



The Eco Hub  
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# Gamlingay Parish Council Community Engagement Policy

## Introduction

According to NALC guidelines, Community Engagement “is about giving local people a voice and involving them in the decisions that affect them and their community. It is about the development of relationships and clear communication to deliver better services and projects”

### Policy

Gamlingay Parish Council will

- Allow a public participation section at all relevant meetings
- Encourage residents to participate and attend the Annual Parish Meeting by extending the invitation on line, on noticeboards, in the local magazine and press.
- Regularly update its web site, Facebook page, Twitter feed and noticeboards, encouraging engagement in Council activities
- Publish updates on its activities (at least quarterly) in a local magazine delivered to every household in the parish
- Advertise its meeting dates widely and as far in advance as possible
- Consider delivering a flyer/consultation/survey to households or areas affected by particularly contentious issues and/or provide these to local schools/doctors/community buildings/shops for distribution
- Set up of committees, sub committees and working groups and co-opt members of the public to undertake specific projects to improve the area – for example the new cemetery working party, the Christmas lights group, the playground working party and the Friends of Millbrook Meadows.
- Conduct surveys of the whole village to consult on wider issues – for example Housing Needs (Nov 2017), Village Design Statement (2018), Neighbourhood Plan (2016).
- Book a table at the annual Gamlingay Show where councillors will promote the Council and its activities and engage with residents
- Locate the Parish Council office where it can be accessible to all members of the public.
- Arrange public meetings and displays in local community spaces for all large-scale planning applications and other issues affecting residents as required.



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- Have a standing item for Information and Communications on every Full Council agenda in order to include any specific matters that require discussion/resolution.
- Create press releases about significant activities or items for publication, inviting comment/participation and giving contact details.
- Have a Publications Committee to monitor and review its public communications and make recommendations to Council
- Re- consider running councillor surgeries if requested (last trial 2017).
- Keep up to date with evolving methods of communication

Adopted 11.9.18