

STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

To achieve targets identified in the Steyning Parish Council Business Plan, the Parish Council wishes to work closely with the public – residents, communities, businesses and voluntary organisations.

Our aim is to engage with all residents and encourage their participation in decision making, securing better services, being engaged with the local democratic process and creating a more active and informed community.

AIMS

Steyning Parish Council strives to undertake the following:

To enable an involved, empowered and active citizenship through the involvement of residents in the fulfilment of objectives identified in the Business Plan.

To communicate information to our community clearly, factually and appropriately through the Parish Council website and via a quarterly newsletter included in the March, June, September and December copies of Your Steyning.

To improve our communication with our partners and stakeholders and co-ordinate our community engagement efforts by actively being involved in various organisations including: HALC, SALC, WSCC, HDC, SDNPA, Steyning Business Chamber and the Steyning Community Partnership and Sub-Committees.

To raise the profile of Steyning Parish Council by:

- Inviting residents to be actively involved in our meetings during the time set aside for public questions,
- Publicising the Annual Parish Meeting,
- Encouraging use of the Parish Council website,
- Qualifying for the Local Council Award Scheme

To enable every Councillor to maximise their role as elected representatives by:

- Providing Councillors with a Members Pack at the commencement of their term of office,
- Encouraging members to undertake relevant training,
- Posting agendas and minutes on the Parish Council website,
- Encouraging designated Councillors to attend meetings of community organisations,
- Encouraging designated Councillors to take up places on community groups and organisations

ENGAGEMENT

The Council wishes to actively engage with:

- Residents of all age groups,
- Users of Parish Council facilities and services,
- Local organisations and community groups,
- Local schools and pre-schools,
- Steyning Community Partnership,
- Steyning in Bloom,
- Local Police, PSCO's and Neighbourhood Wardens,
- Steyning Area Youth Service, Youth Worker
- HALC, SALC & NALC,
- Steyning Business Chamber

ACTION PLAN

To continue to improve the Parish Council website, to ensure that copies of minutes and agendas and all information regarding the Parish Council is available for residents and community groups.

To continue to ensure that a copy of the Steyning Parish Council Annual Report is available, in both hard copy and electronically, for residents and community organisations.

To continue to provide a quarterly Parish Council newsletter in 'Your Steyning'.

To continue to encourage members of the public to speak during public question time.

To raise awareness and increase attendance at Annual Parish Meetings.

To consider the formation of a Youth Council, in conjunction with the Steyning Area Youth Service (SAYS).

Agreed by Steyning Parish Council
At the meeting of 12.10.15