

Broadhempston Parish Council

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Aims and Objectives

Broadhempston Parish Council aims to ensure that, through use of a wide range of approaches to public consultation and community engagement, it actively encourages residents to inform its decision-making process and make an input into decisions which affect their day to day lives in the parish.

Broadhempston Parish Council is committed to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the community. The council recognises that there are different levels of engagement and will endeavour to involve the community in the following ways:

- Inform people about its work and the services it provides.
- Consult with and seek out the views of the community.
- Encourage community participation in local government.
- Collaborate with individuals, community groups and organisations, where appropriate, to achieve agreed aims for the benefit of the parish.
- Build up effective working relationships within the community and encourage a sense of ownership of assets, infrastructure and new projects.

The Community

Broadhempston Parish Council seeks to engage with all sections of the community, regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation, ie parishioners (particularly hard to reach groups such as the young, disenfranchised, disaffected and the elderly), the local business community, the clubs, organisations and societies which are active in the parish, its partners, such as Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council, and the Church. The council is also committed to engaging with any person who appears to have an interest in matters relating to the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area.

Provision of Information to the Community and Opportunities for Community Involvement

Broadhempston Parish Council recognises that members of the community may wish to engage with it at different levels and in a variety of ways, for the occasional email or letter with a suggestion on how a service could be improved, to attendance at meetings etc. The council will, therefore, use many ways to actively seek the views of its parishioners and involve them in its work:

- Publications: The council will communicate with parishioners through regular articles in the parish magazine, as well as with the annual report, and the local press when appropriate.
- Website: the council website ([Broadhempston Parish Council – Devon, England](#)) is a community resource which publishes information about the parish and the council. Agendas, minutes, accounts and other documents are regularly posted on the website. Parishioners are invited to contact the council by email (clerk@broadhempston.org.uk) or phone (01803 392419).

- Direct Access: In addition to the website, the parish noticeboard will be used to advertise important events, notices relating to the annual audit of accounts, casual vacancies, elections and forthcoming meetings etc. Details of the council's publication scheme will be displayed on the website for parishioner's information.
- Co-option: The council values the involvement of the community in the work of the council through co-option and committees, and working parties are empowered to co-opt interested parishioners to join them.
- Meetings: Notice of all council meetings is given on the parish noticeboard and on the website. Parishioners are encouraged to attend council meetings either in person or by Zoom, and time is set aside at all meetings for public participation.
- Surveys: Broadhempston Parish Council will undertake surveys and other related forms of information gathering from time-to-time to ascertain the community's views on particular issues.
- Social Media: Broadhempston Parish Council will use the Shout Out Broadhempston Facebook page as a way to get information out to parishioners.
- Chalkboards: In addition, chalkboards will be used throughout the parish to ensure information is available to parishioners.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

Representations to Broadhempston Parish Council will usually be considered at the next meeting. If, however, they require the provision of information only, the clerk will provide it in accordance with the council's publication scheme.

The council has a policy for handling complaints, which is available from the clerk, published on the website, and reviewed regularly.

The publication of agendas on the noticeboard and website gives parishioners the opportunity to make representations to the council before agenda items are discussed.

Involvement in Partnerships

Broadhempston Parish Council is committed to partnership working where it is clear that it will be of benefit to the parish or to fulfill its statutory requirements.

Role of Council Members and Officers in Consultation and Community Engagement

Elected Members are powerful advocates for their community and their leadership role enables them to have a major input in the consultation and engagement process. The council is able to respond to consultation documents from a wide range of local and national bodies.

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