

## Little Abington Parish Council Community Engagement Policy

### 1. Introduction

Little Abington Parish Council (LAPC) recognises that its decisions should reflect the needs of its residents. It strongly believes that consulting with and involving residents on important issues is key to ensuring they are able to put forward an opinion and help to find solutions to local problems that are acceptable and fit for purpose and help to shape the future of Little Abington and the surrounding area. The aim of this policy is to develop a standard for engagement with residents and other partners.

Working together should ensure that residents have a voice and can make a real difference and help to develop a stronger, more active and cohesive community. LAPC recognises the importance of including all members of the community and that working with harder to reach groups such as young people, the elderly, housebound, disabled and ethnic minorities may require different approaches.

### 2. Aims and Objectives

LAPC will engage with its residents and partners on important issues to ensure that:

- They are fully informed, consulted and involved.
- They have an opportunity to be included in improving, planning and shaping the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities
- Their views are listened to and used to develop, enhance and improve services, the environment and quality of life and general well-being of the community.

### 3. How this will be achieved.

- The Abingtons website [www.theabingtons.org.uk](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk) contains information about LAPC and links to other local government services.
- Parish Council contact details are published on the Abingtons website, in the village newsletter and on the LAPC noticeboard
- All LAPC meetings and committee meetings are open to the public. There is time at each meeting for public participation to talk to Parish Councillors about items on the agenda or any other matters that may be of concern. Dates of meetings are displayed on the website and on the noticeboard.
- LAPC meetings are advertised in the village and on the Abingtons website. Meeting agendas are published on the Abingtons website and on the LAPC noticeboard.
- Minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on the Abingtons website, on the Parish Council notice board and they are filed in the Abington Institute.
- The Parish Council Annual Review is published on the Abingtons website. Copies are also available in the Abington Institute
- A summary of Parish Council meetings is included in the monthly village newsletter
- The Parish Council makes use of social media e.g. Facebook.

Reviewed and updated May 2017

Next review. Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 2019

Signed

Date

Parish Council Chairman

