

Brixton Parish Council

How Brixton Parish Council supports a culture of civility and respect in the council

Brixton Parish Council aims to foster a culture of civility and respect among its members and the community and signed the 'Civility & Respect' pledge in January 2023.

Brixton Parish Council creates a positive atmosphere where civility and respect are the foundation for all council activities.

Brixton Parish Council support this culture by:

Code of Conduct

Brixton Parish Council has a clear code of conduct for its members, outlining expected behaviours, these are covered by the Nolan principles, also known as the Seven Principles of Public Life, and include:

- Selflessness - acting solely in terms of the public interest.
- Integrity - avoiding obligations to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them.
- Objectivity - making decisions based on evidence and without bias.
- Accountability - being accountable for decisions and actions.
- Openness - being transparent and providing information.
- Honesty - being truthful and straightforward.
- Leadership - setting an example and promoting these principles.

This ensures that councillors act with professionalism, maintaining a positive working environment. Establishing and enforcing a clear code of conduct for council members helps set expectations for professional behaviour, promoting respect and civility in all interactions.

Training and Development

Regular training sessions are provided to councillors, especially on topics like Code of Conduct, Civility & Respect, Being a Good Councillor and Being a Good Employer. Understanding the roles and responsibilities of a councillor is paramount and training helps foster respectful interactions and strengthens understanding among members. Providing regular training on these topics can help council members navigate difficult conversations or disagreements respectfully.

Encouraging Open Dialogue

The council promotes an open and approachable atmosphere for discussions, where all Councillors can express their views without fear of being silenced or disrespected. Public meetings are also structured to ensure parishioners feel heard and valued.

Brixton Parish Council has created a culture where all councillors, clerk and parishioners feel comfortable expressing their views is essential.

Leadership by Example

Parish Councillors, including the Chair and Vice Chair, can set an example by maintaining a calm, respectful demeanour, treating all members equally, and promoting civility during meetings.

Conflict Resolution

Brixton Parish Council has policies in place to address any disputes or conflicts that may arise between councillors and members of the public. These might include seeking external advice if necessary to ensure that disagreements are resolved in a fair and respectful manner.

Inclusive Decision Making

Brixton Parish Council ensures that decisions are made inclusively, where diverse viewpoints are welcomed and valued fosters respect among councillors, as it emphasises the importance of everyone's contribution to the community. This promotes mutual respect, as everyone feels their voice is heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Public Engagement

Brixton Parish Council also leads by example when it comes to its interactions with the wider community. A culture of respect is modelled by listening to residents, addressing concerns positively and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment. BPC engages regularly with the local community, seeking input on key issues and being transparent about its decisions. This openness creates a culture of respect, as the community feels involved and valued in the process.

By proactively promoting these practices, Brixton Parish Council supports a culture where civility and respect are prioritised in both internal council relations and external community interactions.