**Hewelsfield & Brockweir - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** POLICY

# **Aims and Objectives**

Community Engagement is how community organisations and individuals build relationships to deliver a collective vision for the benefit of the community.

Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council aims to engage with all residents, voluntary groups and businesses in the Parish to consult and involve them in the decision making process.

This will involve:

* Informing the community of relevant local and central government policy
* Consulting the community to build community awareness and understanding
* Involving the community to ensure that issues and concerns are understood and considered as part of the decision making process.
* Empowering the community to make decisions and to implement and manage change.

# **Defining the Community**

* Residents of the Village
* The Village Shop Committee & their users
* The Village Hall Committee & their users
* The Playground Committee & their users
* Businesses in the community
* Voluntary Groups

• Interest groups – clubs and societies

* Church Groups
* Tourists, Walkers and Canoeists

# **Provision of Information to the Community**

The Parish Council will inform all sectors of the community of all their activities through the publication of Minutes of Meetings, Agenda for Meetings, Annual Reports, Newsletters, public notices, Planning Applications, and all matters relating to the organisation, administration and finance of the Parish Council.

Information will be made available via:

* Parish Notice Boards
* Parish Magazine
* Annual Reports
* Public Meetings
* Annual Parish Meetings
* Minutes of Parish Council Meetings
* Parish Council Web-Site and Facebook
* The Character Assessment document formally adopted by the local council

# **Opportunities for Community Involvement**

* Agendas for meetings are published on Notice Boards 5 days before the meeting, itemising all items for discussion or consideration.
* During each Parish Council meeting, residents have the opportunity to air their views on any matters of concern.
* Contact with the Clerk is available directly from the web-site and by telephone and email.
* Contact details for the Clerk and Chairman are published in the Parish Magazine monthly and for all parish councillors on the website.
* Where important issues have been identified, public meetings will be held inviting resident participation.

# **Opportunities for Formal Representation to the Council**

Residents, community organisations and businesses are encouraged to contact councillors or the clerk with any issues of concern. Where appropriate, these issues will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting and copies sent to all Councillors. After formal discussion, residents will receive a written response to their issue and details of any decision or action taken by the Parish Council.

# **Involvement in Partnerships**

The Parish Council is actively involved in community organisations and activities and some Councillors attend meetings of those organisations. These include:

* The Village Hall
* Public Rights of Way Working Group
* Parish Improvement Project
* The Brockweir Community Interest Company

# **Roles of Council Members and Officers**

Councillors and the Clerk engage with the community by inviting members of the public to attend Parish Council meetings and setting time aside during meetings for public questions or comments. Contact details for the Clerk are available on the Parish Council website as are all Councillors contact details.

# **Specific Areas for Community Involvement**

Hewelsfield & Brockweir has a Parish Plan for 2018 and this will be shared with the community at the Parish Meeting in May.

* Public meetings have been held as maintaining the only public house in the village as an asset was identified as a priority within the Parish. During meetings it was agreed that application should be made to register the pub as a village asset (which was successful) and the community consulted on possible options to purchase the pub. This issue is ongoing.
* Public meetings were also held concerning a major housing development in the centre of the village, with the majority being opposed to the plan. Representations were made to the local planning authority and the planning application was refused and a subsequent planning appeal was dismissed.
* Introducing speed restrictions in the parish will be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in May to obtain parishioner views.
* Parishioners will also be consulted at the May meeting on creating a village archive and seeking partners and volunteers to work on the project if adopted. Heritage Lottery Funding will be sought for the project.
* An Emergency Plan is being drawn up and partners and volunteers from the parish will be sought to undertake important tasks within the plan. This will also be discussed at the May meeting.
* The Public Right of Way working group is a community project that strives to keep our extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and restricted by-ways open to walkers and riders (or the public).  This group is entirely manned by volunteers from the community with organised by a councillor.  Upcoming projects include assisting with surveys of local assets such as stone walls and wildflowers.

This Policy was adopted by Resolution the Parish Council at a meeting on 3rd April 2018 and it will be reviewed every three years.