

Hebden Royd Town Council

Community Engagement Policy

Community engagement “is about giving local people a voice and involving them in the decisions that affect them and their community. It is about the development of relationships and clear communication to deliver better services and projects.”

National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Vision Statement

The economic, social, and environmental well-being of those who live and work in Hebden Royd will be a major factor in all our decision-making.

Mission Statement

We are committed to a better quality of life for all the people of Hebden Royd. We plan to achieve this in association with community groups and the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Hebden Royd Town Council will therefore strive to:

- Be open and accessible in all its decision-making
- Be accountable in all its council activities
- Be responsive to the needs of the community
- Promote equal opportunities

Wherever possible, individuals and groups are encouraged to work in partnership with the Council to enhance the area to the benefit of the wider community.

Hebden Royd Town Council intends to have meaningful engagement and collaboration with the community as part of its everyday working practice.

OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

To Strengthen Partnerships

HOW WE AIM TO ACHIEVE THEM

Work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies, organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Through proactive networking and Town Council representatives, encourage partners to approach the Town Council with clear, well thought out constructive ideas which will benefit all sections of the community and on which there can be joint working.

To Improve Communication

Publicise the work of the Town Council through its social media, website, newsletters and press releases. Give the public the opportunity to ask questions at all of its public meetings.

Encourage public feedback, both positive and ideas for development, by visiting the website and during public participation at Council meetings. By including the community through questionnaires, by staff and councillors canvassing opinion and by any method which is relevant to the subject being considered.

To Manage Council Resources Wisely

Have good financial control through legal procedures and quality auditing to ensure that resources are spent on the needs of the community.

Focus resources on what matters to our community.
Attain maximum benefit from management of the Council's assets.

To Promote a Sustainable Community

Acknowledge the diverse heritage of Hebden Royd and seek to maintain this through the community's active engagement in the developing Neighbourhood Plan. Expressing those views at Town Council meetings. Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote resilience for the future, this includes being proactive in emergency planning and flood awareness.

Work to encourage balancing the current needs of people, the economy and the environment without compromising the future. Be sensitive to our environment and contribute to a high quality of life.

Work wherever possible with the business community to sustain economic vibrancy and work in partnership with community organisations, the business sector and voluntary organisations to enable wider community involvement.

Feedback from community engagement will be included in Town Council Minutes, via the website, through Social Media, Annual Reports, press releases and newsletters presented clearly and without jargon.

The Town Council recognises that there are residents who may have specific needs or less chance than others to get involved such as the elderly, young people and those disabled and will work to mitigate these barriers and disadvantages.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There are opportunities for individuals/groups and partner organisations to ask questions at the beginning of every public meeting of the Council. Meetings are open to the public, dates and venues are published on the Town Council Website (www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk).

The Town Council can be contacted electronically (www.hebdenroydtowncouncil.gov.uk), by social media (Twitter @HebdenRoydTC) or Facebook, www.facebook.com/HebdenRoydTownCouncil), via website contact page, during the Town Council Office hours or by phone on 01422 842181.

INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS

Hebden Royd Town Council will work proactively wherever possible to strengthen and improve working relationships with our partners; statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups.

ROLE OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Hebden Royd Town Council members and officers will engage with the community through partnership working, with statutory bodies/organisations, local business and voluntary groups. Town Councillors will also sit as observers on local organisations on invitation as well as organisations in receipt of funding from the Community Funding Committee where the award warrants this condition.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Town Council welcomes the views of local residents on the services that they provide, but also on wider issues which affect people living locally. Consultation may be directly through the Town Council, its Councillors and those authorised to work on behalf of the Council.

Consultations initiated by other statutory bodies will be separate to the Town Council and information gathered through them will be issued through the relevant authority.