

Abbots Langley Parish Council
Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement



Aims and Objectives

Abbots Langley Parish Council is committed to high standards of engagement with its community. Our council is part of a tier of local government which belongs to, is part of and is directly accountable to its local community. Councillors play an important role as they are elected to make decisions on matters affecting Abbots Langley. We aim to make a measurable difference to the quality of life of the community we serve and to be responsive to the needs of our community.

The civil parish of Abbots Langley extends beyond just the village. It has around 24,000 residents in Abbots Langley, Pimlico, Bedmond, Leavesden, Hunton Bridge and Langleybury.

This statement sets out how we ensure the community is kept informed about and can contribute to the activities and decision making of this council to the benefit of Abbots Langley parish.

What is Our Community?

We believe our community is everyone within the boundaries of our civil parish including all ages, any organisations, groups and individuals within it. We also recognise that residents pay for the activities of the Abbots Langley Parish Council and that visitors to our community form an important part of the vibrancy of community life. We understand that there are certain bodies that are crucial to local quality of life and we will strive to achieve excellent working relationships with these bodies including local organisations, the Police, neighbouring councils and other tiers of government. We support many local organisations through grant funding.

Provision of Information to the Community

This council ensures that its main documents which reflect its decisions are published and readily available for the public to view. These documents include, but are not restricted to, the agendas, minutes and annual reports of the council which are:

Published on the council's website www.abbotslangley-pc.gov.uk

Available to view, during the published opening hours of the Parish Council offices or by request and prior arrangement with the Clerk at other times.

You can view the Parish Council's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the council's website.

Opportunities for involvement and representations to the Council

Agenda for committees and full council meetings contain an invitation to the public and press to attend. Agenda give you an indication of the business to be transacted so that you can decide whether you want to attend or make your views known by some other means prior to the meeting. Meetings are the forum for business and decision making and it is important that this business can be conducted with adequate time for consideration of the issues before councillors. However, at committee and council meetings there is also an opportunity for the public to make representations in person prior to decisions being made. We welcome representations and have put in place Public Speaking Arrangements to help manage representations at meetings. The Public Speaking Arrangements are available on our website, or from the council offices. The Clerk can provide further advice on speaking at meetings, if required.

We give representatives from the Police and other tiers of local government an opportunity to make reports to full council meetings. This provides the public and councillors with more information and is an opportunity for councillors to ask questions on matters of interest to them.

The Parish Council will also call an annual meeting of the Parish on a day falling between 1st March and 1st June inclusive. This is your meeting and you will have an opportunity to hear from councillors on what has happened during the past year and plans for the future. There is an opportunity to challenge and question councillors. It is also possible to raise matters of interest to the community. The date of the meeting is normally set at least six months in advance and is noted on the Parish Council's calendar, a copy of which can be obtained from the Parish Council offices, or from our website.

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Involvement in Partnerships

The Parish Council has representation on many local bodies and councillors attend their meetings which make decisions affecting the local community. Information obtained from these meetings is reported to full council meetings.

Role of Councillors

Councillors are the decision-makers of the council. The contact details for all councillors are available from the Parish Council offices, or from our website.

Councillors also hold the Clerk who is the senior officer of the council to account. Councillors welcome contact with members of the public, endeavour to be available immediately prior to council meetings and committees for anybody who wishes to speak with them and they will listen to the representations you make to them at council and committee meetings whether you attend in person, ask another person to raise matters for you, or provide your comments in writing.

The contact details for the Clerk to the Council are published on agendas, or are available from our website. The Clerk is the Proper Officer of the council and is the appropriate contact in most cases for raising matters or requesting information from the council. Most Councillors and all office based staff have email addresses and the Parish Council encourages communication by email, details are on our website.

Please feel free to contact the Clerk for more information on this statement.

Specific Areas for Community Involvement

In some circumstances, we also provide additional information or provide additional public meetings in the event that exceptional issues arise which are of particular interest to the community. We envisage that these might include plans for significant planning development, exceptional spending plans and any emergency situations that arise.

Contact details for the council are detailed below.

Adopted at the Parish Council meeting on 9th November 2009. (min. 346.)

Reviewed at the Parish Council Meeting on 13th June 2011, no changes. (min. 71.)

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Chairman of the Parish Council

Tim Perkins
Clerk to the Parish Council

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