



Community Engagement Strategy

	Date	Minute Reference	Amended
Adopted:	May 2019	FR19-13	New
Reviewed Annually:	Nov 2020	FR20-91b	Yes
	Nov 2022	FR22-234a	Yes
	January 2024	FC24-718c	Yes
Next Review	January 2025		

INTRODUCTION

Galleywood Parish Council is committed to engaging with residents by encouraging them to become actively involved in decisions that affect them and the community, to delivering better services and to improving the quality of life of residents by creating a more active and informed community.

AIMS

The aim of the Community Engagement Strategy is to:

- Improve the way in which the Council communicates with residents.
- Listen to the views of residents on important issues.
- Use these issues to deliver better services.
- Improve long-term social, economic, and environmental well-being of residents.
- Plan future development of the parish in accordance with community priorities and needs.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Community Engagement Strategy are to:

- Use a variety of methods to make information available.
- Actively facilitate and encourage community engagement.
- Proactively engage with all sections of the community.
- Ensure that decisions meet the needs of the community by involving members of the community in the decision-making process.
- Work in partnership with other organisations and authorities to improve the quality and delivery of services.
- Enhance the well-being of members of the community.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Information will be made available in a variety of ways to ensure that all sections of the community are reached.

Parish Council office

Residents may contact the Parish Council office by email, telephone and in person. Details of how to contact the Parish Council office and Councillors are provided in the Galleywood Grapevine magazine, on noticeboards and the website.

Media

Press releases to manage the media effectively to promote the Parish Council.
Use of the Parish Council logo to promote the Parish Council.

Parish Council Noticeboards

Information including agendas for meetings and contact details for the Clerk and Councillors is displayed on the five noticeboards located at: inside and outside the Keene Hall, Watchouse Road; Front wall of the Library in Watchouse Road; inside the bus shelter in Watchouse Road and opposite the Co-op store in Barnard Road.

Galleywood Grapevine

Four editions published yearly and delivered to each household in Galleywood. The Grapevine informs residents of the Parish Council activities along with information and news from local Clubs and Organisations.

Parish Council Website

The Website provides a large amount of information including Agendas and Minutes for meetings, Parish Council policies and reports, local news, forthcoming events, Chelmsford City and Essex County Council news. The Website is updated frequently.

Social Media

A social media page has been developed and managed. News and events are regularly published.

Welcome Pack

Produced by the Parish Council and available in paper form and to download from the Parish Council website.

Footpath Maps

Produced by the Parish Council and available in paper form and to download from the Parish Council website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Parish Council Meetings

The monthly (except August) Parish Council meetings are open to the public and time is set aside for residents to ask questions on items on the agenda. The budget meeting is held towards the end of the year.

Additional public meetings are held to address important issues affecting the community.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is held to give residents the opportunity to contribute to plans for the Village.

Access to Parish Councillors

Councillor contact details are displayed on the Parish Council noticeboards, at the Galleywood Library and on the Parish Council Website. Councillors can be contacted on these numbers to discuss concerns or questions about local issues. Parish Council surgeries are held on the last Saturday of the month at the Galleywood Library 10am to 12 noon. This provides a more informal atmosphere for residents to engage with Councillors.

Consultation

Consultations and surveys on important issues will be carried out. The Parish Council will ensure that those most affected by an issue will be given the opportunity to voice an opinion.

Results of all such consultations or surveys will be made available to all members of the Village.

The Annual Parish Meeting will continue to be used to obtain the views of residents on matters affecting the community.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Parish Councillors represent the Parish Council on various outside bodies to ensure good two-way communication with regular reports of these meetings made to the Council.

The Parish Council is committed to working with local voluntary and community groups to improve the quality of life for residents in the Village.

The Parish Council has a small Grants Scheme to provide financial support to local groups and organisations.

The Parish Council will work with local authorities (Chelmsford City and Essex County Councils and the Police) to ensure an improvement in the quality and delivery of services.

The Parish Council will work with neighbouring parish councils to find a solution to common problems.

The Parish Council will continue to support and engage with local organisations to assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.

The Parish Council will continue to support local projects and events.

The Community Engagement Strategy will be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness and amended, as necessary.