

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cringleford Parish Council

Introduction

The Parish Council is the closest tier of local government to the community. Cringleford Parish Council ("the Council") wishes to work closely with parishioners, community groups and businesses to encourage participation in decision making.

Aims and Objectives

The aim is to secure better services and to create a more active and informed community.

The Community

The Council seeks to engage with all sections of Cringleford's community as well as the local business community, the clubs, organisations and societies which are active in the parish, its partners such as South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council, the neighbourhood policing team, the local school and the churches. The Council is committed to engaging with anyone with an interest in the economic, social and environmental well-being of Cringleford. Various methods are used to engage with the community including public meetings, notice boards, website, Facebook, Instagram and newsletters. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up to the website and Facebook page to ensure they receive important information. Our newsletter is delivered free of charge to all households, quarterly.

Information access for the Community

The Council's publications schedule lists documentation available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. This information is available in hard copy or email from the Clerk. The full accounts are available for inspection from the Clerk. Detailed financial information is also published online monthly, with Council minutes. Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Cringleford website, notice boards and from the Clerk.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Full Council, Planning and Personnel Committee meetings are open to the public, and Council and Planning include a public session for parishioners to make representation to members. All Councillors are available for discussion with parishioners by appointment, and their contact details are available from the Clerk or from the website.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

Representations to the Council will normally be considered at the next Council meeting. If the request is for information only the Clerk will respond accordingly, usually outside of meetings. The Council has a procedure for handling complaints, available from the Clerk or the website. The publication of agendas on the Council's website and notice board gives residents the opportunity

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to make representation to the Council before agenda items are discussed. All formal representations received are responded to by letter or email, or verbally at meetings if present.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Council is committed to partnership working where it is clear that it will benefit the parish or to fulfil its statutory requirements. For example, the Council works in partnership with other tiers of government and is represented at various community events. The Council has a close working relationship with both District and County Councillors. Notifications from other agencies are often published on the Council's website.

Role of Council Members and Officers

Members are advocates for their community and their leadership role enables them to have a major input into the consultation and engagement process. Cringleford Parish Councillors are accessible, with their contact details published on the website. They are available to talk to residents during the public session at the start of each Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting. In a private capacity, councillors engage with many of Cringleford's clubs, societies and organisations, where they may promote the work of the Council and be available to parishioners.

Contacts

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