

**RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
(Revised November 2017)**

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

To foster

- ⤴ a vibrant and cooperative community that understands the services a Parish Council can provide
- ⤴ a community that uses the Parish Council to the general benefit of its residents
- ⤴ a community that is proud of its parish

To promote

- ⤴ *council support for Parish activities and facilities*
- ⤴ *good communications between council and residents*
- ⤴ *the active participation of residents in Parish activities*
- ⤴ *effective working relations with other bodies & individuals*
- ⤴ *close cooperation between councillors, and with officers*

DEFINING THE COMMUNITY

The Parish of Rodmell comprises the rural village of Rodmell and the small hamlet of Northease, together with the surrounding agricultural land and countryside. It lies wholly within the South Downs National Park, and is home to about 500 residents.

Community facilities include:

- ⤴ The Church of St Peters
- ⤴ A Village Hall used by local organisations including Parents & Toddlers, Botanical Painting, the Women's Institute, a Bridge Club, Scottish Country Dancing and Amateur Dramatics
- ⤴ The Abergavenny Arms public house which serves food and drink, and where various clubs meet including a book group and the camera club
- ⤴ Rodmell Church of England Primary School
- ⤴ Northease Manor School, a co-educational day and boarding School for students with specific learning difficulties
- ⤴ A sports field and accompanying pavilion
- ⤴ 'The Dicklands' - an open grassy space for the community
- ⤴ **Two allotment sites**
- ⤴ A Cricket Club
- ⤴ Several recreational footpaths and bridleways including the South Downs Way
- ⤴ A local bus service linking the Parish to both Lewes and Newhaven
- ⤴ A railway station in nearby Southease
- ⤴ **A village 'Good Neighbour' scheme**

At its widest the community comprises :

- ⤴ *all those living in, working in or visiting the parish.*
- ⤴ *businesses and employers in the parish*
- ⤴ *voluntary organisations working for the benefit of the parish community*

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY

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

- ⤴ via a village website www.rodsmell.net which includes a Parish Council page with details of :
 - × *contact information for all Councillors and the Parish Clerk (also available on Village Notice Boards)*
 - × *minutes and agendas of the Parish Council, and supporting documents for the past year*
 - × *the last year end's financial information*
 - × *a calendar of meetings*
 - × *a copy of the Council's Procedures*
- ⤴ Agendas of forthcoming meetings are displayed on Village Notice boards
- ⤴ A newsletter is published from time to time and delivered to residents
- ⤴ An annual report is delivered to all households prior to the Annual Parish Assembly

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

- ⤴ A period during every Council meeting is set aside for public participation enabling all present to comment and ask questions
- ⤴ All residents have the opportunity to comment and ask questions at the Annual Parish Meeting
- ⤴ Community organisations which have received grants from the Parish Council have the opportunity to make a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting
- ⤴ Contact details for all Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk are available on Village Notice Boards and on the village web site
- ⤴ The Parish Council considers requests for financial support from organisations working for the benefit of the community
- ⤴ The Parish Council provides and maintains sports and recreational facilities for all in the community via a sports field, a playground and various open spaces and footpaths

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- ⤴ *The Council has adopted a formal Complaints Procedure which sets out the procedure of how to complain, a timetable for a response, and the process for evaluation etc. It is available on the village web site or a paper copy may be obtained from the Parish Clerk.*

INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS

Rodmell Parish Council is represented on :

- ⤴ The Village Hall Committee
- ⤴ The Sports Playing Field committee (which it oversees) **Could we ask RS about this?**
- ⤴ The Ouse Valley Cycle Network
- ⤴ POLO (Parishes of the Lower Ouse Valley)
- ⤴ Rodmell Primary School Board of Governors **Not true**

The Parish Council also works closely with Northease Manor School, with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council.

ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

Members of Rodmell Parish Council

- ⤴ attend Council meetings – where there is opportunity for public participation
- ⤴ discuss all business at Council meetings in public unless there is good reason to exclude the public by reason of the confidential nature of the business
- ⤴ represent the Council on community organisations (as above)
- ⤴ are available to be contacted
- ⤴ *keeps the noticeboards and website information up to date*

The Clerk of Rodmell Parish Council

- ⤴ *is available to the public at least five hours per week*
- ⤴ *receives letters, phone calls, emails and passes them on to members as appropriate*
- ⤴ *provides information to members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act*

SPECIFIC AREAS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From time to time Rodmell Parish Council consults throughout the parish on major projects. At present these include:

- ⤴ *traffic calming measures along the C7*
 - ⤴ *improvement to Broadband performance **finished***
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