



Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan

Adopted by the Parish Council on 02/06/2016

1. INTRODUCTION

Ripponden Parish Council lay out below the Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan for the financial years 2016/2017 which outline the council aim to engage with its residents and other organisations. This is a living document which will be developed to continuously improve Community Engagement.

The Parish Council recognises that the service it provides must reflect the needs and aspirations of the community in the locality covered by the council. This rural area includes the villages of Ripponden, Barkisland, Rishworth and Soyland.

The Parish Council believes its residents and Council Tax payers should be involved in decisions affecting their neighbourhood and contribute to shaping the future of the parish.

2. ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR ELECTORATE

Ripponden Parish Council will engage with our electorate, which includes residents, other local organisations, voluntary groups and partners within the parish, by taking the following actions:

- Will inform, consult and involve others
- Will be inclusive and will engage with all who wish to be seen as partner organisations
- Will ensure it takes into account views expressed by others who wish to improve services, the environment and quality of life for all those who live, work or visit the parish area.

3. STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this strategy for the year 2016/2017 are:

- To be a proactive and cohesive Parish
- To actively support and encourage local groups
- To respond to the changing circumstances of our community
- To partner with local organisations to enhance the environment in which we live

4. HOW THESE OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACHIEVED

Communication

The Council will consult and inform the public utilising the following communication techniques:

A Bi-Annual Newsletter – delivered to every household in the Parish. The Newsletter updates local residents on Parish events, invites community involvement in its activities and is one of the vehicles to promote consultation when required.

The Parish Council Web-site – (www.rippondenparishcouncil.gov.uk) will provide up to date information on Parish Council meetings, events and activities.

A Facebook Page ([facebook/ripponden-parish-council](https://www.facebook.com/ripponden-parish-council)) will provide topical information on the Council's activities and current press releases.

The Annual Report will provide a summary of the Parish Council's activities over the year and will be distributed to every household in the parish.

Press releases to the Media will be issued on a regular basis highlighting items of newsworthy information. The local magazine 'Go Local', which is issued free to all households, will be supplied with a monthly news item.

Meetings of the Council and its Committees will be open to the public and the public will be encouraged to attend to engage with Councillors. An agenda item for each meeting will allow the public to address the meeting.

Community Involvement

Committees will where appropriate co-opt residents and representatives of local community groups, as non-voting members, to enable community views to be a contributory factor in decision making

The Annual Parish Meeting (Parish Assembly) provides local groups and residents with the opportunity to share their views, plans and aspirations with the Parish Council and the community.

Consultation

Consulting parishioners on key issues is vital. It ensures that those most affected are able to put forward an opinion and given the opportunity to make a difference.

The Parish Council needs to ensure that any consultations include all members of the Parish by identifying the hard to reach groups such as youths, elderly, housebound, disabled, ethnic minorities etc.

Support

Supporting local organisations and engaging with them will assist groups in meeting their own aims and objectives. The Parish Council's grant policy is an excellent means of understanding the needs and aspirations of local groups.

Supporting projects and participating in local events will raise the awareness of the Council and its aims and objectives.

Working with the Community

Working together to carry out agreed action plans will engage the community and assist the Parish Council to enhance the environment and quality of life of residents.

Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Council's and Community groups were given the powers to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, which is seen by the Parish Council as a very important tool for working with both the Community and the Local Planning Authority to provide for better planning for the Parish. The Council will facilitate the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

5. MEASURING SUCCESS

The Community Engagement Action Plan will be reviewed formally on an annual basis by the Parish Council.