public
- Minutes of all council and committee meetings on the council website
- Nominated councillors as representatives to outside bodies with interests affecting the area
- The organisation for the Annual Parish Meeting, which is open to all residents

#### **5. Opportunities for formal representation to the council**

5.1. The council may appoint advisors on specific areas of activity where their expertise would assist the council in its decision making, but equally welcomes public participation at council meetings.

5.2. The Clerk or councillor is generally available to meet those who may wish to attend the council meeting or appointed time and place in order to discuss matters of interest or concern.

5.3. From time to time particular topics arise which are of sufficient community wide interest to justify the organisation of a public meeting or an extraordinary council meeting, and the council will make arrangements for such meetings to be held in a suitable location should such a situation arise.

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