

# DISLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Community Engagement Strategy

Disley Parish Council has developed a community engagement strategy with the aim of constructing a standard for engagement with its residents and partners.

It recognizes that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its parishioners and the locality.

Disley Parish Council believes that its residents should be involved in decisions affecting them, their neighbourhood and the future of the parish.

### **Aims**

The aim of the strategy is to improve the way in which the Council consults and engages its residents and partners by

- Informing, consulting and involving
- Ensuring views are listened to and taken into account when making decisions on issues that enhance and improve services and affect the quality of life for residents.

### **Objectives**

- To improve, plan and shape the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities.
- To improve the quality and delivery of services
- To use engagement to inform decision making
- To enhance the well being of the parish
- To be a stronger, more active and cohesive parish

### **How this will be achieved**

Community engagement will be achieved by Disley Parish Council by communicating, consulting, supporting and working together with its residents.

### **Communication**

- The Disley Newsletter is delivered to every house in the parish. This quarterly publication informs residents on important issues and events. It is also used as a medium for consultation and includes articles from the various societies and groups active in the parish.
- Disley Parish Website has a wealth of local information and is updated on a weekly basis. Agendas and minutes are posted. The website also contains a dynamic poll section which allows questions to be posed and residents the opportunity to vote on the issue in question.
- Meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and include a Public Forum giving an opportunity for anyone to address and engage with Cllrs. The Parish Council also holds an Annual Parish Meeting to which all residents are invited.

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- Disley Parish Council has several notice boards throughout the parish which are used to advertise events, meetings. These are also displayed in the windows of the Parish Council office and the Library/Community Centre.
- Flyers are sometimes produced and delivered to inform of meetings and/or events. The Parish Council also works closely with the local press - i.e. The Macclesfield Express, Stockport Express & High Peak Courier.

## **Consultation**

- Consulting all parishioners on important issues is the key to this strategy. It will ensure that those most affected are able to put forward an opinion.
- Disley Parish Council will ensure consultations include all members of the parish by identifying the hard to reach groups such as youths, the elderly, the housebound, the disabled and ethnic minorities.
- Disley Parish Council has facilitated the formation of a Parish Plan group that will be carrying out a wide ranging consultation on all aspects of parish life. It is hoped that the results of this will give the Parish Council a clear indication as to the priorities of residents.
- Disley Parish Councillors attend weekly coffee mornings at which residents have the opportunity to speak with Councillors on any matter. They also hold surgeries in various locations within the village at which the PCSOs are also usually present.

## **Support**

- Disley Parish Council will offer support and engage with local organisations and assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.
- Supporting local projects and participating in local events helps to raise awareness of the council and its aims and objectives.
- Supporting members of the parish in shaping the future of the parish will help to make a more cohesive community.

## **Acting Together**

- Acting together with residents and partners in finding solutions to local problems will ensure that they will be accepted and be fit for purpose.
- Acting together to carry out agreed action plans will engage the community in working with the Council to enhance the environment and quality of life.
- Acting together in decision making and policy will ensure that residents have a voice and can make a difference.

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## Measuring Success

Success will be measured by predefined targets, annual reviews of consultation outcomes, monitoring residents' participation in consultation processes and increases in involvement in local projects and events.

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Statement</b>
Raise awareness of consultation processes	Promote through Disley Newsletter, the website, local media, parish notice boards.	Promoting the strategy will be an ongoing priority and commitment.
Identify consultation/focus groups	Identify members of the parish with specific skill who can be consulted on specialist matters.	This will enable smaller consultations where specialist advice is required to inform decision making.
Work with the Police and partner authorities	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones.	
Identify minority/hard to reach groups.	Identify these groups and channels of contact and consultation.	Identifying these groups will ensure they are included in consultation processes.
Utilise the website for vox-pop surveys	Promote the website online poll facility.	Vox-pop surveys are a useful tool to judge general opinions without the need for a full consultation process
Identify consultation needs, priorities and importance	Establish need, priorities and importance of consultation.	This ensures that there is no overkill, overlap or misuse of the consultation process.
Identify benefits of consultation	Identify whether there is a real opportunity for people to influence decisions.	No consultation should be undertaken unless the outcome can be influenced. Unless this is possible a consultation will be meaningless and residents will become disillusioned in the process.
Feedback on consultations	Agree methods of feedback to residents and partners and ensure it's adhered to.	This will keep all parties involved in the process.

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Ensure outcomes of consultations are used to inform decisions and policy	Use the outcome of consultations to inform decision making and shape policies.	All consultations will be undertaken to achieve the best possible outcome for parishioners, locality and environment.
Review outcome of key decisions.	Review consultation outcomes annually to highlight any failings in the process	This will enable identification of any changes and amendments required to the strategy.