



# ST. AGNES PARISH COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF INTENT AS TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 1. Aims and Objectives

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

#### A. Aims to:

- 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 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.

#### B. Objectives.

This strategy 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 of the strategy will include:

- 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 local public services.

### 2. Defining the Community

St. Agnes is a rural Parish situated on the north coast, seven miles from the cathedral city of Truro. The principal authority is Cornwall Council

The parish comprises of five villages, St. Agnes, Mt. Hawke, Mithian, Porthtowan, Blackwater and several small hamlets and has a residential number of 7500 (as at 2001).

The community may be defined as consisting of:

- Residents of the Parish,
- Users of Parish Council Services,
- Village Hall Trustees & users,
- Head Teachers and Governors of Schools,
- Young people who live and/or go to school in the Villages,
- Retail and other and Businesses in the community,
- Interest groups – clubs and societies e.g. Brownies, Scouts etc
- Voluntary organisations,
- 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.

### **3. Role of Council Members and Officers**

The Council is non-political with 16 Councillors identified in the community, via newsletters and the website, for their roles and responsibilities, which are also detailed and published in the Council's annual report. Council members communicate with the public via their attendance at meetings as part of their work with relevant committees. Councillors each have a number of different roles that embrace a range of activities from the following: Planning Development; Allotments; Finance; Recreational Ground management; Burial Ground management; Highways; Liaison with other Parish Council's; Risk Assessment; Footpaths, representing the Council on various other community committees.

These roles inevitably bring opportunity to discuss the work of the Council with residents and peers and encourages participation and feedback.

There are two officers of the Council, who cover the entire spectrum of the council work, and are based in an office in St. Agnes, which is open five mornings a week from 10 to 11 for people to turn up without an appointment. Outside these times appointments can be made to visit the office as the staff is frequently dealing with meetings or in contact via email, telephone and letters etc.

### **4. Provision of Information to the Community and Opportunities for Community Involvement**

1. The Parish Office is open to the public five mornings a week from 9am to 12pm Noon and messages can be left 24/7 either by telephone or email.
2. The telephone numbers and addresses of all the Councillors are published on the Council's website, in the 'Bolster' and in the Annual Report. 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.
3. 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.
4. The council submits articles to the 'Bolster' (community magazine) on a monthly basis. This is delivered to households in the parish.
5. Information is published on the notice boards around the parish.
6. There is a 15 minute public forum at each council meeting.
7. An Annual Report is prepared and is available in hard copy from the Parish Office or on the website

8. Parish council surgeries are held each month at various locations in the Parish.

9. . The council will support and be part of the production of a Village Design Statement and a Parish Plan.

10. The council undertakes consultations by questionnaire, public meetings as appropriate, for specific issues.

Active feedback is sought at all times and the Council encourages people to participate in local affairs with specific local issues being explored from time to time using the full range of communication techniques available. The Council is always considering practical ways of engaging with people and community groups

#### **5. Involvement with Partnerships.**

The council has a representative on the following:-

- St. Agnes Regeneration Committee
- Perranporth Airfield Consultative Committee
- North Coast Cluster Group
- Trevauance Beach Cleaning Committee
- Goonown Playing Field Committee
- Beaconsfield Playing Field Committee
- Cornwall Association of Local Councils.
- St. Agnes & Perranporth Area Network.

This Statement of Intent for Community Engagement was approved for issue at the parish council meeting held on November 2009 and reviewed 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012

*S Herman*

Signed

S Herman– Parish Clerk