



A QUALITY COUNCIL

MAWNAN PARISH COUNCIL

STRATEGY ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY & CITIZENSHIP

Introduction

Mawnan Parish Council has developed its Local Democracy & Citizenship Strategy, to ensure that all members of the community can become and remain informed, involved and active citizens.

It is important that all residents understand that they are able to help to shape the area they live in, through being part of the decision making process. The council recognises the fact that, within the local community, there are many groups who feel that they are not informed or listened to, and not, therefore, part of the democratic process. These groups include young people and other hard to reach members of society.

Mawnan Parish Council also recognises that many individuals feel that local and even national democracy has little to offer, with a result that they have disengaged themselves with it. It is most important that the Parish Council and individual Councillors keep closely in touch with the needs of the community, and encourage all residents to take an involvement, both in the democratic process and also in the development and wellbeing of their local community.

The Parish Council has taken the following initiatives to ensure close links with the community it serves :-

1. Promotion of Awareness - The Council / Its Members / Its Meetings

- Publicising the role of the council and its members within the local community, using the community website, council notice board and Annual Reports.
- Developing and distributing publicity material, which encourages residents to attend council meetings, using the website, council notice board and Annual Reports.

2. Elections – Publicity / Encouragement to Vote

- Developing and distributing materials publicising elections, and encouraging residents to use their vote, using the website, council notice board and Annual Reports.
- Undertaking activities aimed at encouraging people in the area to register to vote, using the notice board and website.
- Developing and distributing materials which explain the process and purpose of voting, using the community website.

3. Engagement with the Electorate

- Holding local meetings with a focus on democracy and citizenship.

4. Engagement with Hard to Reach Groups

- Targeting information at "hard to reach" members of the community, such as disabled, old or young people, by working closely with local organisations.

5. Engagement with Young People

- Actively seeking the views of young people when undertaking local projects and initiatives.
- Involving young people in the decision making process.
- Working with local young people to develop or to help them to develop projects with a democratic or citizenship theme.

6. Engagement with Local Schools

- Working with the local school, to explain the role of the council and councillors, and local and national democracy, through visits and the provision of information.
- Distributing information on democracy and citizenship to pupils at the local school.

Adopted by Council Resolution,
18th December 2008