

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council

Policy on Community Engagement

To achieve our ambition the Parish Council needs to work closely with all of its residents and community and voluntary groups.

This will go beyond consultation, our aim is to engage residents who will, participate in decision making, work alongside us to design, deliver, and monitor services and vote at elections.

It will mean that the Parish Council will promote genuine partnership and collaboration, and ensure that people have the opportunities and capacity to be effective citizens.

Our overall aim is:

To ensure, through a wide range of public consultation and community engagement the Parish Council actively listens, considers and uses the views of its villagers as an integral part of its decision making process.

That its policies reflect the aspirations and needs of a diverse village.

Our objectives are to:

- Agree shared ambitions for the locality and the community.
- Strengthen the Council's democratic engagement with and accountability to its residents.
- Be an organisation that consults, communicates and makes changes as a result of the views of the community and service users.
- Improve in partnership with service providers the needs of a diverse community and tackle inequality and exclusion.
- Develop working relationships with voluntary and community sector partners to deliver local priorities and improve quality of life.
- Nurture vibrant and active communities who can take up the opportunities to have a voice and choice in relation to public services and decision making.
- Devolve power where appropriate to voluntary and community groups.

In order to achieve these policy objectives, the Council will adopt a corporate implementation strategy.

This strategy is part of the Council's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationship with voluntary and community groups, based on trust, openness and constructive challenge.

Radcliffe on Trent
Community Engagement
Implementation Strategy

CURRENT

Working Groups

The Council forms many working groups to investigate and progress various projects, Members of the public with expertise in these areas are invited to join the group. A specific working group has been set up for PR & Communications.

Public Participation at Meetings

Fifteen minutes are set aside at the start of each Committee meeting to enable members of the public to speak at the meeting. The public can use modern technology to record meetings.

Internet & Email

The Parish Council website is updated on a daily basis informing residents of latest news as is the Twitter and Facebook accounts.

An email database of all local voluntary and community groups is sent out information on a regular basis.

Notice Boards

There are three outdoor notice boards in the Parish and two internal notice boards in the Grange and Grange Hall Community Buildings, in addition there are large A0 poster boards at the Nottingham Road entrance to the Village and in the Grange Grounds. All notices are updated on a weekly basis as a minimum.

Newsletter / Leaflet Drops

A large Parish Council newsletter is published twice annually, averaging 50 pages of local news which is delivered to every household and business within the village.

Leaflet drops are also organised when an event conflicts with the timing of the newsletters.

Councillor Representation

The Parish Council has representatives on outside bodies and organisations:

- Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
- Radcliffe on Trent Sports Association
- Jeffery Dole (Village Charity)
- Radcliffe on Trent Carnival Committee
- Radcliffe on Trent Twinning Association
- Radcliffe Infants, Junior and Senior Schools
- Radcliffe Residents Associations – USRA, Radcliffe and Park Homes
- Police Priority Setting Group
- Positive Futures Board (young people)
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Community Advisory Board (Hutton Energy re: Oil Well Site)
- Radcliffe Community Plan
- Radcliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- Radcliffe Conservation Volunteers
- Business Forum
- Economic Growth Board (facilitated by Rushcliffe Borough Council)

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Meeting is held annually and widely advertised to ensure that as many residents attend as possible and air their views.

Public Meetings

The Parish Council hosts public meetings for specific contentious issues and invites relevant experts or authorities to speak, and a question and answer session is included for residents, for example recently held meetings were for:

- Hutton Energy – Exploratory Drilling of Oil Well Site
- Reduction in Local Police Services
- Defibrillator Training Seminar

Parish Office

The Parish Clerk can be contacted by post, email or telephone – Monday to Friday and a prompt response is priority for all communications and correspondence.

Events

The Parish Council hosts various events throughout the year which provide the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of groups, the young and the elderly.

- Fun Day
- Village Show
- Film Shows
- Over 65's Christmas Party
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights Switch on Event
- Councillor Christmas Coffee Morning
- Annual BioBlitz
- Annual Carnival
- Other Adhoc Events

Surveys / Consultations

The Parish Council supported the process and publication of the Community Plan and is using that as a basis for strategic planning.

The Parish Council supports the Neighbourhood Plan which is currently in the consultation stage, adoption is anticipated by summer 2016.

Petitions

The Parish Council undertakes to engage with the community via petitions, recent examples include:

- Police Reduction in Services
- Closure of NatWest Bank
- Better Train Services

Lobbying

The Parish Council constantly lobbies various authorities and organisations on behalf of residents.

Services

The Parish Council occasionally provides services for appropriate organisations, for example the selling of 'No Cold Caller' Stickers on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch for the benefit of the community.

The Parish Council facilitates many donations from residents for public spaces including planting and benches.

SHORT TERM

- Implement Suggestion Boxes in the Grange and Grange Hall Community Buildings and Library
- Increase frequency of Councillor Surgeries
- Produce smaller newsletters throughout the year in addition to the twice yearly delivered large publications.
- Engage with Managers of all the Care Homes with a view to partnership working to put on more entertainment and films for the elderly village residents.
- Develop stronger links with Upper Saxondale Residents Association and strengthen links with that community.

MEDIUM TERM

- Looking for hard to reach groups and a means of communicating with them i.e. disabled and elderly housebound people.
- Create, publish and deliver an up to date Village Directory every four years.
- Create a Welcome Pack for new village residents.
- Install more notice boards and signage throughout the village.

LONG TERM

This policy will be reviewed during the lifetime of each council effectively on a four year basis. However the council will keep up to date with all evolving methods of communication including the consideration of an outdoor electronic information board in the village centre.

J. Grice

November 2015