

## Community Engagement Strategy –adopted by council 2/9/10

### Vision Statement

The village of Bishop's Cleeve will be a community which promotes and improves the economic, social and environmental well being of the parishioners of Bishop's Cleeve.

### The Community of Bishop's Cleeve

The village of Bishop's Cleeve is now described as an urban area which lies 3 miles to the north of Cheltenham, and is within the Borough of Tewkesbury. Population is estimated at 10,800 in 2009, with major expansion of the village having taken place in the 1950's and 1980's as large employers moved in to the area. Limited public transport makes it difficult to access services in Tewkesbury, which is where the Borough Council's offices are located.

There are 3 wards in Bishop's Cleeve with 82% of the population living within Cleeve St Michael's and Cleeve West and 18% living in the Cleeve Grange ward . Of the 19% of the population over 65 years old, 49% live in St. Michael's Ward. 59% of the total population is within the age range of 18-65 years and 45% of this age range live in Cleeve West. The 0-18 age range account for 22% of the total population. Based on the 2007 Indices of Deprivation, Cleeve St. Michael's is within the County's 25% most deprived areas for income and income affecting Children (MAiDEn sources)

### Communication strategy

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council provides information to the community by delivering to every house hold a quarterly newsletter which includes information such as Councillors' contact details, precept breakdowns, Annual reports, Office contact details and seeks to engage with the public when undertaking large projects. The Parish Council website is regularly updated with advice, services, minutes of meetings, notices of future meetings and signposts to Borough and County Council services as well promoting community groups. There are 10 local notice boards which display Parish council information and notices as well as promoting community and charity groups' activities. The contact details for the Officers of the Council are

published on the local notice boards, the website and the premises owned by the council.

### Community engagement

The community is offered opportunities to engage with the Council by attending parish council meetings, committee meetings, annual parish assembly and by direct contact with the Proper Officer of the Council by email, website link or in person at the parish council offices which are open 5 days a week. The council has used public consultations to develop projects such as local play areas, leisure facilities and highway issues, and to inform the Council on local opinion regarding planning developments

Formal representation by the Council to organizations that share the same aims and objectives of the parish council is supplemented by invitations to interested parties to speak to the Council at the monthly parish council meetings. The Parish Council participates in formal arrangements with at least 7 local organizations and have provided support and shared information with at least another 3 groups. The Parish council support the local economy and culture by providing donations to Theatre groups as well as financially supporting tourism initiatives such as the Christmas Lights, Summer street Fair and local farmers' markets.

Current areas for community involvement are the community response plan and the 4 year plan which proposes a joint community and parish council led parish plan as well as objectives that seek to work with local organizations and groups.

This strategy links to “ A sustainable community strategy for Tewkesbury Borough 2008=2028 “ – Priorities of transport, crime, health, clean and green environment, housing and employment.

“Our place: Our future” The Gloucestershire sustainable community strategy 2007-2017 Aims: A place where the future matters, A place where communities matter, a place where everyone matters, a place where people want to live, a place that thrives.