



Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Community Engagement Policy

Context:

The Town Council exists to serve the community in Ross on Wye. The Council believes that it can only operate effectively by engaging the community in decision making and the provision of services. This involves communication and partnership. The Town Plan, currently under preparation, will provide important guidance for the Council's activities in the years to come. But it is also necessary for the Council to maintain and develop further dialogue with individual residents and their representative groups.

Aims:

- To promote and encourage community engagement in the strategic direction of the Council
- To inform and invite residents' comment upon the activities of the Council

Objectives:

- To develop an annual strategy process that involves public consultation and links a three year rolling work programme to the annual budget setting
- To continue to support the Town Plan process, including the production, implementation and review stages of the Plan
- To provide information via the website, newsletter, and press
- To receive and consider information through the system of Councillor representation on groups; public sessions before Council meetings; and other communications
- To monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act in Herefordshire and play a full part in any initiatives arising from this
- To consider the needs of minorities and hard to reach groups when designing its communications
- To review the implementation of this policy annually

March 2009, reviewed September 2010