



NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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STATEMENT OF INTENT AS TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAIN STATEMENT OF INTENT

Aims and Objectives

Northill Parish Council is an open and transparent Council, which values the opinions of the community which it serves. It has in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, listen to the needs and concerns of that community, and will do everything within its power and financial constraints, to make Northill Parish a better place to live, and work.

Defining the Community

Northill Parish Council is keen to reach all groups and individuals who work or live in the Parish. It is a rural parish of some 1680 hectares and includes the village settlements of Northill, Ickwell and Upper Caldecote and the smaller hamlets of Budna, Hatch, Lower Caldecote, Thorncote Green and Bells Brook which abuts the town boundary of Biggleswade.

The Parish has a long history and each of its main settlements has evolved with their own distinctive character and heritage. It has historical links with local Church Groups, Parish Plan Steering Group, Village Halls, Playing Field Association and Lower Schools and the many voluntary groups working for the good of the Parish, to ensure that as wide a cross section as possible of the community can have access to the Council, its Members, and the Clerk.

Provision of Information to the Community

Northill Parish Council has many avenues through which it communicates with its community. These include:

- Contact details of all the Councillors and the Clerk are published on notice boards, the website, in the monthly village magazines and in our own newsletter.
- A website containing all the information an individual might wish to know about the work of the Parish Council including meeting minutes, policy documents, financial statements and how to contact anyone associated with the Council. It also includes links to other organisations including the unitary authority.
- The council publishes a Northill Parish Council Newsletter regularly which is delivered free to every household in the parish and is also available on the website.
- Publishing of agendas and other information, on the five notice boards throughout the Parish, for all Council and committee meetings.
- Publishing of minutes, on the Council website, for all Council and committee meetings.
- The Parish Council's involvement in the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The annual External Audit offers the opportunity for questions to be asked about the latest Statement of Accounts.
- The council has supported and been part of the production of a Parish Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Northill Parish Council will make opportunities available to the electorate to ensure excellent community involvement. These will include the following method:

Adopted by Northill Parish Council on 17th January 2019

Reviewed 30.5.2024

Reviewed 14.04.2025

Reviewed 23.04.26



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A public forum session at every Council meeting, where the electorate can raise issues in relation to the business on the agenda or request matters to be discussed at a subsequent meeting. The Chair, at their discretion, may invite a member of the public to contribute additional information.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

This "Statement of Intent" has elsewhere listed the many opportunities that exist for the public to make formal representations to the Parish Council. Issues received in writing, providing they are received before the deadline for closure of the agenda, are included as a stated item on the next agenda.

It is a target that correspondence received from a member of the public is at least acknowledged, wherever possible, within five working days.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council encourages and supports public meetings organised by the police, the health authority, Central Bedfordshire Council and other organisations where they feel information should be made available to the residents of the Parish.

Role of Council Members and the Clerk

As an open and transparent Parish Council, both Members and the Clerk seek to offer a high-quality professional service to all whom they serve. Both Members and the Clerk are keen to maintain relevant Codes of Conduct in their business and see the community as "customers" rather than an electorate.

Specific Areas for Community Involvement

Where there is a specific issue, or a new project, that the Parish Council wish to consider, it is of value to the Parish Council to seek the views of the community who will be most affected. The residents of the Parish can have confidence that their "voice" will be heard, and that the Council will work with the community to reach a common goal.