

Community Engagement Statement of Intent

Scaldwell 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;
- to engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision-making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- to 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;
- to 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

Scaldwell is a rural parish situated in north Northamptonshire, around two miles from Brixworth. The principal authorities are Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council. There are approximately 128 residential properties with around 270 on the electoral roll. The community facilities include:

- St Peter and St Paul's Church
- Village hall and Scaldwell Club

- Playing Field
- Tennis courts
- Village greens and bus shelter
- Various local community groups

3. Role of Council Members and Officers

The Parish Council is non-political with seven 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. Their roles within the community 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 who acts as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. The Clerk works from home but can be contacted via email, telephone, through the website and by letter. Meetings can be made with the Clerk in person by appointment. Councillors are able to fulfil their Council duties effectively and courteously through living and working in the community and being available to be contacted about elements of the Council's work in the community. They can therefore 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 Parish Council is contactable by post, telephone, email or through the Parish Council website.
2. The names of all the Councillors are published on the website and their contact details are published in the Scaldwell Newsletter, in Parish Council's file in Brixworth library and in the Council's Annual Report. It is recognised that members of the community may wish to engage with the Council at different levels - from the occasional email or letter with a suggestion on how a service could be improved, to regular attendance at Council meetings. Council meetings are advertised on the Parish Council website, notice board and village newsletter. Individual Councillors can also be contacted by email via the Parish Council email address.
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 and how to contact anyone associated with the Council.
4. The council submits articles to the bi-monthly Scaldwell Newsletter. This is delivered to every household in the parish.
5. Information is published on the Parish Council notice board in the centre of the

village.

6. Towards the start of every parish council meeting, the meeting is adjourned for questions and comments from those present.
7. An Annual Report is prepared and sent out to every household in the parish.
8. Welcome Packs are given to new residents in the village. This contains information on the community and the parish council.
9. The council supported and was part of the production of the Village Design Statement for Scaldwell, which was subsequently adopted by Daventry District Council.
10. The council undertakes consultations by questionnaire, public meetings etc. as appropriate, for specific issues.

5. Involvement with Partnerships.

The council has representatives on the following:-

- Scaldwell Village Hall Management Committee
- Scaldwell Relief in Need Charity
- Scaldwell Parish Trust
- The Foundation of Thomas Roe
- Scaldwell Playing Field Community Group

The Parish Council arranges the Annual Parish Meeting and invites local charities, groups and organisations to present a report at that meeting on their activities.

The Parish Council encourages villagers to be appointed to represent the village on certain matters e.g. tree warden, footpath warden. These representatives keep the Parish Council and, where appropriate, the District and County Council, informed of any issues.

The Parish Council maintains a close and effective working relationship with the District and County Council and its Councillors.

This Community Engagement Statement of Intent was approved for issue at the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th November 2009.

Signed

J Harris – Clerk to Scaldwell Parish Council