

Monk Hesleden Parish Council

Community Engagement Policy

Approved and adopted: 18/2/19

1. 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”

2. Aims

To ensure Monk Hesleden 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 the parish
- Ensure the parish council’s long term aims and plans are made in consultation with its local community

3. Consulting the local community

Monk Hesleden Parish Council will continue its regular practices of: -

- Allowing a 15 minutes public participation during every monthly meeting.
- Encouraging residents to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Constant updating of the web site, social media and noticeboards
- Delivery of regular newsletter to every household in the parish
- Setting up of appropriate groups and co-opting members of the public to undertake specific projects to improve the area.

4. Reaching the hard to reach groups

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

- The gazette is delivered to every household in the parish
- All information is available on the website
- 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

5. 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

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 G M Crute - Chairman

Date 19/2/19