

## **STONELEIGH AND ASHOW JOINT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Community Engagement is the process by which community organisations and individuals build ongoing permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the community.

The Parish Council aims to engage with all residents, voluntary groups and businesses in the Parish to consult and involve them in the decision-making process.

Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council will involve the community to ensure that issues and concerns are understood and considered as part of the decision-making process. The Parish Council will work with the community by developing partnerships to formulate options and provide recommendations. The Parish Council will empower the community to make decisions and to implement and manage change.

The Parish of Stoneleigh and Ashow covers the villages of Stoneleigh and Ashow. The principal authorities are Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council. There are approximately 375 residential properties accommodating approximately 700 people of all ages.

The community may be defined as consisting of:

- Residents of the Village
- Users of Parish Council Services
- The Village Hall Trustees & their users
- The users of the Playing Fields
- Young people who live and/or go to school in the Village
- Local community groups eg Stoneleigh History Society, the Community Orchard, Stoneleigh Choir
- Voluntary organisations
- Church Groups

The Parish Council will inform all sectors of the community of all their activities through the publication of Minutes of Meetings, Agenda for Meetings, Annual Reports, newsletters, public notices, including consultation of Local Development Frameworks, Local Plan, Planning Applications, and all matters relating to the organisation, administration and finance of the Parish Council.

Information will be made available via the Parish Notice Board, Stoneleigh and Ashow News, and the Parish Council website and social media channel.

Agendas for meetings are published on Notice Boards at least 3 days before the meeting itemising all items for discussion or consideration.

The agenda is also published on the Parish Council website, along with a list of planning applications which will be discussed at the meeting.

At each Parish Council meeting, residents have the opportunity during an Open Forum to address Parish Councillors with their views, on any matter of concern.

Contact with the Clerk is available directly from the website.

Residents, community organisations and businesses are encouraged to send written representations to the clerk at least 10 days before the date of the next meeting. These representations will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting and copies sent to all Councillors. After formal discussion, the applicant will receive a written response of any decision or action taken by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is actively involved in community organisations and activities and some Councillors are Trustees or Elected Members of those organisations. These include:

- The Leigh Educational Foundation
- Stoneleigh United Charities
- The Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust
- Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council

Last review date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019. To be reviewed as required and within 5 years.