

Everton Parish Council



Community Engagement Strategy

Everton Parish Council is committed to giving residents a voice and involving them in the decisions that affect them and their community. The Parish Council's aim is to engage residents and encourage their participation in decision making to secure better services and to create a more active and informed community.

We are also committed to improving the consultation process between the Parish Council and the principal councils, so that the wishes of local residents are taken into account in the decisions taken at principal council level.

Current Methods of Communication

Parish Council/Community website with contact details of Members and Clerk.
Frequent articles in the village newsletter, HEDS Together.
Quarterly newsletter.
Annual report.
Annual information leaflet.
Information on the three Parish notice boards.
Agendas, minutes, quarterly newsletters, annual reports and information leaflets, etc. all supplied to local shops, licensed premises, local libraries, offices of the principal authorities and the media, and posted to the Parish Council/Community website.
Direct contact with residents on specific issues that they raise.
All Parish Council meetings are open to the public, who have an opportunity to speak
Representation on other village bodies, e.g. Metcalfe Charitable Trust and Metcalfe Recreation Committee.

Current Methods of Consultation with the Community

Through the methods listed above.
Through village questionnaires, e.g. Parish Plan and Housing Needs Survey.
Public Meetings on key village issues, e.g. Road Safety on the A631 and Parish Plan.
Public Discussion Periods at all our meetings.

Does the Parish Council know what the Community wants or expects from it?

Through the above methods of consultation.
Councillors' surgeries were introduced, but dropped after two years owing to extremely low take-up.

How content is the Community with Existing Services?

The Parish Council receives very few complaints about its services. We fully consulted the community through the Parish Plan, and have either acted on, or are acting on, the needs expressed. Currently we are working on the results of the Housing Needs Survey, to try to establish a small development of affordable housing in the Parish. We have also established a School and Community Working Group, comprising various stakeholders, which is working on the following:

Community use of new school facilities.

Future development of new play/sports facilities on the recreation ground.

An improved village website.

Production of a consolidated village emergency plan.

Improved public transport.

How well does the Parish Council communicate with hard to reach groups or young people?

All the above means of communication and consultation are available to the whole community.

Through the Parish Plan at which every household received a questionnaire, plus a youth questionnaire. A youth action group was established as part of the Parish Plan exercise, but was subsequently dissolved due to lack of support.

The Parish Council liaises with the local police and other stakeholders on a regular basis through the medium of the Safer Neighbourhood Group, especially regarding issues relating to young people, where the police talk to hard to reach groups on a regular basis.