

Community Engagement Policy

1. Purpose

Honeybourne Parish Council is committed to engaging openly and constructively with residents, community groups, businesses and other stakeholders.

This policy sets out how the Council engages with the community to support informed decision-making, transparency and local democracy.

2. Principles of Engagement

The Council's approach to community engagement is based on the following principles:

- **Openness and transparency** in decision-making
- **Two-way communication**, listening as well as informing
- **Inclusivity**, ensuring engagement is accessible where reasonably practicable
- **Proportionality**, using engagement methods appropriate to the issue

3. How the Council Engages with the Community

The Council uses a range of methods to engage with the community, which may include:

- The Annual Parish Meeting
- Public participation at parish council and committee meetings
- Council newsletters and village publications
- The Council website and social media
- Community surveys and questionnaires (including neighbourhood planning consultations)
- Consultation on planning and neighbourhood planning matters
- Community events, meetings and working groups
- Correspondence from residents and community organisations

The Council publishes information to support openness and engagement, including agendas, minutes, meeting dates, policies, notices and news items on its website, in accordance with statutory requirements. This enables residents to understand the Council's work and to participate in local democracy.

4. Using Community Feedback

- Feedback gathered through community engagement will be considered by the Council when making decisions and setting priorities.
- Where appropriate, community views will help inform the Council's action plan, policies and budget setting.
- The Council will seek to explain decisions taken and how community feedback has been considered.

Where appropriate, this will be reported through council meetings, publications or the Council's website.

5. Promoting Local Democracy

The Council will support and encourage participation in local democracy by:

- Promoting attendance at council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting
- Publicising elections and vacancies
- Providing clear information on how residents can contact the Council and engage with its work

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Council to ensure it remains appropriate, effective and aligned with best practice.