



Crowthorne Parish Council Community Engagement Policy

Adopted by Council – November 2017

Vision Statement:

Crowthorne Parish Council is committed to engaging with and empowering its residents and communities so that they can be actively involved in decisions that affect them. The Council will work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies, organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

To promote communication

To publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, Facebook, annual events and newsletters. To give the public the opportunity to ask questions at all of its public meetings and encourage public feedback, both positive and ideas for development. By permitting the use of recording devices at meetings, right of access to information, recording and publishing the Council's decisions.

Councillor Surgeries

Councillors will host a monthly surgery on the first Saturday of each month to provide an opportunity for local residents to meet with their Parish Councillors in person. Parish Councillors will be present to answer questions, discuss local issues and receive feedback on the work of the Parish Council.

Making Information Available

Being proactive in making information available on what decisions are being considered and how residents can influence or contribute to the discussion:

- To provide a Three Year Strategy Plan outlining the Parish Councils vision for the future, it's values, objectives and key priorities.
- Production of a twice yearly newsletter on the work of the council and encouraging involvement in current issues such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the first Community Social Value Charter.
- Distribution of a quarterly report detailing the Parish Council's activities over the last quarter, delivered to all properties in Crowthorne.

Methods used to ensure information is disseminated to residents will include; the website, noticeboards, social media, leaflets, posters, quarterly reports, consultations and open surgeries.

Consultations

Considering and responding where necessary and appropriate to central and local government consultations and surveys and making the Council's input available to the public upon request. By including the community through questionnaires, surveys and canvassing opinion by any method which is relevant to the subject being considered.

Website and Social Media

Providing up to date information on matters of interest, actions of the Council, policies and procedures, local events as well as publications by and about the Parish Council and its work. Enabling the Council to engage and communicate with local residents and partnership organisations.

Parish Council Office

Ensuring that the Parish Council Office plays a neutral role so that residents can be confident that they are receiving impartial information and support. To ensure details of how to contact the Parish Council Office and individual Councillors and publicised through various methods.

Community Awards Evening and Annual Events

By supporting, promoting and organising annual events and activities. By giving public recognition by an award to individuals, groups and or organisations who have contributed significantly to the quality of life in Crowthorne by their public/community activity. Residents will be encouraged to put forward nominations via various publications, social media, the website and other suitable methods of communication.

Council Members and Officers

Crowthorne Parish Council members and officers will engage with the community through partnership working and will work proactively wherever possible to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Parish Councillors will also sit as observers on local organisations on invitation.