

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCILS

West Lancashire Borough Council recognises that the 20 Parish Councils in its area play a key role in the wellbeing of local communities and in this respect has, in consultation with the Parish Councils, drawn up a “Charter” applying to dealings between the two tiers of authority. The Charter has produced several significant benefits, including:

- A move to general communications with Parishes via e-mail, thereby reducing print and postage costs for the Borough Council and giving the Parish Councils earlier access to Cabinet and Council papers.
- A phased move to e-communication on planning applications, which has assisted in reducing costs to the Councils whilst improving the efficiency of the consultation process.
- Improved co-operation in terms of sharing equipment between Parish Councils, and improved sharing of knowledge.
- Improved communication, enabling joint lobbying on issues of shared importance.
- Better targeting of clean-ups, bulb planting, graffiti removal, etc.
- Improved mechanisms for providing information and training on code of conduct and standards issues.

The Charter has also led to greater day to day contact, enabling swifter resolution of service requests/concerns and has brought benefits to Councils in both tiers and also to residents.

It is important that the Charter is refreshed periodically to ensure it remains current and relevant and in this respect the Borough and Parishes have recently concluded an exercise in which they worked together to review its content and operation. The changes arising from the review will ensure the Charter remains fresh and able to contribute to the work of both the Borough and Parish Councils in providing the best possible services for their residents.