

## **Greatham Parish Council**

### **Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement**

**Aims and Objectives:** Greatham Parish Council is committed to high standards of engagement with its community. The council is part of a tier of local government which belongs to, is part of and is directly accountable to its local community. Councillors play an important role as they are elected to make decisions on matters affecting the parish. We aim to make a measureable difference to the quality of life of the community we serve and be responsive to the community's needs. This statement sets out how the council ensures the community is kept informed about and contributes to the activities and decision making of the council to the benefit of the parish.

**What is our Community?** The council believes the community is everyone within the boundaries of the parish, including all ages, organisations, groups and individuals within it. The council recognises that residents pay for the activities of the parish council and that visitors to our community form an important part of the vibrancy of community life. The council fully understands that there are certain bodies that are crucial to local quality of life and will strive to achieve excellent working relationships with these bodies include village organisations, police, neighbouring councils and other tiers of local government.

**Provision of Information to the Community:** The council ensures that its main documents which reflect its decisions are published and readily available to the public. These documents include: minutes, agendas and annual reports of the council which are:

Published on the Greatham Village website.

Posted on the notice board at the Community Centre.

Available to view, by request and prior arrangement via the clerk.

**Opportunities for involvement and representations to the Council:** Agendas for committees and full council meetings contain an invite to the public and press to attend. Agendas give an indication of the business to be transacted so that you can decide whether you wish to attend or make your views known by other means. Meetings are the forum for business and decision making and it is important views are given ample time for due consideration. However, at meetings there is also an opportunity for the public to make representations in person prior to decisions being made. The council welcomes all representations but points out there are time limits within the meetings and will be at the discretion of the chair.

The council gives representatives of the police and other local government tiers opportunities to report to the council and residents. There is also an Annual Parish Meeting, usually held in mid-May, when representatives from various bodies attend and questioned by residents.

**Role of Councillors:** Councillors are the decision makers of the council. Contact details are available from the clerk or on the Community Centre noticeboard and website. Councillors also hold the clerk/financial officer to account. Please feel free to contact councillors when needed but this should be done initially via the clerk who is the Proper Officer and is the appropriate initial contact on matters concerning the council prior to contact with individual councillors.

**Adopted March 2017**