

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – STATEMENT OF INTENT

### 1. Aims and Objectives

#### St Ives Town Council aims to:-

- Represent and promote the interests of St Ives and all its people in all forums;
- Pay particular attention to the needs of our children and young people;
- Provide the best possible amenities and services by the efficient use of available resources;
- Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area;
- Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination;
- Be open and accountable in all it does;
- Support development which is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable;
- Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing St Ives' ecological and environmental assets.

#### In order to achieve these aims, the Council will:-

- work closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;
- ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

#### The outcomes the Council hopes to achieve are:-

- Improved communication with the local community;
- A better understanding within the community of the role of the Town Council and of its Councillors;
- Local people feeling that they are involved in decision making;
- Improved satisfaction with local public services.

### 2. Defining the community:-

St Ives Town Council considers the community of St Ives to consist of:

- All residents of the town;
- All users of the Town Council's services;
- All those who work within the town;
- All those who own businesses within the town;
- All young people who live and/or attend school within the town;
- All local voluntary organisations, clubs and societies;

- Any group or organisation that represents some or any of the members of the above sections of the community;
- Additionally, the Council recognises that there are certain bodies that are crucial to the quality of life in St Ives and aims to maintain excellent working relationships with these bodies, including the Police, the other tiers of local government and neighbouring town and parish councils.

### **3. Provision of information to the community and opportunities for community involvement:-**

Information is provided by the Town Council to the community in a number of ways, including:

- The Town Hall in Market Hill is open Monday to Friday and can provide a wide range of information both on Council services and other St Ives activities and issues.
- The Town Council's website [www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk) provides comprehensive information both on the work of the Town Council and on other services, the history of the town, local events, local groups and organisations.
- The public can contact the Town Council through the website and public consultations are sometimes carried out through the website.
- The Town Council provides five notice boards around the town which are used to display agendas for Council meetings and contact details for local councillors as well as other information of interest to the local community.
- A notice board is available in the Town Hall which can be used by local events organisers or groups.
- The Town Council's Newsletter, The Bridge, is published approximately quarterly, is delivered to most houses in the town and is available from the Town Hall, on the website and from the local library.
- The Annual Report is produced in June each year. It is distributed with The Bridge and is available from the Town Hall, on the website and from the local library.
- All meetings of the Town Council and its committees and sub-committees are open to the public and a period is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions.
- Public meetings are called to gauge public opinion about important issues affecting the town such as major planning applications.
- Questionnaires are sometimes used to ask local people's opinions about specific matters and these are distributed to local residents, for example at the regular Farmers Market, at public meetings, or downloadable from the Council website.

### **4. Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council:-**

- Formal representations to the Council may be made at any time in writing to the Town Clerk.
- Petitions will be accepted during the period set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions.

### **5. Involvement in Partnerships**

The Town Council often works in partnership with other organisations such as Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Police and Fire Service. It also has representatives on the following local organisations:

- A14 Liaison/Transport Strategy Group;
- Age Concern;
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils;
- Community Education Management Group;

- Corn Exchange Community Interest Company;
- Eastfield School Governing Body;
- Guided Bus Liaison Group;
- Huntingdonshire Citizens Advice Bureau;
- Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre
- Neighbourhood Forum;
- Inter Town Forum;
- Needingworth Quarry Liaison Group;
- Millennium Committee;
- Nobles Field Trust;
- St Ives Access Group;
- St Ives and District Area Road Safety Committee;
- St Ives Christmas Lights Committee;
- St Ives Community Association Management Body and Executive Committee;
- St Ives Town Initiative;
- St Ives Youth Theatre;
- United Charities Trustees.

#### **6. Role of Council Members and Officers:-**

Council Members (Councillors) are the elected decision makers of the Town Council. Their contact details are available from the Town Hall, on Town Council Notice boards and on the Town Council website. Members of the public are welcome to contact Councillors to raise any issues.

The Council's officers are staff employed to carry out the day to day functions of the Council and make sure that its services are provided for the local community. The Town Clerk is the Proper Officer for the Council which means she has overall responsibility for the provision of Council services.

**Statement prepared for adoption by St Ives Town Council at its meeting on 8 September 2010**

<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Town Clerk	<b>Date effective from</b>	Sept 2010	<b>Review date</b>	March 2017
<b>Author</b>	Town Clerk	<b>Date last amended</b>	May 2016		