

# BRICKHILL



## PARISH COUNCIL

### **BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY Statement of Intent January 2010**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

To achieve our ambitions for our community Brickhill Parish Council wants to work closely with the public. Our aim is to work with local people and encourage public participation in decision making and the local democratic process to create a more active and informed community and to secure better services and facilities for that community. This Statement of intent explains our strategy for community engagement and provides an action plan for the year beginning January 2010.

#### **COMMUNITY**

For the purpose of this Statement the terms 'the community' and 'community members' include:

- People living and/or working within the Parish of Brickhill
- Businesses based within the Parish and business groups
- Public and private service providers within the Parish
- Communities and neighbourhoods
- Interest and pressure groups
- Tenant and residents groups
- Users and potential users of Parish Council services
- Hard to reach groups
- Young people
- Voluntary and not-for-profit organisations
- Educational establishments and providers
- Church and faith groups
- Temporary members of the community

## **AIMS**

The Parish Council has the following aims:

- **To communicate information to our community clearly, factually and appropriately**
- **To listen to our community, providing comprehensive opportunities for community members to communicate with the council**
- **To represent the views of the whole community of Brickhill**
- **To enable each Councillor to maximise his/her role as an elected member and a community leader**
- **To enable all members of our community to become actively involved with the Council's activities and the local democratic process**
- **To improve our communication with our partners and stakeholders**
- **To ensure that our officers understand the Council's priorities**

## **ACTION PLAN 2010**

<b>Minutes</b>	Ensure copies of minutes are available in both hard copy and electronically for residents and community groups	Clerk and Members	Ongoing
<b>Annual Report</b>	Ensure Report is available by both hard copy and electronically for residents and community organisations	Clerk and Members	Annually in April/May

<b>Office Drop in Session</b>	Publicise office opening hours in newsletter and on website and noticeboards	Clerk and Members	Ongoing
<b>Councillor Surgeries</b>	Publicise regular Parish councillor surgeries in newsletter, on website and noticeboards	Clerk and Members	Ongoing
<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	Publicise this meeting more widely and liaise with local community to ensure groups and individuals have the opportunity to raise matters of concern	Clerk and Members	Annually in May
<b>Public Forum</b>	Encourage residents to raise any matters of interest or concern via the public forum part of Full Council	Clerk and Members	Ongoing
<b>Noticeboards</b>	Regularly update noticeboards with council and community activities	Officers	Ongoing
<b>Website</b>	Maintain website with information on council services and activities and community activities and services	Officers and Members, Community Groups and residents	Ongoing
<b>Newsletter</b>	Produce and deliver a newsletter quarterly	Officers and Members, Community Groups and residents	Quarterly
<b>Allotments</b>	Promote allotment gardening in Brickhill and communicate with allotment gardeners and relevant community groups through noticeboards, allotment newsletter, allotment tenants meetings etc	Officers, Members, Allotment Tenants and Community Groups	Ongoing
<b>Brickhill Community Centre</b>	Provide representatives to the management committee of this organisation	Members and Officers	Ongoing

<b>Businesses</b>	Engage with businesses and business organisations in the Parish	Officers and members	Ongoing
<b>Brickhill Community Safety Forum</b>	Provide representatives to the Committee and work closely with all agencies in the community concerned with community safety to publicise and encourage participation in community safety initiatives	Members and officers	Ongoing
<b>Brickhill Policing Partnership</b>	Provide financial support and work closely with Brickhill Policing Partnership to publicise and facilitate the work of the Brickhill Safer Neighbourhood Team	Members and officers	Ongoing
<b>Local Democracy</b>	Encourage electors to both vote at and stand for the Parish Council in Local Council elections	Officers and Members	Ongoing but high priority in the six months leading to local council elections
<b>Press</b>	Liaise with the press sending details of relevant council activities	Officers	Ongoing
<b>Brickhill Borough Councillors</b>	Maintain contact with Brickhill Ward Councillors for Bedford Borough Council to ensure sharing of information, publicise Borough Councillor surgeries on notice-board and website	Officers and members	Ongoing
<b>Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council</b>	Encourage the Chairman to fulfil his/her civic role as public face of the council and encourage community organisations to invite the Chairman to events	Officers and members	Ongoing

**Adopted 7 January 2010**