



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY ON: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (V2)

POLICY

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

VISION STATEMENT

“TO HELP FOSTER A SOMPTING COMMUNITY WHICH GIVES PEOPLE A REASON TO BE PROUD AND ENGAGED WITH THE AREA WE ALL LIVE IN”

Our key objectives and how we are to achieve them

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.

To promote Communication at all levels

- Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, Facebook, Sompting Signpost, noticeboards, newsletters and press releases (publicity methods).
- 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 Parish Council Offices, using the publicity methods 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.

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.

To promote a Sustainable community.

- Acknowledge what heritage means to Sompting and seek to maintain this through active engagement in the ongoing reviews of the Sompting Neighbourhood Plan and the Planning and Amenities and Environment Committees.
- Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote good building design for the future eg energy saving measures.
- 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.

DEFINING THE COMMUNITY

Sompting's community is all of those people living or working within the Parish boundary, including local groups and organisations and partner organisations.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY

Sompting Parish Council will make available to the community, information relating to who we are and what we do, what we spend and how we spend it, what our priorities are and how we are doing, how we make decisions, our policies and procedures, lists and registers and the services we offer. The information that can be provided is detailed in the model publication scheme originally adopted by the Parish Council which is published on the Parish Council website and is available in hard copy by contacting the Parish Council Office, Harriet Johnson Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting, West Sussex BN15 0BG; telephone 07813484857.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

All Parish Council meetings give an opportunity for questions to be asked. Use of 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 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 publicity methods and in the Lancing Library. We aim to use clear and jargon free opportunities to engage.

Feedback from community engagement will be included in Parish Council Minutes, and the publicity methods.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

There are opportunities for individuals/groups and partner organisations to ask questions at every public meeting of the Council. The Parish Council offices are open to the public every Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The Parish Council can be contacted by telephone every weekday between 9am and 12 noon on 07813484857 and / or 01903 208824.

INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS

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

ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Sompting 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.

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.

Consultations initiated by other statutory bodies will be separate to the Parish Council and information gathered through them will be passed to the relevant authority.