

BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Statement of Community Engagement

2026-2027



1. Aims and Objectives

Bromham Parish Council (The "Council") aims to:

- Represent and promote the interests of Bromham and all its people in all forums.
- 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 that is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable.
- Enhance quality of life by protecting and enhancing Bromham's 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 public involvement and community engagement, the Council will 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 Council and of its Councillors
- Local people actively contributing to decision-making.
- Improved satisfaction with local public services.

2. Defining the Community

The Council considers the community of Bromham to consist of:

- All residents of the Village.
- All users of the Council's services.

- All those who work within the parish.
- All those who own businesses within the parish.
- All young people who live and/or go to school within the parish.
- 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 Bromham, and it 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 Council to the community in a number of ways, including:

- The Council offices in the Village Hall, Village Road, Bromham are open Monday to Friday and can provide a wide range of information both on Council services and other Bromham activities and issues.
- The Council's website www.bromham-pc.gov.uk provides comprehensive information both on the work of the Council and on other services, the history of the parish, local events, local groups and organisations. The public can contact the Council through the website.
- The Council provides a noticeboard outside the Village Hall to display agendas for Council meetings as well as other information of interest to the local community. Additionally, the Council has provided seven additional noticeboards around the parish which can be used by local events organisers or groups.
- The Council publishes and distributes locally regular newsletters, Bromham Broadsheet, -and the Council's website also carries items of news.
- The Annual Report is produced in June each year and is available from the Council offices, on the website and from Bromham Library. An Annual Report on the Council's activities is also presented by the Chairman at the Annual ~~Town~~ Parish Meeting in March of each year.
- All meetings of the 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 relating to items on the agenda.
- Public meetings may be called, if necessary, to gauge public opinion about important issues affecting the Parish 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 through The Broadsheet, delivered direct to residents or downloadable from the Council's website.
- Social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram are used to give quick updates to residents.

4. Opportunities for Formal Representations to Council

- Formal representations to the Council may be made at any time in writing to the Parish Clerk.

5. Involvement in Partnerships

The Council often works in partnership with other organisations such as Bedford Borough Council, the Police etc. It has representatives on the following local organisations, which may change from time to time:

- Bromham Village Hall
- Bedford Parish & Town Council Network
- Friends of Bromham Mill

6. Role of Council Members and Officers

Council Members (Councillors) are the elected decision makers of the Council. Contact details are available from the Parish Council office and on the Parish Council's website.

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

Adopted by:	PC Meeting
Date:	5 May 2026
Review Period:	Annually
File Link:	Administration\Policies and Procedures