

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Reviewed 21st February 2023

Next Review February 2025

Community engagement is about giving local people a voice and involving them in the decisions that affect them and their community. It is about development of relationships and clear communication to deliver better services and projects.

The aim of a community engagement strategy should be to engage residents and encourage their participation in decision making to secure better services and to create a more active and informed community. This strategy sets out how Street Parish Council will engage its community across a broad range of its activities and sets out short, medium and long term aims. It was adopted by the Council on 19th March, 2009.

1. CURRENT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE STREET COMMUNITY

At present residents and other interested persons/organisations can communicate with or receive information from the Council in the following 7 ways.

- A - ANNUAL REPORT published in June. Includes details of council activities, achievements, organisation, grants awarded, summary of accounts.
Circulated to Crispin Community Centre, dental surgeries, Vine Surgery, Library, Chamber of Trade, Tourist Information Centre, offices of Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council.
- B - WEBSITE address is www.street-pc.gov.uk. Information and photos updated regularly and details include information on the council and its activities, local amenities and organisations, current issues and events.
- C - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is held on the third Tuesday in March at 6.30 p.m. and gives electors of the parish a chance to air their views or ask questions on matters relating to Street. A speaker agreed by the council will give an address on a local issue such as restorative justice or social housing and the winners of the Parish Awards are announced.
- D - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME BEFORE MEETINGS is held a short time prior to all meetings of the Planning Committee and the Council and gives residents a chance to speak on local issues which are on the agenda for the meeting. Special meetings are held as necessary to consult local people on new projects.

E - CONTACT WITH CLERK, DEPUTY CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK, can be made by telephone, email, post or by calling at the office in the Parish Rooms from 8.30am. to 4.30pm on Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4pm on Friday.

F - INVESTITURE OF NEW CHAIR is held around the middle of May and includes presentations from local schools. Details are given of the Council's achievements during the year. All local organisations are invited to send representatives to the event and afterwards there is An opportunity for different community leaders and groups to exchange ideas and information.

G - FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER have been set up for the Council and link with the website and other local sites.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION - ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS AND VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Council will aim to find out what the community wants or expects from its council and how content it is with existing services by circulating information on activities regularly and inviting residents to submit their observations to the council. All relevant and appropriate comments will be considered by the Council or one of it's committees or working parties. If few responses are made on any subject it will be assumed that the majority of people, including hard to reach groups and young people, are satisfied with the work being carried out by the Council.