



Community Engagement Policy

Tetbury Town Council aims to be a quality council and believes that to do this it must have a good relationship with the residents and organisations that it represents and serves.

Councillors and staff actively represent and promote the interests and concerns raised by Tetbury people and together we will work hard to actively look for and deliver good outcomes for Tetbury and its people through working alongside both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Tetbury has evolved over many years of history and the management of its large events (including Christmas in Tetbury, the Woolsack Races and Wacky Races) and many of its green spaces, allotments, car parks, flower beds and hanging baskets are co-ordinated by very well established voluntary organisations and not directly by the Council.

The Town Council therefore benefits from many voluntary hours donated and, to recognise that, we actively support these organisations wherever we can through our Grants Policy and our long term commitment to designated groups i.e. an ongoing grant to the Christmas Lights, the Dolphins Hall Management Committee and Tetbury in Bloom. We provide a significant amount of the salary for the Town's Youth Worker.. In the recent past we have hosted an event for charities and statutory service providers to share information and network and, following a successful initiative by the Tetbury Lions Club in 2017, we now host/service the new 'Tetbury Cares' forum for those bodies to come together quarterly.

Tetbury Town Council is constantly looking at ways to improve communication with its local community and we are always open to suggestions of best practice. We aim to make ourselves visible in the town centre and our offices are open daily 9-3, we also manage the town's Visitor Information Centre which is an accessible outlet where much local information can be sourced by both visitors and residents alike, we have an easy to use website which is regularly updated (including contact details for Councillors and staff), a Twitter account, and public notice boards. 8 of 15 Councillors are appointed as our representatives on local groups.

Additionally, the Council recognises that there are certain bodies that are crucial to the quality of life in Tetbury and we aim to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including: the Police, the NHS, the town's schools (St Mary's School and Sir William Romney's School), Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council.

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Reviewed February 2018 – Next Review February 2020

The Mayor's column in the Tetbury Advertiser is our means of reporting monthly to every household in Tetbury. We host the Annual Town Meetings at which most of the towns organisations will provide a report and be open to Public Questions. The Annual Town Meeting – and other 'ad hoc' town meetings are well attended by the community. Our Council meetings and Committee meetings are all open to the public and the Agenda for every meeting includes a dedicated space for public consultation.

As an historic town Tetbury Town Council's Chairman is also our Mayor. The Mayor attends various public events supporting the town in their official capacity and provides a vital role in the town's civic life at various events throughout the year..

We promote equality of opportunity in everything that we do and we oppose discrimination.

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*S J Holley
Clerk to Tetbury Town Council*