

# **Cherry Burton Parish Council**

## **Community Engagement Strategy**

### **1. Purpose**

Cherry Burton Parish Council has developed a community engagement strategy, with a view to establishing a standard for engagement with its residents and voluntary / community groups, along with the business community and external partners.

It recognises that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its community and the environment.

Cherry Burton Parish Council strongly believes that its residents should be involved in decisions affecting them and their community and in shaping the future of their parish.

### **2. Overall aim**

The overall aim of the strategy is to determine the way in which the Council engages and consults on important issues by:

- Informing, consulting and involving
- Being inclusive and engaging with all its residents and partners
- Ensuring views are listened to and used to develop and enhance services, to improve both the quality of life for residents, along with the environment.

### **3. Key objectives**

- To prepare a Parish Plan taking account of our community's priorities.
- To support local projects and participate in local events and activities around the parish.
- To use engagement to aid decision making, to ensure we act in and represent the best interests of our community.
- To ensure the Parish Council play a full part in creating and maintaining an active and cohesive community.

## **4. How we plan to achieve the key objectives**

### **4.1 Community Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultations and surveys will play an important part in our overall strategy. The aim is to ensure residents are given the chance to put forward their views in order to influence key decisions, efforts will be made to identify hard to reach groups and establish a suitable channel of engagement with them.
- 4.1.2 The Parish Council has formulated a policy for awarding small grants that local organisations can apply for. An annual budget of £1,000 has been provided under section 137.
- 4.1.3 An annual report is made available prior to the AGM.
- 4.1.4 A newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis.
- 4.1.5 The Parish Council website and Facebook page are both updated on a regular basis. General information will be issued to Parish Councillors for comment 3 days prior to posting. In the event that information is deemed to be of an urgent nature the 3 day 'waiting period' can be waived at the discretion of the PC Chairperson or the PC Clerk.
- 4.1.6 Public meetings and extraordinary meetings are organised on an 'as and when' basis.
- 4.1.7 It is important to acknowledge that Parish Councillors are elected or co-opted onto the PC to represent and make decisions on behalf of the community. Whilst the results of consultations and opinion surveys will be taken into account and play an important role in decision making, Parish Councillors will ultimately make decisions on the basis of their own views and opinions in their role as community representatives.

### **4.2 Involvement in community partnerships**

Cherry Burton Parish Council helps and supports the following community events / activities:

- 4.2.1 The Parish Council helps provide and maintain sports and recreational facilities for all the community, through a sports field, playground, various open spaces and footpaths.
- 4.2.2 The annual village show.
- 4.2.3 The Christmas lights committee.

4.2.4 The Party in the Park 'Cherry Aid' committee.

4.2.5 Road safety measures throughout the village.

4.2.6 Community and charity fund raising events.

#### **4.3 Community involvement**

Cherry Burton Parish Council encourages the involvement of all residents and community organisations at its meetings, specifically:

4.3.1 A maximum period of 10 minutes can be allocated at the discretion of the chairperson at each meeting for public participation with a maximum of 5 minutes that can be allowed for an individual to speak on any item on the agenda.

4.3.2 All residents have the opportunity to comment and ask questions at the annual parish meeting.

4.3.3 Contact details for the Parish Clerk are available on the village website, Facebook and on the village notice board (which will also contain notice of the next meeting, agenda for the next meeting and minutes of the last meeting).

4.3.4 The Parish Council will consider all requests for help and support from organisations working for the benefit of the community.

### **5. Planned outcome**

Increased residents' participation, particularly through the consultation process, leading to greater involvement in community projects and events.

### **6. Review**

An annual review of this Engagement Strategy will be conducted, with a view to continually improving the process through changes or amendments to the strategy based on the results achieved.