

# **Silkstone Parish Council**

## **Community Engagement Strategy**



This community engagement strategy was reviewed and approved by Silkstone Parish Council at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### **Purpose of the Strategy**

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that all sections of the local community have the opportunity to participate effectively with the Parish Council and to pro-actively decide how and when they will become involved. The definition of the local community includes individuals, residents, local groups, and organisations.

Within Silkstone Parish the Council will work closely with existing groups and organisations to help promote their aims and objectives. The Council will support where appropriate new community initiatives. Silkstone Parish Council will continue to work with existing community groups, the two primary schools and will support new and existing environmental improvement groups within the Parish.

The Silkstone Parish Council Engagement Strategy will link to relevant strategies and documents within Barnsley. For example, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Community Engagement Strategy and any subsequent strategies related to this. The Council will continue to work closely with all statutory engagement plans to ensure that best practice and good working relationships continue to be developed.

### **Definitions**

Community participation can be defined as:

*The creation of opportunities to enable all members of our community to be actively involved, contribute to, and influence the development process as much or as little as they choose.*

This definition fits in well with the goals of the Silkstone Parish Council and in addition participation can be broken down into five different levels of community involvement and participation:

### **Information**

Providing everybody with a range of information about what is happening and how they might become involved.

The Council publicises its monthly meeting on notice boards within the Parish and on its website. There is a quarterly newsletter distributed to all residents within the Parish, which highlights the work of the Council and informs people who their Councillors are and how they represent them. The Council has developed mechanisms including Facebook and Twitter to reach all parts of the community informing them of how they can be involved with the work of the Parish Council should they wish to do so.

### **Consultation**

Creating opportunities for involvement where people's views and ideas can be shared.

The Council is committed to asking people their views, listening to the responses and where appropriate acting on them. This will ensure Silkstone Parish Council together with the help of the residents will determine how the parish develops in the future

### **Deciding Together**

Encouraging ideas and new ways of thinking and deciding how best people can carry forward these ideas.

The Councillors attend and support many group meetings that have an interest in the promotion of the well being of the Parish of Silkstone. Some examples of these groups are:

Huskar Community Rooms Committee  
CARE (Community Action in the Rural Environment)  
Old Silkstone Band  
Silkstone Twinning Association  
Silkstone Common Good Companions  
Silkstone Scouts, Guides and Brownies  
The Council will continue to work with all groups within the area and actively encourages public participation in its work.

## **Acting Together**

Working together as a partnership to follow through the ideas and translate them into action.

## **Supporting Independent Community Interests**

Determining how the local community can carry forward the work identified, with additional support and guidelines.

## **Existing Mechanisms for Community Engagement**

The Parish Council has a range of existing processes currently for involving individuals and groups in the decision-making process. The Parish Council is committed to active involvement in its work and will review its processes on an ongoing basis to ensure its work reaches as wide an audience as possible.