

**TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY
PARISH COUNCIL**

www.tolleshuntarcypc.org



Community Engagement Strategy Policy

V1.0

Clerk: Michelle Curtis, PO Box 13205, Maldon, Essex CM9 9FU
Tel: 078483 325853 e-mail: clerk@tolleshuntarcypc.org

Community Engagement Strategy Policy

INTRODUCTION

Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council is committed to engaging residents by encouraging them to become actively involved in decisions that affect them and the community, deliver better services, and improve the quality of life of residents by creating a more active and informed community.

AIMS

The aim of the Community Engagement Strategy Policy is to:

- Improve the way in which the Council communicates with residents;
- Listen to the views of residents on important issues;
- Use these issues to deliver better services;
- Improve long-term social, economic and environmental well-being of residents;
- Plan future development of the parish in accordance with community priorities and needs.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Community Engagement Strategy are to:

- Use a variety of methods to make information available;
- Actively facilitate and encourage community engagement;
- Proactively engage with all sections of the community;
- Ensure that decisions meet the needs of the community by involving members of the community in the decision-making process;
- Work in partnership with other organisations and authorities to improve the quality and delivery of services;
- Enhance the well-being of members of the community.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Information will be made available in a variety of ways to ensure that all sections of the community are reached.

Parish Council Office

Residents may contact the Parish Council office by email, in person (by appointment only) and by telephone Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

Details of contacting the Parish Council office and Councillors are provided on the noticeboard, the website and the Council Facebook page.

Media

Press releases to manage the media effectively to promote the Parish Council. Use of the Parish Council logo to promote the Parish Council.

Parish Council Noticeboards

Information including agendas for meetings and contact details for the Clerk and Councillors is displayed on the noticeboard located outside the village shop in South Street.

Parish Council Newsletter

Published quarterly and available in hardcopy in the Queens Head Public House and D'Arcy Stores. Also available to view on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Parish Council Website

The website provides a large amount of information, including Agendas and Minutes for meetings, Parish Council policies and reports, local news, forthcoming events, Maldon District Council and Essex County Council news. The website is updated continuously by the Parish Clerk.

Social Media

A social media Facebook page has been developed and is overseen by the Clerk. News and events are regularly published.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Parish Council Meetings

The monthly (except December) Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and time is set aside for residents to make comments or ask questions. The budget is agreed upon by the Parish Council in November annually.

Additional public meetings are held to address important issues affecting the community.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (Annual Parish Community Meeting) is held to report back to residents on the Council's activities over the previous year and allow them to contribute to plans for the Village.

Access to Parish Councillors

Councillor contact details are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard, outside D'Arcy Stores in South Street and on the Parish Council Website and Facebook page. Councillors can be contacted on these numbers to discuss concerns or questions about local issues.

Consultation

Consultations and surveys on important issues will be carried out. The Parish Council will ensure that those most affected by an issue will be given the opportunity to voice an opinion.

Results of all such consultations or surveys will be made available to all members of the Village.

The Annual Parish Community Meeting will continue to be used to obtain the views of residents on matters affecting the community.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Parish Councillors represent the Parish Council on various outside bodies to ensure good two-way communication with regular reports of these meetings made to the Council.

The Parish Council is committed to working with local voluntary and community groups to improve the quality of life for residents in the Village.

The Parish Council has a Grants Scheme to provide financial support to local groups and organisations.

The Parish Council will work with local authorities (Maldon District Council and Essex County Councils and the Police) to ensure an improvement in the quality and delivery of services.

The Parish Council will work with neighbouring parish councils to find a solution to common problems.

The Parish Council will continue to support and engage with local organisations to assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.

The Parish Council will continue to support local projects and events.

The Community Engagement Strategy will be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness and amend as necessary.

Version	Details of Changes	Date	Approver
V1.0	Adopted	26/10/2021	TDPC
	Next Review October 2024		