

MOUNTSORREL COUNCIL.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT OF INTENT.

1. Aims and Objectives.

Mountsorrel Parish Council aims to:

- Represent and promote the interests of the parish of Mountsorrel and all its people;
- Provide the best possible amenities and services by the efficient use of available resources;
- Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area;
- Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination;
- Be open and accountable in all it does;
- Support development which is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable;
- Pay particular attention to the needs of vulnerable residents including children, young people and senior citizens
- Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing the parish's ecological and environmental assets.

In order to achieve these aims, the Council will:

- Work closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- Engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- Ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, it actively encourages the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;
- Ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

The outcomes the Council hopes to achieve are:

- Improved communication with the local community;
- A better understanding within the community of the role of the Parish Council and of its Councillors;
- Local people actively contributing to decision making;
- Improved satisfaction with local public services.

2. Defining the community.

The Council considers the community of Mountsorrel to consist of:

- All residents of the parish;
- 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 members of the above sections of the community.

Additionally, the Council recognises that there are certain bodies that are crucial to the quality of life in Mountsorrel and aims to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including the Police, the other tiers of local government and neighbouring town and parish councils.

3. Provision of information to the community and opportunities for community involvement.

Information is provided by the Parish Council to the community in a number of ways, including:

- The Parish Council offices in the Parish Rooms are open Monday to Wednesday and can provide a wide range of information both on Council services and other parish activities and issues;
- The Council's websites www.mountsorrelparishcouncil.co.uk and www.mountsorrelmemorialcentre.co.uk provides information both on the work of the Council and on other services, the history of the town, local events, local groups and organisations. The public can contact the Council through the website and public consultations are sometimes carried out through the website;

- The Council provides five noticeboards throughout the Parish which are used to display agendas for Council meetings as well as other information of interest to the local community. Additionally, these noticeboards can be used by local events organisers or groups;
- Parish councillors' surgeries are held every month at the Memorial Centre
- The Annual Report is produced in April each year and is available from the Council offices, on the website and from the local library and it is also presented at the Annual Parish Meeting;
- All meetings of the Council and its committees are open to the public and a period is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions relating to items on the agenda. Public questions may also be asked on matters which are not on the agenda, provided that notice has been given to the Clerk at least three working days before the date of the meeting;
- Public meetings are called to gauge public opinion about important issues affecting the parish such as major planning applications;
- Questionnaires are sometimes used to ask local people's opinions about specific matters and these are distributed to local residents at public meetings or downloadable from the Council website;
- Social media sites: the Council can be followed on Twitter and has its own Face Book page.

4. Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council.

- Formal representations to the Council may be made at any time in writing to the Clerk;
- A period for public questions and answers is set aside at the beginning of each Council meeting.

5. Involvement in Partnerships.

The Council works in partnership with other organisations such as Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Police. It also has representatives on the following local organisations:

- Tarmac Liaison Committee
- Soar Valley Liaison Committee
- Mountsorrel United Charities
- Mountsorrel Educational Fund
- Castledene Almshouses
- Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils;

6. Role of Council Members and Officers.

Council Members (Councillors) are the elected decision makers of the Parish Council. Their contact details are available from the Council offices and on the Council website. Members of the public are welcome to contact Councillors to raise any issues.

The Council's officers are employed to carry out the day to day functions of the Council and make sure that its services are provided for the local community.

The Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer for the Council which means that the Clerk has overall responsibility for the provision of Council services.

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