

STALMINE WITH STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council has developed a community engagement strategy which aims to set a standard for engagement with residents.

It recognises that it must provide services which reflect the needs of its residents and which endeavour to improve the quality of life. It aims to give local people a voice in the process of taking decisions which affect the community.

The Parish Council believes that residents must be involved in decisions affecting them and have regard to the future development of the parish. The council recognises that there are different levels of engagement and will endeavour to involve the community in the following ways:

Aims

To work more closely with residents, community groups and businesses

To be inclusive in engaging with as many people as possible

To actively encourage residents' involvement

To listen to views and have regard to them in enhancing services

To raise the profile of the Parish Council

To consult with and seek out the views of the community

Objectives

To improve communication to reach as many people as possible

To inform residents of the role of Parish Councillors

To enhance the well-being of the parish

How this will be achieved?

THE COMMUNITY

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council seeks to engage with all sections of the community regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation i.e. parishioners (particularly hard to reach groups such as the young, disenfranchised, disaffected and the elderly), the local business community, the many clubs, organisations and societies which are active in the parish. The Parish Council is also committed to engaging with any persons who appear to it to have an interest in matters relating to the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council recognises that members of the community may wish to engage with it at different levels and in a variety of ways, from the occasional email or letter with a suggestion on how a service could be improved, to attendance at meetings etc.

Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council will therefore use many ways to actively seek the views of its parishioners and involve them in its work:

- **Publications:** The Parish Council will communicate with parishioners through regular articles in the monthly article in the Over Wyre Focus, as well as the annual report which will contain up to date information about payments and receipts and monies held by the council on parishioners' behalf, and the local press when appropriate.
- **Website:** The Parish Council website <http://.stalmine-with-staynall-pc.gov.uk> a community resource which publishes information about the Parish, its Council members with a list of all Parish Councillors (addresses and telephone numbers included) together with other important points of contact, updates from Lancashire County Council, Council agendas, minutes, accounts and other documents will be regularly posted on this website for parishioners' information. Parishioners are invited to contact the Parish Council via the website, or email at clerk@stalmine-with-staynall-pc.gov.uk Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council is committed to develop and improve the website and will actively encourage parishioners to use it to exchange information through the news section as a means of improving communication.
- **Notice Boards:** The Parish Council on both of its notice boards will directly advertise other important events e.g. notices relating to the annual audit of accounts; casual vacancies, elections and forthcoming meetings etc. Details of the Parish Council's publication scheme, the council's monthly meeting agendas and minutes. The notice boards situated on Hall Gate Lane (opposite the Seven Stars pub) and Carr Lane (the end of Staynall Lane).
- **Co-option:** With the exception of the Full Council, Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council encourages the involvement of the community in the work of the Council through co- option. Details of co-opting onto the council can be found on its co-option policy.
- **Meetings:** Notice of all Council meetings is given on the parish notice boards, on the website and its social media Facebook page. Parishioners are encouraged to attend Council Meetings and time is set aside at all meetings for public participation at all these meetings. Parishioners are also actively encouraged to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- **Surveys/Consultations:** Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council will undertake surveys/consultations, and other related forms of information gathering from time to time to ascertain the community's views on a particular issue. Consultation on important issues will be key in obtaining precise information and views and will be undertaken by seeking views on the council's Facebook social media page, on the website, approaching local organisations, asking for responses by email by use of Over Wyre Focus, and posted letters to residents.
- **Social Media:** Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council regularly monitors and up-dates its Facebook page with information of local events, news and updates.

3) SUPPORT

To support local organisations and engage with them in meeting their own targets and aims
To support local projects and participate in local events to raise awareness of the Parish Council and its aims

4) PARTNERSHIP

Partnership with local organisations will ensure appropriate and acceptable outcomes
Partnership will further the aims of the council to improve the environment and the quality of life for all residents
Partnership will raise the profile of the Parish Council and its work

Partnership with Borough and County Council and Councillors will enhance the service the Parish Council are able to provide

5) ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS IN CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stalmine-with-Staynall Councillors are very accessible:

- Their contact details are published on the website and in the Over Wyre Focus Magazine (Green Book).
- They are available to talk to parishioners during the public session, prior to each Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- In a private capacity they belong to many other local clubs, societies, and organisations, where they may if they wish promote the work of the Parish Council and be available to parishioners.

6) OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Representations to Stalmine-with-Staynall Parish Council will normally be considered at the next meeting. If, however, they require the provision of information only, then the clerk will provide it in accordance with the council's publication scheme. The Parish Council has a Code of Practice for handling complaints, which is available from the clerk, published on the website and reviewed annually. The publication of agendas on the Parish Council's notice boards and website gives parishioners the opportunity to make representation to the council before agenda items are discussed. All formal representations received are responded to in writing by the clerk.

Document title			
Community Engagement Strategy			
Version number	Date approved	Author	Next Review
V1.	10/09/2024	D.Smith	Sept 2025