

Horley Town Council

Democracy and Citizenship Strategy

1. Introduction

Horley Town Council acknowledges the need to embrace and engage with the local community in order to understand its needs. Supporting, underpinning and promoting local democracy is essential to enable this to happen. However, it is imperative that citizens need to be active, involved, informed and engaged as well.

It is the intention of Horley Town Council to re-apply for the Local Council Awards – Quality Award. Some of the additional tests require the development of a range of strategies including that of focusing on democracy and citizenship.

This Strategy sets out Horley Town Council's plan of activities aimed at promoting democracy and citizenship in a simple, meaningful, achievable way that will obtain results and underpin the work already undertaken as part of Best Value.

2. Aims and Objectives

The Town Council is committed to re-engaging the public in the democratic process. In order to help achieve this goal the following aims and objectives have been agreed:

- Publicise the role of the Town Council in the community.
- Publicise Council meetings and encourage the public to attend and use the time set aside during each meeting to ask Councillors questions.
- Be as open and transparent as possible.
- Promote Horley in Bloom.
- Participate in the South and South East in Bloom competition.
- Continue to develop a strong relationship with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and work with them in partnership for the benefit of Horley.
- Support and work with local schools to develop and deliver specific community based projects.

- Support and work with local organisations to develop and deliver specific community based projects.
- Be proactive and alert for any potential opportunities that may present themselves that will help promote local democracy and citizenship right across the community.

3. Action Plan and Timescale

In order to achieve the above aims and objectives the following action plan has been developed:

Action	Timescale	Responsibility
Town Council leaflet	In preparation	Town Clerk
In partnership with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council develop and distribute posters and press releases as appropriate	Achieved	Town Clerk
Expand the website and create a democracy and citizenship page which provides all relevant information regarding the promotion of democracy and citizenship	Achieved	Town Clerk
Work with schools to develop material and information on democracy and citizenship for distribution	Ongoing	Town Clerk
Develop a consultation toolkit in an effort to ensure that the whole community has a chance to have its say	In preparation	Deputy Clerk
Develop a Democracy and Citizenship section in the Corporate Plan	In preparation	Deputy Clerk

4. Conclusion

Once adopted, the above Plan will be reviewed regularly.

This will be an ongoing process and will form the basis of developing strong relationships and partnerships with local schools, organisations and clubs as well as statutory organisations such as Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.

Approved by Full Council: November 2009
Next review date: April 2023