



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Adopted 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Reviewed: Annually

Hullbridge Parish Council engages with the Community through the following methods:

- **Annual Parish Meeting** – Residents of the village are invited by an advertisement on the Parish website. Advertisements for the meeting are also placed on the parish Facebook page, the 12 noticeboards, together with the library, the Village Facebook page and at the Parish Office.
- **What Your Community Wants** – The Parish Council makes a list after each Annual Parish Meeting and always takes details of questions to the next Parish Council Meeting for action. The Parish Community newsletter encourages engagement from resident to participate in local groups and projects.
- **Timetable of Meetings** – The timetable of meetings is placed on the website, noticeboards and Facebook page.
- **Meetings** - All Agendas for meetings are publicised on the website, Facebook and the main five village notice boards and at the Parish Office.
- **Public Meetings** – These are held for any large planning applications or subjects of interest to the village. Notices of the meeting are publicised on all our 12 notice boards, Parish Office, the library, Facebook and our Parish website also if possible a local press release.
- **Website** – The website is used for information, consultation and comments. There is an email link directly back to the Parish Office. Extensive information regarding the Parish and the village can be found on this site.
- **Facebook** – The Parish Council has its own Facebook page to engage with the local community and also puts articles on the Hullbridge Village Facebook page.
- **Public Question Time** – The public are continually invited to attend all Committee and Parish Council Meetings. There is a permitted time of 15 minutes allowed in all Agendas for the Public to speak. Any comments or questions are taken from those meetings and a response is made where required.
- **Items on Agendas** – The public are continually invited to express their views and have the opportunity to send copies of their response to Planning Applications to the Parish Council and request items on Agendas for discussion.
- **Contact Details** – The Parish Council display contact details on the Website, Facebook and on noticeboards
- **Parish Office** – The Parish Office is open for residents to visit four days a week. The office also receives communication from residents via email and telephone.



- **Parish Action Plan** -The Action Plan is reviewed and updated constantly by each Committee and annually by Full Council. This document give views, on behalf of the parish, from planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish, undertaking projects and schemes that benefit local residents, working in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish, alerting relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken, helping the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.
- **Planning – Housing Policy and Vision Statement** - This document came from the Parish Plan and can be found on the Parish Council website, this is reviewed regularly and is used when sending comments from Hullbridge Parish Council to Rochford District Council on Planning Applications.
- **Christmas Tree / Fayre/ Parcels** - The Parish Council organises an Annual Village Christmas Event that provides the entertainment, a lighted Christmas Tree, and Christmas Lights. The Parish council works alongside local community groups to bring this event to the residents. The Parish Council also runs several competitions including Chairman's Christmas Card. The Parish Council sponsor almost 300 over 80's Christmas parcels, which are packed and distributed by Councillors and Council staff.
- **Litter Picks** – The Parish Council purchased and provides litter pickers and can arrange an litter picks for the Community / Primary School to participate.
- **Youth Groups** – The Council often sends a representative to local youth groups including the School and Scout Groups to listen to and interact with young people and works closely with the PTA on Parish representation at village events.
- **Councillor Surgeries**– The Parish Council organises regular surgeries for residents which are advertised on noticeboards and the Parish Facebook and website which enables members of the public to speak to Councillors on a one to one basis, any matters raised are investigated by Councillors.
- **Newsletter** – The Parish Council produces a biannual Newsletter that is distributed directly to all households. This letter promotes the work of the council and raises awareness of items that may interest residents actively engaging with them to shape the village , such as the provision of Men's Sheds. The Parish produces its Annual Report, which is available from the Parish office and the library and is posted on the parish website and Facebook page.
- **Recreation Ground** – The Parish Council has managed due to residents' demand fund the opening of the public toilets at the Recreation Ground also fund and sought funding (Communities Initiative Fund) to expand the play area in partnership with the District Council.

*All publications are available on the Parish Council Web Site which has links to local Business, clubs, schools churches and local authorities.*