

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

As representatives of the community the Parish Council wants to improve the quality and range of local services in the Parish. We are therefore committed to becoming actively involved in all parts of our community by working closely with voluntary and community groups so that we can identify their needs. We shall do this by working in partnership with our local authority and other agencies.

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council is committed to engaging residents by encouraging them to become actively involved in decisions that affect them and the community, and to facilitate the delivery of better services by creating a more active and informed community.

The Parish Council aims to achieve this by using the following strategies.

1. INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

- Making information available on what decisions are being considered, and how residents can give their opinions. Agendas and Minutes of meetings are posted on the notice boards and on the website.
- Parish Council meetings are open to members of the public and a time is set aside prior to the meeting for residents to make comments or to ask questions.
- Parish Council activities are published in the Parish Roundabout which is delivered to each household in the parish and posted on the website and displayed in the library

2. GIVING PEOPLE A VOICE

- Offering the facility to pass comments to us via our website
- The Annual Parish Meeting is also used for obtaining the views of residents on matters affecting the community.
- Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting is posted on the notice boards and on the website.
- Residents may also submit items which they wish to be raised at a Council meeting, or to give their view on a particular topic, to the Clerk.

- Details of how to contact the Clerk and Members of the Council are displayed on the notice boards, on the website and in the Parish Roundabout
- Where assistance has been requested, the Parish Council will, where appropriate, ensure that residents are referred to the correct department of Shropshire Council or other relevant authority or organisation.
- When dealing with other authorities or organisations regarding issues affecting the community, the Parish Council will ensure that the opinions of the members of the community are made known.
- Flyers advertising major events such as the Annual Parish Meeting or Special Public Meetings are displayed on parish noticeboards on the website and at key locations in the parish.
- The Council aims to be proactive in getting information to, and obtaining the opinions of, all sections of the community, especially the hard to reach groups such as the elderly and the housebound.

Where information affects a specific section of the community, the Council will ensure that the information is delivered directly to the village organisation representing that section e.g. the over 60s, mothers and toddlers, teenagers and youth.

- Consultations and surveys will be carried out where appropriate and the results made available.
- Copies of the Parish Plan are available to everyone in the parish and members of the community will be encouraged to become actively involved in addressing the issues which have been highlighted in the Plan.
- The Parish Council will participate in, community activities and events, to ensure that the community become more aware of whom we are and what we do.

The Community Engagement Strategy will be reviewed annually.