



FINSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted date	05/12/2023	Minute reference:
Next review date	12/2025	10c.iv

INTRODUCTION

As the only tier of local government that is closest to, and operates exclusively within the community it represents, a community engagement policy is crucial for the parish council to effectively interact with and involve the local community in its decision-making processes and initiatives.

POLICY STATEMENT

Finstall Parish Council is committed to fostering meaningful and inclusive engagement with the local community. This policy aims to highlight how we will encourage active participation, transparent communication, and collaboration between the council and residents to ensure decisions reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Openness and transparency.** The parish council will, wherever possible, ensure transparency in council activities, decisions, and communication with the community.
2. **Inclusivity.** We shall encourage the participation of diverse community members, including residents, local businesses, community groups, and marginalized populations. See Appendix 1 for the latest census information.
3. **Information sharing.** We shall provide accurate and timely information to the community about council initiatives, decisions, and opportunities for engagement.
4. **Consultation and collaboration.** We shall seek input from the community on matters that affect them and collaborate on projects and initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Finstall Parish Council will use the following strategies:

1. **Communication Channels:** We shall make use of various communication channels such as newsletters, social media, website, public meetings to disseminate information and engage with residents.
2. **Consultation Processes:** We shall implement diverse consultation methods such as surveys, public forums and focus groups to gather community feedback on key issues and decisions.
3. **Accessibility:** We shall ensure information and engagement opportunities are accessible to all residents, including those with disabilities or language barriers.
4. **Timely Feedback:** We shall provide timely feedback to the community on how their input has influenced council decisions

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Finstall Parish Council will undertake the following actions:

1. **Partnerships and Collaborations.** We shall foster partnerships with local organisations, schools, businesses, and community groups to maximize community involvement in council initiatives.
2. **Volunteer Opportunities.** We shall provide opportunities for residents to actively participate in council-led projects, committees, or volunteering roles.
3. **Engagement with Marginalised Groups.** We shall take proactive measures to engage marginalised or under-represented groups to ensure their voices are heard.

EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

1. **Regular Evaluation.** We shall continuously assess the effectiveness of community engagement strategies and methods.
2. **Feedback Integration.** We shall incorporate community feedback into decision-making processes and adapt engagement strategies based on community needs and preferences.
3. **Learning and Development.** We shall provide training or resources to councillors and staff on effective community engagement practices.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

We will establish clear guidelines for council members and staff to communicate with the community, ensuring consistent and respectful engagement.

REVIEW AND ENHANCEMENT

We will regularly review this community engagement policy and practices to ensure alignment with evolving community needs, technological advancements, and best practices in engagement methods.

~End~

Appendix 1.

To support Community Engagement activities, it will help the parish council to understand the parish demographic, as identified in the 2021 Census excerpt below.

Finstall Parish Census 2021 information

Number of households		295
Number of residents		671
- of which Female		324
- of which Male		347
Number of residents aged 15 years and under	Query the results of this data.	84
- Aged 16 to 64 years		694
- Aged 65 years and over		185
Number of residents with some disability		151
Economically active (includes 12no unemployed)		349
- Of which: Managers, directors and senior officials		73
- Professional occupations		81
- Associate professional and technical occupations		40
- Administrative and secretarial occupations		39
- Skilled trades occupations		42
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations		21
- Sales and customer service occupations		9
- Process, plant and machine operatives		13
- Elementary occupations.		20
Economically inactive		231
Ethnicity (white) out of a total of 662 who answered		651
Number of households with access to car or van (292 answers)		276