# Community Engagement Policy

1. **Introduction**

Repton Parish Council has developed this policy with the aim of advising its parishioners and partners on how and why they will engage them.

It recognises that the services it provides should aim to reflect the needs of its parishioners, and that they should be involved in decisions affecting them and their environment.

1. **Aims**

Repton Parish Council aims to engage and consult parishioners and partners on important issues by;

* Informing, consulting and involving
* Being inclusive and engaging with all of its parishioners and partners
* Ensuring views are listened to and used to develop, enhance and improve services, the environment and the quality of life for parishioners.

1. **Objectives**

To improve, plan and shape the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities

* To improve the quality and delivery of services
* To use engagement to inform decision making, ensuring decisions are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the parish
* To enhance the well-being of the parishioners

1. **How will this be achieved?**

## Communication

Repton Parish Council website is the primary source of information on the Council and will be regularly updated. It will contain documents required by legislation such as agenda, minutes and audit details. All services offered by the Council will be detailed on the website along with the current price details and any relevant application forms. Policies will also be on the website to show transparency of the Council workings.

Repton Parish Council noticeboards will be used to show helpful information and also legal documents such as the agendas and audit details.

Repton Parish Council has a Facebook page and this will have updates of helpful information.

All meetings of Repton Parish Council and its committees are open to the public. The agendas for these meetings will be advertised on the noticeboards and website. Some time is set aside in each meeting for public speaking.

Each month Repton Parish Council will put their monthly update into the local parish magazine, which is available online and in printed form.

Repton Parish Council will have a stand at the annual Village Party to be manned by Councillors to provide parishioners with leaflets of what they do and be available to discuss any issues or answer any queries.

Repton Parish Council will hold a regular surgery along with the District and County Councillors (if possible), to allow parishioners to come along and get answers to any queries they have. These will be advertised on the website, noticeboards and in the parish magazine.

## Consultation

Repton Parish Council will consult parishioners on important issues and will aim to ensure those most affected are able to put forward an opinion and give an opportunity to make a difference.

It will aim to ensure that consultations include all members of the parish by identifying the hard to reach groups such as youth, the elderly, the housebound, the disabled, etc. this may require establishing different engagement channels for them.

## Support

Repton Parish Council will aim to support local organisations and engage with them to assist them in meeting their own aims and objectives.

Repton Parish Council will aim to support local projects and participate in local events to raise awareness of the Council and its aims and objectives.

Repton Parish Council will aim to support members of the parish in shaping the future of their parish.

## Working Together

Working with parishioners and partners in finding solutions to local problems will ensure that they will be accepted and fit for purpose.

Working with parishioners to carry out agreed action plans, will engage with the community to enhance the parish and the quality of life.

Working together in decision making will ensure parishioners have a voice and can make a difference.

1. **Policy Review**

This process will be reviewed annually and any changes noted below when this has been agreed by the Council.

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| **Version Number** | **Date of Review** | **Revisions Made** | **Date of Next Review** |
| 1 | October 2022 | Policy adopted | One year after adoption |
| 2 | November 2023 | Updated to reflect that the Facebook group is now used and the council surgeries are now operating | November 2024 |
| 2a | March 2024 | No updates needed | March 2025 |
| 2b | February 2025 | No updates needed | March 2026 |