

Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement

TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF INTENT AS TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAIN STATEMENT OF INTENT

Aims and Objectives

Tawstock Parish Council is an open and transparent Council, which values the opinions of the community which it serves. It has in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, listen to the needs and concerns of that community, and will do everything within its power and financial constraints, to make Tawstock Parish a better place to live, and work.

Defining the Community

Tawstock Parish Council is keen to reach all groups and individuals who work, or live in the Parish. It has links with the local Church, Village Hall and Primary School and the many voluntary groups working for the good of the Parish, to ensure that as wide a cross section as possible of the community can have access to the Council, its Members, and the Clerk.

Provision of Information to the Community

Tawstock Parish Council has many avenues through which it communicates with its community. These include:

- Contact details of all the Councillors and the Clerk are published on notice boards, website and Facebook page.
- A web-site containing all the information an individual might wish to know about the work of the Parish Council including meetings, minutes, and how to contact anyone associated with the Council.
- Publishing of agendas and other information, on several notice boards throughout the Parish, for all Council meetings.
- Publishing of minutes, on the Council web site and Facebook page, for all Council meetings.
- The Parish Council's involvement in the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The annual External Audit offers the opportunity for questions to be asked about the latest Statement of Accounts. A synopsis of the financial accounts is published within the Annual Report.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

Tawstock Parish Council will make every opportunity available to the electorate to ensure excellent community involvement. These will include the following method:

A public question time session at every Council meeting, where the electorate can raise any issues in relation to the Parish or request matters to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

This "Statement of Intent" has elsewhere listed the opportunities that exist for the public to make formal representations to the Parish Council. Issues received in writing, providing they are received before the deadline for closure of the agenda, are included as a stated item on the next agenda.

It is a target that correspondence received from a member of the public is at least acknowledged, wherever possible, within five working days.

Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council encourages and supports public meetings organised by the police, the health authority, North Devon Council and other organisations where they feel information should be made available to the residents of the Parish.

Role of Council Members and the Clerk

As an open and transparent Parish Council, both Members and the Clerk seek to offer a high quality professional service to all whom they serve. Both Members and the Clerk are keen to maintain relevant Codes of Conduct in their business, and see the community as "customers" rather than an electorate.

Specific Areas for Community Involvement

Where there is a specific issue, or a new project, that the Parish Council wish to consider, it is of value to the Parish Council to seek the views of the community who will be most affected. The residents of the Parish can have confidence that their "voice" will be heard, and that the Council will work with the community to reach a common goal.