

Threapwood Parish Council

Community Engagement Policy

Adopted 28/09/2016

Introduction

Threapwood Parish Council recognises the need to consider the impact its actions on others and the surrounding environment. Whilst the Parish Council cannot force any individuals or group to become involved it can, and shall make it easier and more attractive for them to do so.

The Council considers that the community of Threapwood comprises

- a) All residents of the Parish
- b) All those who work or own businesses within Threapwood
- c) All young people who live in Threapwood
- d) All voluntary organisations, clubs and societies as well as groups or organisations representing sections of the community.

The Council recognises that other bodies are crucial to the quality of life in Threapwood and it will maintain the strong working relationships with Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Police and other local Parish Councils.

The Council defines communication as the process of informing the community about decisions that have been made or the passing on of information.

The Council defines engagement as involving the community to help form opinion and review decisions.

The Council is always open to receiving both positive and negative feedback and has a commitment to encouraging the community to engage with the Council.

COMMUNICATION

- a) The Council website is the primary source of information on the Council for the community and will be kept up-to-date with content routinely monitored.
- b) The Council will actively support the Threapwood Times as valuable community communication news sheet.
- c) The Council will make best possible use of Social Media.
- d) The Council will prepare regular press releases to be sent to the Whitchurch Herald.
- e) The Council will utilise the two noticeboards.

ENGAGEMENT

- a) The Council shall continue to set aside time at every Council Meeting for the public to address the Council.

- b) The Council shall continue to develop the Annual Parish Meeting with the aim of increasing attendance and providing a venue for open community discussion.
- c) The Council shall continue to provide opportunities for members of the public to discuss issues with councillors.
- d) The Council will appoint members to represent the Council on community organisations as requested.
- e) The Council shall continue to utilise social media and its website for receiving and responding to comments from the community.

CONSULTATION

- a) When the Parish Council is seeking views on a specific project or idea it will consult with the community.
- b) Whilst the majority of consultations will be open to the whole community it may on occasion consult with specific stakeholders only.
- c) When planning a consultation the Council will identify the key stakeholders for that specific consultation exercise to ensure they are directly consulted.
- d) Consultations will be publicised as widely as possible and will have a defined end date for submissions.
- e) The Council will be clear about why it is consulting and how the consultation will be used in the Council's decision making process.

Richard Salmon
15/09/2016