

Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement

1. Aims and Objectives

Wartling Parish Council aims to:-

- ◆ Represent and promote the interests of Wartling, Boreham Street, the parts of Windmill Hill within its borders and all its people in all forums
- ◆ Pay particular attention to the needs of our children and young people
- ◆ Provide the best possible amenities and services by the efficient use of available resources
- ◆ Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area
- ◆ Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination
- ◆ Be open and accountable in all it does
- ◆ Support development which is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable
- ◆ Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing the ecological and environmental assets of Wartling, Boreham Street and its parts of Windmill Hill.

In order to achieve these aims, the Parish Council will

- ◆ work closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- ◆ engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- ◆ ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;
- ◆ ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

The outcomes the Council hopes to achieve are:

- ◆ Improved communication with the local community
- ◆ A better understanding within the community of the role of the Parish Council and of its Councillors
- ◆ Local people feeling that they are involved in decision making
- ◆ Improved satisfaction with local public services

2. Defining the community

The Parish Council considers the community of Wartling Parish to consist of:

- ◆ All residents of Boreham Street, Wartling and parts of Windmill Hill
- ◆ All users of the Parishes services
- ◆ All those who work within the Parish
- ◆ All those who own businesses within the Parish
- ◆ All young people who live within the Parish
- ◆ All local voluntary organisations, clubs and societies

- ◆ Any group or organisation that represents some or any of the members of the above sections of the community

Additionally, the Parish Council recognises that there are certain bodies that are crucial to the quality of life in each village and aims to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including the Police, the other tiers of local government and neighbouring town and parish councils.

3. Provision of information to the community and opportunities for community involvement

Information is provided by the Parish Council to the community in a number of ways, including:

- ◆ The Parish Council can be called Monday to Friday and can provide a wide range of information both on Council services and other local activities and issues
- ◆ The Parish Council's website www.wartlingparish.org.uk provides comprehensive information both on the work of the Parish Council and on other services, the Parish, local events, local groups and local organisations.

The public can contact the Parish Council through the website and public consultations are sometimes carried out through the website.

- ◆ The Parish Council provides three noticeboards around the Parish which are used to display notices for Council meetings and contact details for local councillors as well as other information of interest to the local community.
- ◆ The Parish Council provides notices in the Village Magazine which is available from the local shops and pubs.
- ◆ The Annual Report is produced in May each year and is available from the Parish Council, on the website and from the local library
- ◆ All meetings of the Parish Council and its committees and sub-committees are open to the public and a period is set aside at the meeting for public questions
- ◆ Public meetings are called to gauge public opinion about important issues affecting the Parish such as major planning applications
- ◆ Questionnaires are sometimes used to ask local people's opinions about specific matters and these are distributed to local residents, at public meetings, or are on the Council website

4. Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

- ◆ Formal representations to the Council may be made at any time in writing to the Clerk.
- ◆ A period is set aside at each Council meeting for representations to the Council.

5. Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council often works in partnership with other organisations such as the District Council, the County Council or the Police. It is represented on the Wealden District Association of Local Councils and also has representatives and/or regular consults the following local organisations:

- i: Police Panel Meeting
- ii: The Reid Hall
- iii: Sussex Association of Local Councils
- iv: East Sussex County Council

6. Role of Council Members and Officers

Council Members (Councillors) are the elected decision makers of the Parish Council. Their contact details are available on Parish Council noticeboards and on the Parish Council website. Members of the public are welcome to contact Councillors to raise any issues. The Council's officer is the clerk who is employed to carry out the day to day functions of the Council and make sure that its services are provided for the local community. The Clerk is the Proper Officer for the Council which means she has overall responsibility for the provision of Council services.

Statement prepared for adoption by Wartling Parish Council at its meeting on 25th January 2012