



NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL POWER OF WELL-BEING Statement of Intent on Community Engagement

Background

The population of Newick in 2010 was 2,325, with the largest number of people being aged between 45-65 years (33.6%). 19.4% of residents were aged between 65-85+ years. There is little ethnic diversity with the population being predominantly white.

284 Newick children are in attendance at schools maintained by East Sussex County Council, 46% of whom are female and the remainder males. (ESCC school census 2010/11)

The 2001 census revealed that Newick had 942 households, 81% of which were owner-occupied. 35 new homes were built in Newick between 2001 and 2009.

The median income per annum of Newick households in 2010 was £38,508, higher than both the national and East Sussex median incomes.

In 2001 35.2% of Newick households had one car. 40.7% had two cars, 9.8% had three cars and 3.6% had four or more cars. These ratios of 2, 3 or 4 or more cars per household outstrip those for England and Wales, and for East Sussex, by a considerable margin.

Access to the internet is believed to be in excess of 75% and growing.

Community engagement processes employed by Newick Parish Council

Newick Parish Council's Community Engagement Process includes the fourteen strands set out below:

1. Annual Parish Meeting: held in April in the Village Hall and for the last two years approximately one hundred parishioners have attended.
2. Open Council Meetings and Committee Meetings: all Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are fully open to the public with an opportunity for Parishioners to address the meetings (on agreed issues) at the beginning of the session. Parishioners can attend the entire meeting except for confidential sessions which are very rare.
3. Community Website: all organisations (commercial or private) have the opportunity to have their own web pages. The Council publishes all of its minutes, agendas, and accounts etc. on the website. The Freedom of Information scheme is available on the website as is most of the information considered to be of use or interest to parishioners.
4. Community Website for outward communication including parishioner's ability to sign up for news emails – sent to individual's email accounts automatically.

5. Community Website Forums for village debates and a Letters page for open communications across the community.
6. Community Website e-petitions capability – the website has the ability to facilitate e-petitions.
7. Village Surveys & Questionnaires: these surveys are conducted via both hard copy and electronic methods, according to need.
8. Village Notice Boards – three in total which are sited in prominent locations and have their content regularly reviewed and updated.
9. Quarterly Parish Council Newsletter delivered to every household and in addition items relating Council matters are also regularly included in the Parish Magazine.
10. Membership by Councillors of various clubs, societies, charities and groups plus engagement of parishioners in Council sponsored committees e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, CCTV management committee.
11. Membership by Councillors of external bodies and attendance at consultation events and briefings sessions.
12. Involvement of District & County Councillors (when possible) in Council meetings.
13. Facilitation of events, where possible, to enhance village community spirit and providing an opportunity for Councillors to communicate with parishioners on a more informal basis.
14. The names and contact details of all Councillors and the Parish Clerk are displayed on Parish Notices Boards, on the website and in all Newsletters.

The existence of an experienced and long serving Clerk to the Council is a major asset in Community Engagement as the Clerk is probably one of the most well known and approachable individuals in the village.

The Council believes that collectively these strands provide measures for the dissemination and communication of both strategy and information to parishioners. Furthermore, they facilitate two-way, interactive, communication between parishioners and the Council, which enables parishioners' voices to be heard and their perceptions, views and ideas captured.

Reviewed and Adopted by Council on 30th August, 2011

Signed:
Chairman for the Council

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