

WOODHALL SPA PARISH COUNCIL

THE POWER OF WELL-BEING

Statement of Intent

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Woodhall Spa Parish Council is a Quality Status Council which listens to the needs and concerns of the community it serves and will do all it can within its power to improve the quality of life of those who live in, work in, or visit the village. The Council will take account of the provisions of the Sustainable Community Strategies as set out by East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Assembly to promote long term economic, social and environmental well-being.

DEFINING THE COMMUNITY

Woodhall Spa Parish Council intends to consult and proactively engage with residents, businesses, visitors, and any individual or organisation that is able to influence or make positive changes to the village, irrespective of physical ability, age, sex, religion or ethnic origin. It would envisage these including the various groups and committees set up under the Parish Plan, neighbouring parish councils, district and county councils, the police, the fire and rescue service, health authorities, schools, community groups and other locally-based charities and not-for-profit organisations.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY

The council will make information available to the community on its work, including its Agendas, Minutes, Annual Reports and any other publications and will include this information in the following,

- The Annual Parish Meeting
- Consultative meetings called on matters that need community involvement
- Regular council and council committee meetings open to the public and press
- The Woodhall Spa Parish Council Newsletter

This list is not exclusive and may be amended from time to time to reflect the nature of information available and the forms in which information can be transmitted

Information can also be obtained by:

- A personal visit, e-mail or telephone call, to the Parish Council Office
- Village Notice Boards
- Woodhall Spa community website : www.woodhallspa.org
- At every meeting of Woodhall Spa Parish Council there will be a period of up to fifteen minutes set aside at the start of each meeting for electors to ask questions of, or make comments to, the council.
- The Council has adopted the requirements detailed in the Freedom of Information Act whereby the public can request sight of any council documentation (with the exception of Private and Confidential items). Most of these documents are readily accessible on the village website, but can also be obtained (for a small fee to cover administration) from the Parish Council Offices.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The Council will accept representation from groups/organisations/individuals for items to be discussed at Committee or Council meetings. For inclusion at these meetings, written details must be received at the council offices before the deadline for closure of the agenda, normally the Thursday preceding the first Tuesday in the month. Any item received after this deadline will not be discussed until the following meeting.

Woodhall Spa Parish Council has acquired 'Quality Council' status; a process that requires extensive proof that formal and informal representation to the council is available.

INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS

Woodhall Spa Council will work with any and all partnerships that influence or work towards making positive changes in the village as detailed under the section 'Defining the Community' or with any other individual, group or organisation that requires support in order to bring about such influence or change. The Council already works in partnership with both the District and County Councils and will continue to support these organisations and look for new opportunities for partnership working throughout the community.

Woodhall Spa Parish Council encourages and supports public meetings organised by the police, the health authority, the district and county councils and all other organisations which are working for the benefit of the community

Woodhall Spa Parish Council also welcomes public involvement in its budget and precept-setting process.

ROLE OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Councillors aim to work with all sections of the community for the well-being of the village. This will include:

- Council surgeries
- Informal meetings with constituents
- Meetings with business people and those working in the voluntary and community sector
- Devolved decision making committees
- Appropriately trained to hold the position of councillor

Councillors will hold the Council Officers to account through scrutiny and take an overview of the Council's activities by:

- Requiring an audit trail of evidence about well-being outcomes in decision making
- Exploring possible well-being outcomes and testing ways of achieving them as part of the policy development process
- Testing the priorities agreed as part of sustainable community strategies, local area agreements and other key plans and how they are being achieved
- Raise the profile of the Well Being Power In discussions with Officers, or at meetings on new initiatives
- Making sure Officers understand how the Power supports the role of the Parish Council in working with others to achieve well-being
- Asking Officers to consider how particular initiatives could be supported by the use of the Well Being Power

Woodhall Spa Parish Council aims to show that the Council and its Officers have the confidence and ambition to move beyond the traditional ideas of its roles and responsibilities for the benefit of the community.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Woodhall Spa Parish Council will consult the community on any issue or development that may have an impact on the economic, social or environmental well-being of the Parish. It will ensure that the public continues to be consulted on the future of Jubilee Park, the regeneration of the Spa Baths area and the traffic and other implications to the village on the proposed Cemex planning application.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Woodhall Spa Parish Council has an agreed complaints procedure. Complaints can be made by letter, telephone, email or personal visit to the council offices. All complaints received will be acknowledged within three working days followed by a further letter advising of the outcome of the complaint.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Council Office is open to the public on Tuesdays from 3.30 – 5.30 pm and on Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30 am. Other times by prior appointment with the Clerk. Full contact details of all councillors and officers are accessible on the Community website www.woodhallspa.org, in the Parish Council's newsletter or from the Parish Council Office.

The Parish Council can be contacted at woodhallpc@tiscali.co.uk, via the link on the community website or by telephone on 01526 352461– there is an answering machine for out of hours calls.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Parish Clerk
Woodhall Spa Parish Council
17 Stanhope Avenue
Woodhall Spa
Lincolnshire
LN10 6SP

This Community Engagement Strategy was adopted by Woodhall Spa Parish Council at its meeting on 3rd November 2009 Minute # refers.

Signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk at the above Parish Council meeting.

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