



TATENHILL AND RANGEMORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

Tatenhill & Rangemore Parish Council recognises the importance of local people, community groups and businesses having a voice in contributing to the debate and decisions on issues faced by the Parish Council. The first goal of our Corporate Strategy is “to build an active and engaged community,” and this Policy is intended to support that goal and highlight our commitment.

Aims and Objectives

The Council's aims and objectives for seeking community engagement and the outcomes it hopes to achieve are:

Aims:

- Work more 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, by getting closer to the community and being accessible to all groups, local democracy is enhanced;
- Ensure that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage 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.

Objectives:

This policy is part of the council's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the community, based on trust, openness and constructive challenge.

Outcomes

.The outcomes which we are striving for and against which the success of this policy will be measured are:

- Improved communication through the establishment of new channels of engagement.
- More residents understanding the role of Councillors and getting the best effect.
- Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision- making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering.
- Improved satisfaction with services provided by the Council.

Defining the community

Tatenhill& Rangemore Parish is situated within the Borough of East Staffordshire, in the heart of the Staffordshire countryside and is also within the National Forest. The Parish contains two villages, Tatenhill and Rangemore. There are also settlements at Rangemore Hall, Wilmore Lane and Tatenhill Common.

There are 334 dwellings, 750+ parish residents and 581 electors. The principal councils are East Staffordshire Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.

The community may be defined as consisting of residents of the parish; and

- Tatenhill Memorial and Thanksgiving Hall, Trustees & its users,
- Rangemore Club and trustees,
- Head Teacher and Governors of All Saints Primary School at Rangemore,
- Young people who live and/or go to school in the parish,
- Retail and other and Businesses in the community, including employees and customers
- St Georges Park including staff, visitors and those training.
- Interest groups – clubs and societies e.g. Bowls, History etc
- Voluntary organisations, particularly Tatenhill & Rangemore Community Group
- Church Groups,
- Farming Community,
- Groups of people defined by a common factor such as age, disability, faith, and other groups,
- Councillors and public service representatives including Council Staff.

Role of council members and officers

- The Parish has never been party-political with 7 Councillors identified in the community, via newsletters, the website and published in the Council's annual report. Council members communicate with the public via their attendance at council & committee meetings, through their casework, by attending public meetings and organisations within the Parish, and by seeking opinions.
- There is one officer of the Council, (the Clerk/RFO) who covers the entire spectrum of the council work, being based at home. Members of the public are welcome to make appointments at mutually convenient times and place to meet with the Clerk. The officer is frequently dealing with meetings or in contact via email, telephone and letters etc clerk@tatenhillandrangemore.gov.uk
- The Parish Council supported the development of the Parish Plan and promoted the Neighbourhood Plan to give the community the greatest possible say in its future.

Provision of information to the community

- Messages can be left 24/7 either by telephone or email.
- The names and emails of all the Councillors are published on the website, in the Newsletter and in the Annual Report.
- The Parish Council website address is also widely published and the site contains all the information an individual might wish to know about the work of the Parish Council and its individuals, including meeting minutes, policy documents, financial statements, annual report and how to contact anyone associated with the Council.
- The Council is increasingly using social media to ensure that people who find this more convenient and particularly young people.
- The council produces a quarterly Newsletter which is delivered to every household and business in the parish.
- Information, such as agendas of meetings, is published on the 4 notice boards around the parish and on the web site.
- The Police Beat Officer, Police Community Support Officer, East Staffordshire district Ward Councillors and County Councillor and members of the press are invited to attend every Council meeting.
- An Annual Report is prepared and printed in the newsletter and on the web site.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

- It is recognised that members of the community may wish to engage with the Council at different levels – from the odd email or letter with a suggestion on how a service could be improved, to regular attendance at a Council meeting.
- The Council's meetings are of course open to the public and public participation is facilitated at each public meeting, which is defined in Standing orders and regularly publicised.
- Council appoints non councillors on to appropriate working groups when they can bring a particular expertise.
- An Annual Parish Meeting is held each year, giving the public and local organisations an opportunity to participate in the full meeting. This meeting is advertised widely and is used by the Council to report on the work carried out during the year. It is also an opportunity for the Council to obtain the views of residents on any matter which affects the community.
- The council undertakes consultations by questionnaire, website, focus groups and public meetings as appropriate, for specific issues.
- The council invites the School Council to its meeting twice each year, and puts on a role play council, to ensure that pupils understand how local democracy works and get the opportunity to engage with local issues.
- The Council is always considering practical ways of engaging with people and community groups.
- The Council will continue to arrange, support and participate in community events.

Involvement with partnerships

The council has a representative on the following

- Tatenhill & Rangemore Community Group
- Tatenhill Memorial and Thanksgiving Hall
- Both Tatenhill and Rangemore Parochial Church Councils
- Brookside Cottage Homes Trust (almshouses)
- East Staffordshire Neighbourhood Forum
- Transforming the Trent Valley.

Contact the Parish Council:

The council and members may be contacted through the Parish Clerk,
Mrs Kay Lear, 30 Forest Edge Way, Burton on Trent, Telephone: 01283 533011
Email: clerk@tatenhillrangemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk