WISTOW PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Community Engagement Plan for Wistow Parish Council.

Aims and Objectives

Wistow Parish Council aims to:-

- Represent and promote the interests of Wistow and all its people in all forums;
- Provide the best possible amenities and services by the efficient use of available resources;
- Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area;
- Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination;
- Be open and accountable in all it does;
- Support development which is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable;
- Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing Wistow's ecological and environmental assets.

In order to achieve these aims, the Council will:-

- work closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;
- ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard and listened to at every stage.

The objectives the Council hopes to achieve are:

- Improved communication with the local community;

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- A better understanding within the community of the role of the Parish Council and of its Councillors;
- Local people feeling that they are involved in decision making;
- Improved satisfaction with local public services

Target Audience (diverse groups)

- All residents of the village,
- All users of the village's services,
- All those who work within the village,
- All those who own businesses within the village,
- All ages, disabilities, gender, partnership status, religion, and sexual orientation,
- All young people who live and/or attend school within the town,
- All local formal and community organisations, clubs and societies,
- Any group or organisation that represents some or any of the members of the above community,
- Additionally, the Council recognises that there are certain bodies that are crucial to the quality of life in the village and aims to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including the Police, the other tiers of local government and neighbouring town and parish councils.

Engagement Strategies

- Surveys and Questionnaires: Use to gather opinions on local issues and services.
- Public Meetings: Host regular monthly meetings for residents to voice concerns and ask questions.
- Workshops and Focus Groups: Facilitate discussions on specific topics or projects.
- Newsletters: Distribute regular updates on council activities, initiatives, and upcoming events via our news section of the website.
- Social Media: Utilise platforms to share information and interact with the community.

Communication Channels

- Website: Maintain an up-to-date site with resources, meeting minutes, and contact information.
- Local Media: Engage with local newspapers and radio stations for broader outreach.

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- Social Media: Utilise platforms to share information and interact with the community.
- Parish Clerk: The Clerk is usually the point of contact for both informal and formal discussions.

Evaluation

Wistow Parish Council will continuously evaluate the effectiveness of engagement efforts (e.g., participation rates, community feedback, satisfaction surveys) at all key stages.

The Council will then discuss and agree an action plan going forward following any engagement received.

Budget

Allocate resources for engagement activities, including materials, advertising, and event costs.

Ongoing Improvement

Review and adjust the engagement plan regularly based on feedback and changing community needs.

Conclusion

By implementing this plan, the parish council can foster stronger connections with residents, groups, organisations, ensuring their voices are heard and encouraging active participation in local governance.

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