



South Normanton Parish Council Community Engagement Policy 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This document forms the Parish Council's Community Engagement Policy.

It sets out:

- The Role of community engagement and its importance;
- How South Normanton Parish Council engages the wider community and identifies the needs and aspirations of the community.
- How the Parish Council can improve community engagement.

1.2 The objectives of this policy are to;

- Encourage effective local community engagement;
- Ensure that embedded throughout the council there is clear understanding of the need to engage with communities about decisions that affect them;
- Enable aspirations/comments/suggestions obtained from the community engagement to have an impact on decision making and the way services are being delivered;
- Identify how the council can enhance its profile by improving engagement with the wider community (with specific reference to hard to reach groups).

2. Community Engagement – an Overview

2.1 Community engagement is concerned with giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions which affect them and their community. This may include individuals, voluntary and community organisations as well as other public sector bodies.

It provides opportunity for local people to talk to the council about their aspirations and or needs in the community and neighbourhood. It allows the council to consult with and inform people about what services it provides, how it prioritises, how policies are determined and how well its performing.

2.2 The term stakeholder makes reference to a wide range of people and groups (these





South Normanton

Parish Council

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might include, residents, visitors, businesses, government, voluntary organisations and public service organisations), all of which have an interest in the council's services and projects.

Hard to Reach groups refers to those who experience social exclusion and are sometimes perceived as being disempowered. Some examples include young people, elderly people, physical disability, language barriers, financial constraints, cultural differences or social expectations. The Parish Council will put effort into seeking their views, but it also recognises that sometimes they have excluded themselves through personal choice.

2.3 The key aspects to community engagement include:

- Development of a network of relationships between council, individuals, voluntary and community groups.
- Clear and open communication to ensure that information is made accessible to all groups.
- Listening and understanding from a range of people to identify aspirations, needs and problems of local people or groups.

2.4 Effective and meaningful community engagement can provide a number of benefits:

- The problems and needs of local people are clearly identified in order that appropriate new or improved facilities / services can be provided.
- Those participating feel empowered by being involved in decision making in their local community.
- This may result in enhanced leadership and greater interest in elections and standing for council.

3. South Normanton Parish Council and Community Engagement

3.1 The Parish Council will facilitate community engagement in the following ways:

- Making information on decisions are being considered and how residents can influence or contribute to the discussions in good time.

Methods used to ensure engagement will be – through the Parish Council website, notice boards, the Parish Council's advertisements, posters, consultations, reports and word of mouth, use of social media.



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- All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public and press and there is a period set aside for residents to speak.

Residents can access agendas for meetings via the parish Council website, notice boards, and they can be collected from the Parish Council Office, public agendas are also made available at the meetings of the council.

Which Council is responsible for what services?

The Parish Council

- The new part of the church yard/burials
- Some litter bins within the Parish
- Some hedge/tree maintenance areas
- South Street recreation ground, Town Park, Town Park playing field
- Football pitches/pavilions
- Market stalls
- Some grit bins within the Parish
- Allotments (alongside the Allotment Association)

The District Council

- Housing
- Planning applications
- Council tax
- Trees/hedges
- Fly tipping
- Waste bins
- Dog waste bins

County Council

- Roads/pot holes
- Pavements
- Education
- Transport
- Yellow lines

Review Date11/02/2026.....

Signed by Chairman

Signed by Parish Clerk.....



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Date

Next review date....Feb 2027



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