

Scarning Parish Council Community Engagement Policy

1 Policy Statement

This policy sets out how Scarning Parish Council engages the wider community, and how it identifies the needs and aspirations of the community.

2 What is Community Engagement ?

Community Engagement is giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions which affect them and their community. This includes individuals, local businesses, and voluntary and community organisations.

3 Our Objectives

3.1 To encourage effective local community engagement and to engage more with the local community.

3.2 To encourage suggestions and plans from residents on ways to improve the quality and range of our facilities.

3.3 To encourage feedback from residents, whether positive or negative.

4 How We Propose to Achieve These Objectives

4.1 By developing a closer network of relationships between the Parish Council, individuals, voluntary and community groups.

4.2 By supporting parish organisations through the provision of grants.

4.3 By using the Parish Council's Community Grants Scheme to encourage a wide selection of activities in the community.

4.4 By publicising the positive results that have been achieved from working relationships between Scarning Parish Council and residents, local businesses and voluntary and community groups in order to improve community spirit.

4.5 By listening, and responding to, the needs and concerns of residents.

4.6 By encouraging residents to attend our meetings. In this respect, the Parish Council will host some of its meetings at Scarning School to make them more accessible to residents.

4.7 The Council will host the Annual Parish Meeting at the school and will encourage residents to question and review how the elected members of the Council help to shape the community.

4.8 By improving our means of communication (See 5 below).

4.9 By promoting the value of becoming a parish councillor and the importance of volunteers throughout the parish.

4.10 By encouraging the establishment of a Community Award. This is open to all residents and those residents who help in the community of Scarning.

4.11 By raising the profile of the Parish Council at events such as fetes and events such as bulb planting, tree planting and so on.

5. Keeping in Touch

We keep in touch with residents through the following means:-

5.1 Residents are encouraged to attend Council meetings and time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for residents to address the Council in the Public Participation period. Residents can attend Council meetings and/or ask questions of councillors at or before the meeting (the latter through correspondence with the Parish Clerk). The Parish Council website explains the procedure for residents wishing to speak at our meetings. The dates of the Parish Council meetings are published on the Council's website at the start of each year.

5.2 Publication of the agendas and minutes of our meetings on the Parish Council website (scarningpc.info). Notification of our meetings is also made available on social media and on our noticeboards.

5.3 Social media updates/announcements both by the Social Media Officer and the Parish Clerk.

5.4 Website updates/announcements.

5.5 Announcements on our noticeboards.

5.6 Consultation events.

5.7 Working parties.

5.8 Questionnaires and surveys.

5.9 Email and phone (details of how to contact the Parish Clerk are available on the Council's website – scarningclerk@btinternet.com, 07938001056).

5.10 Our policies and procedures are freely available on our website.

5.11 Councillors or the Clerk represent the Parish Council on a number of parish organisations.

Approved: May 2024.

To be reviewed: May 2025.