Hawthorn Parish Council

Community Engagement Policy

*(Approved and adopted June 2017)*

# Introduction

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”

# Aims

To ensure Hawthorn Parish Council:-

* Communicates on a regular basis with its residents and visitors
* Employs up to date methods of communication
* Has a commitment to listening to the views of its residents and visitors
* Consults on a regular basis with its residents and visitors
* Reaches out to the hard to reach groups in hawthorn
* Ensure the parish council’s long term aims and plans are made in consultation with its local community

# Consulting the local community

Hawthorn Parish Council will continue its regular practices of:-

The council should continue regular practices of:

* Allowing a 10 minutes public participation during every monthly meeting.
* Encouraging residents to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
* Constant updating of the web site and noticeboards
* Delivery of regular newsletter to every household in the parish
* Delivery of the electronic newsletter the Hawthorn Round Up on a monthly basis.
* Pro-actively delivering a flyer/consultation notice to household affected by contentious issues.
* Setting up of appropriate groups and co-opting members of the public to undertake specific projects to improve the area.

# Reaching the hard to reach groups

The Council uses both the printed word and the internet to communicate:

* The newsletter is delivered to every household in the village
* All information is available on the website
* The electronic newsletter has direct links to information, events etc.
* Members of the Council have a long history of living in the Parish and have been involved in social activities where they speak to parishioners on an informal basis.
* Various competitions and events aimed at the younger members of the community are well attended

# The Councils short, medium and long term aims?

Short term:

* Continued use and updating of all current forms of communication
* Regular reviews of feedback by agenda items at Council meetings
* Prompt response to any communications received from the public especially where the aspirations cannot be achieved.

Medium Term:

* Looking for hard to reach groups and a means of communicating with them i.e. disabled and elderly housebound people.
* Better communication with young people

Long Term:

* This policy should be reviewed during the lifetime of each council – effectively on a 4 yearly basis
* The council must keep up to date with evolving methods of communication.

Signed …………………………………………… Chairman

Date ……………………………………...