

Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council



Community Engagement Strategy

Reviewed	Ratified by Parish Council	Planned date of next review
Adopted May 2016	May 2016	May 2017
04 May 2017	May 2017	May 2018
2 nd May 2018	May 2018	May 2019

	Print name	Signature	Date
Chairman			

Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Aims and Objectives

Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council is the closest tier of local government to the community. The Parish Council wants to work closely with the public, including all residents, community groups and businesses, to encourage participation in decision making. The aim is to secure better services and to create a more active and informed community.

The Community

The Parish Council seeks to engage with **all** sections of Steeton-with-Eastburn's community including the young, disenfranchised, disaffected and the elderly as well as the local business community, the many clubs, organisations and societies which are active in the parish, its partners such as City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, the neighbourhood policing team and the local schools. The Parish Council is also committed to engaging with any persons who appear to it to have an interest in matters relating to the economic, social and environmental well being of its area.

Information to the Community

The Parish Council lists details of all documentation available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act on its website www.steeton-with-eastburnparishcouncil.gov.uk. This information is also available in hard copy from the clerk. A newsletter is delivered to households in the parish 3 times a year which includes an Annual Report and statement of the accounts. The newsletter is also available on the Council's website and at local post offices. The full accounts are available for inspection by application to the clerk. All agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the website. There is a published Parish Plan and annual action plans that detail the priorities for the Parish Council. (available on the website). The Council also uses social media and has Facebook pages for the Council, the Council run Community HUB and for the neighbourhood plan.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and include a public session when residents can make representation to members. All councillors are available for informal discussion and their contact details are to be found in the newsletter, from the clerk or on the website.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

Representations to the Parish Council will normally be considered at the relevant committee meeting, unless they require the provision of information only, when the clerk will provide it accordingly. The Parish Council has a procedure for handling complaints, which is available on the website and from the clerk. The publication of agendas on the Parish Council's website and notice board gives residents the opportunity to make representation to the council before agenda items are discussed. All formal representations received are responded to by letter or email.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council is committed to partnership working where it is clear that it will be of benefit to the parish or to fulfil its statutory requirements. The Parish Council works in partnership with other local councils, e.g. Silsden Town Council to produce a joint neighbourhood plan. The Parish Council works with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council to improve service delivery in the parish.

Role of Council Members and Officers

Elected members are powerful advocates for their community and their leadership role enables them to have a major input into the consultation and engagement process. Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Councillors are very accessible; their contact details are published on the website and in the newsletters to residents. They are available to talk to residents during the public session at the start of each Parish Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk can be contacted by telephone or by email.

Specific Areas for Community Involvement

The council will consult the community should it resolve to undertake, initiate or facilitate any major projects or undertakings in the parish. The production of the neighbourhood plan is a current example where a number of residents have become involved in the process of producing this document which it is hoped will become Supplementary Planning Guidance for developers wanting to build in Steeton-with-Eastburn.

The Clerk can be contacted at:

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