



POOL-IN-WHARFEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2016

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”. (National Association of Local Councils guidelines)

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council is the first tier local government within our community. It is vital that the Council engages closely with the community it serves.

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council is committed to engaging with residents by encouraging them to become 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 represent and promote the interests of its residents in all forums where Councillors serve as representatives. It will provide amenities and services to the best quality available within the resources available. The Parish Council will actively involve local people in decisions that affect the community, promote equal opportunities and oppose discrimination, be accountable and open in all its activities.

Key Objectives

1. The Parish Council will work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners, statutory bodies, local organisations and businesses.
2. Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, newsletters and press releases.
3. Encourage public feedback through the use of questionnaires, surveys and any method relevant to the subject being considered.
4. Manage the council effectively through good financial management ensuring that legal procedures are met and regular auditing is taking place.



5. Be sensitive to and work to protect the environment so that it is safeguarded for the future.

Informing the Community

1. The parish council will make available information on what decisions are being considered and how residents can give their opinions. Agendas of all meetings, together with a schedule of meetings for the year, are published on the council website. Agendas for parish meetings are also published on parish notice boards. Minutes of meetings are published on the council website as soon after the meeting as possible.
2. Monthly parish council meetings are open to members of the public and the press and a time is set aside at the commencement of the meetings for residents to make comments or to ask questions.
3. The Annual Parish meeting is also an opportunity for residents to raise issues of concern and ask questions.
4. The Council website provides comprehensive information about the council and the policies and guidelines in which it operates. Including information on how to contact the council and all the Council.
5. A regular newsletter is published by the council and is circulated to every household in the village and contains information about the council and what it is involved in.
6. The Parish Council works in partnership with a number of other organisations within the district. Including Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police. It also has representatives on the following organisations.
 - Pool Village Memorial Hall
 - Old Pool Bank Village Hall
 - British Legion
 - Otley & District Road Safety Committee
 - Pool-in-Wharfedale Recreation Ground Management Trust
 - Yorkshire Local Council Association
 - Jane Whiteley Homes



- Otley Action for Older People
- Leeds Bradford Airport Consultative Committee
- Wharfedale Greenway Steering Group

The Parish Council informs Leeds City Council and Ward Councillor representatives of its concerns and activities. When relevant, asks them for advice, information and support. Councillors participate in liaison meetings with Officers and Ward Councillors to address local issues.

The Parish Council provides financial support to a number of local organisations who submit requests for grants through the Grants Policy.

The Parish Council promotes local democracy and encourages members of the local community to stand for election.