



<b>Studley Parish Council</b>	
<b>Community Engagement Policy</b>	
Status	Adopted
Date adopted	January 2021
Date of next review	January 2023

**STUDLEY Parish Council aims to build on the way it engages and consults the community on important issues by ensuring that it:**

- Represents and promote the interests of Studley.
- Works closely with residents, businesses and community groups to understand their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process.
- Engages with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision-making, monitoring services and planning for the future.
- Ensures that residents have the opportunity to be heard.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and opposes discrimination.
- Is open and accountable in all it does to ensure total transparency wherever possible.
- Supports development, which is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

This strategy is part of the council's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the Studley community, based on trust, openness and constructive challenge.

The outcomes the Council hopes to achieve include:

- Improved communication with the Studley community, predominantly through the parish council's website, social media and, when complete, the Neighbourhood Plan.
- A better understanding within the Studley community of the role of the Parish Council officers and its Councillors.
- Local people feeling that they are involved in decision making.
- Improved satisfaction with local public services, and the inclusive discussion as to what, if any, additional services the council should look to implement.

## **1. Defining the Studley Community**

**The Council considers the community of Studley to consist of:**

- All residents of Studley Parish, including residents of care or residential homes.
- All users of the Parish Council's services.
- All those who work within the Parish.
- All those who own businesses within the Parish.
- All young people who live and/or go to school within the Parish.
- All local voluntary organisations, clubs and societies.
- Any group or organisation that represents some, or any, of the above cross sections of the Studley community.

Additionally, Studley Parish Council recognises there are certain bodies crucial to the quality of life in Studley and aims to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including but not limited to: the Police, local traders, various statutory and voluntary care organisations, other tiers of local government, and neighbouring towns and parish councils.

## **2. Provision of information to the community and opportunities for community involvement**

Information is provided by the Parish Council by way of:

- Studley Parish Council office.
- Studley Parish Council's website.
- Social media: Facebook.
- Various notice boards.
- The Annual Report, produced in April each year and available at the Annual Parish meeting or from the Parish Council offices, or the website.
- Meetings of Studley Parish Council and its committees and sub-committees which are open to the public and where a period of up to 15 minutes is set aside for public questions and public engagement.
- Public meetings, called to gauge public opinion concerning important issues affecting the Studley community.
- Questionnaires, to ask local people's opinions about specific matters.
- (Yet to be established) Councillor Surgeries; arranged on a six-monthly basis, to which the Police and any other relevant organisations are invited.

## **3. Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council**

Formal representations to Studley Parish Council may be made at any time in writing to the Parish Clerk or at a councillor surgery (when established) / or at a meeting of the council or any of its committees.

## **4. Involvement in Partnerships**

Studley Parish Council will support partnership-working with other organisations such as Stratford District Council, Warwickshire County Council, the Police, the Environment Agency, the NHS, the local schools, as well as the many varied charitable and voluntary groups within Studley.

Studley Parish Council is actively involved with, and provides support to, many local projects and initiatives.

## **5. Role of Council Members and Officers**

Council Members (Councillors) are the elected decision makers of Studley Parish Council; their contact details are available from the Parish Council office and on the [website](#).

Members of the public are welcome to contact Councillors to raise any issues.

The parish council's officers are employed to carry out the council's day to day functions.

The Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council and is responsible for ensuring all the council's procedures and protocols are correct. The Parish Clerk has overall responsibility for managing the council's affairs on a daily basis, and its employees.