

KINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015 - 2019

INTRODUCTION

Kington Town Council recognises the importance of full engagement with the community it has been elected to represent and to ensure that it takes account of all community interests in the decisions and representations that it makes. This Community Engagement Strategy is linked to the Council's Communications Strategy, which identifies how the Council will provide information about its work to the community and key areas of public access to its work.

This Community Engagement Strategy looks wider, at how the Council will help and support the community.

STRATEGY

1. Kington Town Council recognises the importance of Information, Consultation, Dialogue and Partnership in responding to the needs of the local community that it serves.
2. Kington Town Council will ensure that the public has access to its meetings, as appropriate, and full information as to how issues and concerns can be raised with the Council. To this end, Kington Town Council provides a public question time at every full Council and Committee meeting.
3. Kington Town Council will from time to time, and as appropriate, organise public meetings on issues of concern, and will also invite representatives of local organisations, as appropriate, to provide their specific knowledge and expertise to the Council, through specific meetings, working groups or such other mechanisms as may be appropriate.
4. Kington Town Council will carry out such surveys or other means of gaining public views as may be appropriate.
5. Kington Town Council will work in partnership with local organisations and groups, to enable them to provide services and facilities for the people of Kington. This will include:
 - Provision of grants through a competitive grants process
 - Involvement in initiatives, where the Council is the lead partner
 - Support for initiatives, where a local group or organisation is the lead partner
 - Appointment of Council representatives to groups and organisations in the town, as requested and appropriate
6. Kington Town Council will supporting such organisations as may exist or be developed that can help and assist with wider community engagement, including the provision of information, advice and practical support mechanisms.
7. Kington Town Council supported the Kington Community Led Plan process and will support such successor activities and processes as may be appropriate.

8. Kington Town Council will continue to review its processes for community engagement and seek further opportunities to ensure that it engages fully with and responds to the needs of its residents, businesses and other interested parties.