

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Purpose of the Strategy

Avon Dassett Parish Council “the Parish Council,” has a strategy of engaging with the community in a clear manner using channels of communication which are accessible to all residents.

The Parish Council is committed to meeting its legal requirements promoting openness and transparency in providing information on important matters in an appropriate manner and also to facilitate and encourage informed comment from interested individuals and groups. In addition, the Parish Council will endeavour to get accurate information to the right people at the right time in the media of their choice.

Aims and Objectives

To develop:

- A vibrant and engaged community that understands the value the Parish Council can offer.
- A community that uses the Parish Council to help to improve facilities in the parish for the benefit of residents.
- A community that is proud of its parish and actively works to foster pride through involvement in parish development initiatives.

We deliver our aims through:

- support for community facilities.
- two-way communication with residents.
- actively encouraging and supporting community involvement.
- an informal Projects Group to help to guide the implementation of the Parish Plan.
- an engaged group of elected council members.

The community and its facilities

The parish of Avon Dassett comprises the small village of Avon Dassett surrounded by agricultural land and an area of natural beauty. There are around 200 residents.

Community facilities provided by the Parish Council include:

- The Reading Room
- Playground
- War Memorial
- The Burial Ground
- Cemetery Car Park

Services organised by the Parish Council include:

- Street lighting
- Green areas maintenance
- Liaison with Warwickshire CC, Stratford DC and utility companies on matters affecting the parish

Other groups within the village include:

- Social clubs
- Post Office – part-time
- A pub – The Yew Tree
- The Community Benefit Association (which owns the pub)
- Voluntary groups which organise events and undertake projects

At its widest the community comprises:

- all those living in, working in and visiting the parish or using its facilities.

- businesses and employers in the parish.
- voluntary organisations working for the benefit of the community.

Provision of information to the community

The Parish Council provides information to the community in the following ways:

- Our website www.avondassettparishcouncil.gov.uk which includes:
 - A front page with news about the Parish Council (including forthcoming meetings) and other news of interest to the community
 - Minutes and Agendas of all Council and committee meetings for the past two years, and
 - supporting documents
 - Information about payments over £100
 - A copy of the latest Annual Report, including financial information
 - Councillor roles and responsibilities
 - Contact details for the Clerk and councillors
 - A calendar of meetings
 - A copy of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
 - A copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure
 - A copy of the Council's Freedom of Information Scheme
 - Links to the district council and other sites of interest
- The Parish Council makes use of the village WhatsApp to share information.
- People can sign up to receive emails from the Parish Council on matters of interest.
- Agendas of forthcoming meetings are also displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard.
- Door to door flyers.
- The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is published by the end of June and is available in hard copy on request.
- Hard copies of minutes and supporting documents are available on request.
- More detailed financial information is available on request.
- Regular updates in the Compton Chronicle
- Updates to the Community Facebook page

Opportunities for community involvement

The Parish Council encourages the involvement of residents and community organisations in its activities. In particular:

- A period during every formal Parish Council meeting is set aside for public participation which enables residents and representatives of community organisations to comment and ask questions.
- Councillors attend the monthly village coffee morning at the Reading Room.
- The Parish Council facilitates the Annual Parish Assembly on behalf of the village where the community takes a lead in agreeing the content and gathering input from local organisations.
- There is a 'Contact Us' page on the website – the Clerk can be contacted at clerk@avondassettparishcouncil.gov.uk or in writing to The Reading Room, Avon Dassett, Southam, CV47 2AL.
- Contact details for the Parish Council and individual councillors are prominently displayed on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council encourages its citizens to engage in delivering a vibrant community through:

- The Reading Room – available free of charge for village clubs and societies
- Provision of a playground
- Grants policy to support local initiatives
- Volunteering to implement the Parish Plan

Involvement in partnerships

The Parish Council also uses the following to ensure information is available to the community:

- Avon Dassett Community website
- Avon Dassett Facebook page
- Compton Chronicle

Approved by the Parish Council on 13th May 2024