

Statement of Intent on Community Engagement

Glinton Parish Council

1. Aims and Objectives

The council's aims and objectives for seeking community engagement and the outcomes it hopes to achieve are:

A. Aims to:

- Work more closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- Engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- Ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process.
- Ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

B. Objectives.

This strategy is part of the council's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the community, based on trust, openness and constructive challenge. Outcomes of the strategy will include:

- Improved communication through the establishment of new channels of engagement.
- More residents understanding the role of Councillors and getting the best effect.
- Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision-making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering.
- Improved satisfaction with local public services.

2. Defining the Community

Glinton is a rural parish and lies just off the A15, 6 miles north of Peterborough. The principal authority is Peterborough City Council. The village is predominantly residential, with c.650 dwellings and an electorate of c.1300. There are two working farms and a few small businesses, but most of Glinton's working population travels into Peterborough, or even further a field, with some commuting to London or Cambridge from Peterborough railway station. As a detached village separated from Peterborough's urban development, Glinton has retained a range of self-supporting community based facilities.

The community may be defined as consisting of:

- Residents of the Village,
- Users of Parish Council Services,
- Village Hall Association & its users,
- Head Teacher and Governors of Peakirk cum Glinton CofE School,
- Head and Governors of Arthur Mellows Village College,

- Young people who live and/or go to school in the Village,
- Retail and other and Businesses in the community,
- Interest groups – clubs and societies eg Guides and Scouts,
- Voluntary organisations,
- Church Groups,
- Farming Community,
- Groups of people defined by a common factor such as age, disability, faith, and other groups,
- Councillors and public service representatives including Council Staff.

3. Role of Council Members and Officers

The Parish Council is non-political with 11 Councillors identified in the community, via newsletters and the website, for their roles and responsibilities, which are also detailed and published in the Council's annual report. Council members communicate with the public via their attendance at meetings as part of their work with relevant committees. Councillors each have a number of different roles that embrace a range of activities from the following; Parish Council Working Groups for Planning, Finance and Human Resources, Parish Council Working Party for the Future Development of Glington, representing the parish on the AMVC Swimming Pool Committee; Glington Youth Club, Deepings Practice Patients Participation Group; Clare Lodge; Police Consultative Group; Parish Liaison Committee, Standards Committee, Northern Footpath Group and liaison with other Parish Council's. These roles inevitably bring opportunity to discuss the work of the Council with residents and peers and encourages participation and feedback.

There is one officer of the Council, the Clerk who covers the entire spectrum of the council work plus management of the Lawn Cemetery management and is frequently dealing with meetings or in contact via email, telephone and letters etc. The Parish Council also employs contractors who frequently have direct contact with members of the public and naturally have to field questions and enquiries. Their ability to do this effectively and courteously is as important as any other element of the Council's work in the community and can give good feedback on the views of people on the services offered by the Council.

4. Provision of Information to the Community and Opportunities for Community Involvement

1. The Clerk can be contacted anytime and messages can be left 24/7 either by telephone or email.
2. The telephone numbers of all the Councillors are published on the website, in the 'Village Tribune' and in the Annual Report. It is recognised that members of the community may wish to engage with the Council at different levels - from the odd email or letter with a suggestion on how a service could be improved, to regular attendance at a Council meeting.
3. The Parish Council website address is also widely published and the site contains all the information an individual might wish to know about the work of the Parish Council and its

individuals, including meeting minutes, policy documents, financial statements, annual report, Lawn Cemetery and how to contact anyone associated with the Council.

4. The council submits articles to the 'Village Tribune (community magazine) on a bi-monthly basis. This is delivered to every household in the parish.

5. Reports on council meetings are published in the Stamford Mercury.

6. Information is published on the 3 notice boards around the parish and in the Post Office/Shop window.

7. The parish council has information points situated in the village hall and doctors surgery.

8. There is a 15 minute public forum prior to each council meeting.

9. An Annual Report is prepared by the chairman and sent out to every household in the parish.

10. The council has supported and been part of the production of a Village Design Statement and is actively developing a Neighbourhood Investment Plan.

11. The council undertakes consultations by questionnaire, public meetings as appropriate, for specific issues.

Active feedback is sought at all times and Councillors attend such events to "spread the word" on the role of the Council and encourage people to participate in local affairs with specific local issues being explored from time to time using the full range of communication techniques available. The Council is always considering practical ways of engaging with people and community groups and have issued Village Questionnaires.

5. Involvement with Partnerships.

The council has a representative on the following:-

- Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.
- Peterborough City Council Parish Liaison Committee.
- Peterborough City Council Standards Committee.
- AMVC Swimming Pool Committee.
- Glinton Youth Club.
- Deepings Practice Patients Participation Group.
- Clare Lodge
- Police Consultative Group.
- Northern Footpath Group.
- Greater Peterborough Partnership – Rural Working Group.

This Statement of Intent for Community Engagement was approved for issue at the parish council meeting held on 20th October 2009.