

BREAGE PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Breage Parish Council is committed to engaging and empowering its Parishioners and communities so that they can be actively involved in decisions that affect them.

The parish council will use the following strategies to ensure this:

Making information on what decisions are being considered and how Parishioners can influence or contribute to the discussions/decisions available to enable contributions. This will be via the website, 6 x neighbourhood notice boards, e-mail contact with the Clerk/Councillors, consultations, word of mouth and easily understandable reports.

Breage Parish Council will be proactive and be willing to consider any reasonable opportunities that support its purpose of getting information available and increasing contributions from the community, especially those difficult to reach i.e. housebound and disabled.

Monthly meetings of the parish council are open to the public and there is a period set aside for public participation. Residents may access agendas for the meetings from the Parish notice boards in Ashton, Breage, Carleen, Godolphin, Praa Sands and Trescowe and from the Parish Office, Breage. The Clerk will explain the procedure and offer tips for residents wishing to address members. Parishioners can, where appropriate or necessary, make written reports or have a case presented on their behalf to members. The Parish Office is required to play a neutral role so that residents can be fully involved and be confident that they are receiving unbiased information and support. This neutral involvement allows more flexibility in the service and the personal element of the contact hopefully encourages more involvement from the hard to reach members of the community. The Parish Office has set times when members of the public may visit and this is by appointment only due to Health and Safety regulations.

The Parish Council will produce an Annual Report in April each year that may be collected from the Parish Office or accessed on the website.

Details of how to contact the Parish Office will be displayed on the website and in the annual report.

The Parish Council will continue to use any opportunities afforded to be present in the community e.g. fetes. Every opportunity to increase this public presence will be welcomed and considered. Individual councillors as well as the parish office play a role in identifying opportunities.

When dealing with 'controversial' issues or with issues that affect a particular community consideration will be given to holding special consultation meets in a local venue (e.g. for Affordable Housing).

Consultations and surveys are to be considered where necessary and appropriate and results will be made available.

Parish Plan: The Five Parishes Plan produced in April 2004 in partnership with Crowan, Germoe, Sithney and Wendron is the current Parish Plan. This may be viewed on the website.

The Parish Council will be receptive to requests from residents or communities and will attempt to be flexible in order to ensure their opinions are known not only to the parish council but also to other organisations. This may be by including an item for discussion on an agenda or allowing a local group to put their opinions into an official report undertaken by the parish.

The Parish Council will be open and accountable in its dealing with residents and the community. It will make information on its policies and procedures freely available.

The Parish Council will, where appropriate, ensure that local people and communities are referred to the correct department/officer/ Ward Councillor and that they are aware of the ways that they can use the relevant systems to make their views known.

The Parish Council will review its Community Engagement Strategy on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant.

Adopted at the meeting of Breage Parish Council on 5 April 2011

..... Chairman
Cllr John V Keeling MBE