

**ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

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

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**1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES Our key objectives**

**What we are going to do to achieve our objectives.**

**1.1 To Strengthen Partnerships**

Work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies, organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

Through proactive networking and Parish Council representatives, encourage partners to approach the Parish Council with clear, well thought out constructive ideas which will benefit all sections of the community and on which there can be joint working.

**1.2 To promote Communication at all levels**

Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, newsletters and press releases.

Give the public the opportunity to ask questions at all of its public meetings.

Encourage public feedback, both positive and ideas for development, by visiting the website and during public participation at Council meetings. By including the community through questionnaires, by staff and councillors canvassing opinion and by any method which is relevant to the subject being considered.

**1.3 To Manage the Council’s resources wisely**

Have good financial control through legal procedures and quality auditing to ensure that resources are spent on the needs of the community.

Focus resources on what matters to our community.

Attain maximum benefit from management of the Council’s assets.

**1.4 To promote a Sustainable community.**

Acknowledge the diversity of what heritage means to Ashover and seek to maintain this through active engagement in the planned Ashover Design Statement expressing their

views at Parish Council meetings.

Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote building resilience for the future, this includes being proactive in emergency planning and flood awareness.

Work to encourage balancing the current needs of people, the economy and the environment without compromising the future. Be sensitive to our environment and contribute to a high quality of life.

Promote safety and inclusion, opportunities and good services for all.

Work wherever possible with the business community to sustain economic vibrancy. digital media to record meetings is allowed. Separate arrangements are in place to protect those who may not wish to be recorded. The Parish Council works in partnership with community organisations, the business sector and voluntary organisations to enable wider community involvement.

The Council recognises that there are residents who may have specific needs or less chance than others to get involved such as the elderly, young people, those who are based rurally without transport etc. and will seek to use different ways in which to promote social inclusion. This could include having a presence at local events, ensuring regular information on what we are doing is provided through the website, on our noticeboards, newsletters and annual reports.

We aim to use clear and jargon free opportunities to engage.

Feedback from community engagement will be included in Parish Council Minutes, on the website, through Annual Reports and newsletters.

## **2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

There are opportunities for individuals/groups and partner organisations to ask questions at the beginning of every public meeting of the Council.

The Parish Council can be contacted by telephone every weekday during the Clerks hours of attendance.

## **3 INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS**

Ashover Parish Council will work proactively wherever possible to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

## **4 ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Ashover Parish Council members and officers will engage with the community through partnership working, especially with statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Parish Councillors will also sit as observers on local organisations on invitation.

## **5 SPECIFIC AREAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Parish Council intends to seek the views of local residents on the services that they provide, but also on wider issues which affect people living locally. Consultation may be directly through the Parish Council, its Councillors and those authorised to work on behalf of the Council. North East Derbyshire District Council have 'Consultation and Community Involvement' which are available on their individual websites. Consultations initiated by other statutory bodies

will be separate to the Parish Council and information gathered through them will be issued through the relevant authority.

**ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Reviewed:** May 2017

**Reviewed:** May 2018

**Next Review:** May 2021