



Yatton Parish Council

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OUR MISSION: To ensure the provision of high quality services in our communities of Yatton and Claverham

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Adopted by Yatton Parish Council, 14 September 2015, amended & re-adopted 11 November 2019.

Aims and Objectives

To develop:

- A vibrant and engaged community that understands the value a parish council can offer.
- A community that uses the council to help develop the parish for the benefit of residents.
- A community that is proud of its parish and actively works to foster pride through involvement in parish development.

We deliver on our aims through support for community facilities, two-way communication with residents, actively encouraging and supporting community involvement, partnership working and through an engaged group of elected council members.

The community and its facilities

The parish of Yatton comprises the large 'service' village of Yatton and the small village of Claverham, surrounded by agricultural land and part of the North Somerset Levels and Moors (part of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest). Claverham is bordered on the south by Green Belt land. There are around 9000 residents.

Community facilities include:

- a shopping precinct in Yatton including a supermarket.
- other shops in High Street, Yatton, including a post office, hairdressers, bakery, charity shops, takeaways, Indian restaurant, betting shop, hardware shop and estate agents.
- 2 cash machines in Yatton.
- cafes and pubs in Yatton and a pizza takeaway in Claverham.
- a doctor's surgery, a dental surgery and vets, all in Yatton.

- several places of worship.
- a village hall in Yatton used by local organisations.
- a village hall in Claverham used by local organisations .
- infant and junior schools in Yatton.
- a primary school in Claverham.
- Backwell School (not in the parish but serving the community).
- a youth club in Yatton.
- two large playing fields in Yatton, one with a pavilion managed by Yatton Parish Council and one with a pavilion managed by Yatton Junior Football Club.
- a small playing field in Claverham.
- a cricket club, bowling club, junior football club, senior football jointly with Cleeve some teams playing at Hangstones and rugby club.
- several play areas, a skatepark and a BMX track.
- several recreational paths, including the Strawberry Line, part of the National Cycle Network.
- a railway station in Yatton.
- a bus service linking Yatton and Claverham to Bristol and Weston-super-Mare and another, infrequent, service linking Yatton to Clevedon and Portishead.

At its widest the community comprises:

- all those living in, working in and visiting the parish or using its facilities
- businesses and employers in the parish.
- voluntary organisations working for the benefit of the community.

Provision of information to the community

Yatton Parish Council provides information to the community in the following ways:

- There is a website (www.yatton-pc.gov.uk) which includes:
 - a front page with news about the Parish Council (including forthcoming meetings) and other news of interest to the community.
 - Minutes and Agendas of all Council and committee meetings for the past two years, and supporting documents.
 - information about payments over £500.
 - a copy of the latest Annual Report, including financial information.
 - a copy of the most recent audited Statement of Accounts.
 - a copy of the current year's budget.
 - contact details for all councillors and the Clerk.
 - a calendar of meetings.
 - a copy of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
 - a copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure.
 - a copy of the Council's Freedom of Information Scheme.
- Links to North Somerset Council and other sites of interest.
- The Parish Council has a Facebook page and the Clerk regularly posts matters of interest. Others can also post comments.
- Agendas of forthcoming meetings are displayed on Parish Council noticeboards and the website. The meetings are posted on Facebook.
- A newsletter is published four times a year in the Yatton & Congresbury Paper, available free to all residents.

- The Annual Report is published by the end of July and is made available in hard copy at Yatton Library and other sites such as village halls, the railway station, schools and places of worship. The Annual Report includes an overview of activities as well as financial information taken from the published Annual Return.
- Hard copies of minutes and supporting documents are available on request. More detailed financial information is available on request.

Opportunities for community involvement

Yatton Parish Council encourages the involvement of residents and community organisations in its activities. In particular:

- A period during every Council and committee meeting is set aside for public participation, which enables residents and representatives of community organisations to comment and ask questions.
- Councillors attend the Yatton and Claverham village markets.
- All residents have the opportunity to comment and ask questions at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Community organisations which have received grants from the Parish Council have the opportunity to make a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- There is a 'Contact Us' page on the website
- Contact details for the Council and for individual councillors are prominently displayed on Parish Council noticeboards.

Yatton Parish Council encourages active citizens that are engaged in delivering a vibrant community through:

- financial support for organisations working for the benefit of the community in Yatton and Claverham.
- provision of sports and recreational facilities for all sections of the community: play areas, sports fields, open spaces and footpaths.
- financial support for sports and youth clubs providing opportunities for young people in the community.

Involvement in partnerships

Yatton Parish Council is represented on:

- The Ancient Parish of Yatton United Charities.
- Richard Durban's Trust.
- Strawberry Line Management Committee (the Parish Council also makes an annual contribution towards maintenance).
- Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group.
- Yatton Music Society (which the Parish Council supports financially).
- Yatton PACT (Partners & Communities Together).
- Yatton Village Hall Management Committee.
- Bristol Airport Consultative Committee.
- North Somerset Flood Risk Action Group.
- Local access Forum.
- North End Steering Group.

The Parish Council also works in close partnership with:

- Yatton Youth Club: the Parish Council funds running and staffing costs through an annual grant.
- Yatton Junior Football Club: the Parish Council funds utility costs and also allows junior teams to play on Hangstones field free of charge.
- Citizens Advice Bureau: the Parish Council funds a weekly session in Yatton Children's Centre.

Yatton Parish Council also works in partnership with North Somerset Council.

Role of Council members and officers

Members of Yatton Parish Council:

- attend Council and committee meetings where there is opportunity for public participation.
- discuss all business at Council and committee meetings in public unless there is good reason to exclude the public by reason of the confidential nature of the business.
- Councillors are available at the monthly markets in Yatton and Claverham.
- represent the Council on community organisations (above).
- are available to be contacted by residents and community organisations, their details are on all noticeboards and the website.

The Clerk and other officers of Yatton Parish Council:

- are available to the public when the Parish Office is open to the public, at least four days a week.
- receive letters, phone calls, emails and website comments and pass them on to members as appropriate.
- keep the website and noticeboards up to date, in particular publicising matters of community interest.
- provide information to members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Specific areas for community involvement

Yatton Parish Council will consult fully on any major projects, in particular the development of new allotments and a new cemetery off Mendip Road.

The Parish Council is the body responsible for two neighbourhood plans, one for Yatton and one for Claverham. They are the community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of the parish.

Scope for Yatton Parish Council to improve community engagement

Yatton Parish Council will seek to improve its engagement with all sectors of the community. The Parish Council will consider in particular how to engage more fully with hard-to-reach groups such as:

- Young people
- Older people
- Ethnic minorities
- Disabled people
- People with caring responsibilities

Yatton Parish Council is keen to hear from people with suggestions for improvements in community engagement.

REVIEW: Autumn 2023