

Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Community Covenant

Memorandum of Understanding / Covenant Charter

Purpose:

To work collaboratively with Shropshire Council at a neighbourhood-level to share power and make decisions together, that are rooted in our community and enhance and improve the lives of the people of Market Drayton and its rural parishes.

Values that we will adhere to:

Rooted in community

- We are residents, living among and contributing to our community.
- We are always listening to our community and actively bring that knowledge back into the Covenant, giving us an awareness of local need, priorities and limitations.
- We work to ensure we retain the trust of the communities we represent
- We practice 'dynamic local accountability' by have ongoing community participation via clear two-way lines of communication with our communities for example via: Facebook/social media, Whatsapp, website, face to face conversations, newsletters, community events, workshops, emails, surveys, elections etc.
- Knowledge gained through our connections and on-going community participation supports and shapes our decision-making in a way that encourages and promotes inclusion
- We leave our personal agendas/bias at the door – our voice in the room is the voice of the community we represent
- We keep decision making local.

Democratic

- Everyone has a say in decisions – we all have a voice in this space
- We listen to each other
- We ensure decisions reflect the views of the communities we represent, rather than institutions alone.
- We make decisions by majority (one vote per organisation) and once made, we all commit and back the result
- We encourage consistency of Covenant membership to build trust with our community and local authority

Inclusive

- We ensure we include the voices of all those within our community, including:
 - our rural villages on the periphery of Market Drayton
 - vulnerable people or under-represented in our community
 - those of minority cultures/faiths
- We ensure our communication is inclusive and diverse – using a mix of electronic, paper and person-to-person approaches
- We seek to hold meetings at dates and times that suit most people, recognising that not everyone will always be able to make it, we will work in a way that keeps everyone up to date.

Collaborative

- We commit to working collaboratively, making the most of partnerships where possible
- We are open about sharing our resources and information
- We are happy to share our journey with others
- We are happy to share our contact details with each other

Supportive

- We will act authentically and with integrity – we want to be genuine and transparent with each other and as a collective group
- We understand that we all come from different perspectives and believe that we all have the best interests of our community at heart.
- We appreciate that Shropshire Council have to work within a framework and have their own specific duties and responsibilities to uphold. We believe that they have the best interests of our community at heart as much as we do.
- We show respect, and act with transparency and honesty, whilst being critical friends to each other and the process
- We respect the process
- We take collective responsibility
- We take a heart centred approach whilst taking into account practical, spiritual, financial, emotional and environmental factors.

Innovate and Learn

- We are not be afraid to ask questions and to ask for clarity when we need it
- We have a reflection session at meetings to review our work and the feedback we have received from our communities, to check we remain rooted in Market Drayton & surrounding villages and for the highest good of the community. We amend our practices to suit.
- We are not afraid to try something new and take a risk.
- We don't mind failing as long as we learn along the way and apply this learning to improve our decision-making in the future

Empowering

- We will give each other encouragement.
- We will speak positively about each other and have each other's backs even if personally we are unsure
- We will empower our community to feel engaged with the process
- We will celebrate success and share our journey
- We give hope and wish to connect different cultures and sectors within our community
- Our decisions will encourage community independence, choice and control over their own lives.

By signing this Memorandum of Understanding, I am agreeing to join the **Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Community Covenant** and adhere to this Charter through my own actions and through the actions of my organisation.

Members List.

Organisation	Name / Representative	Role
Shropshire Council	Melanie France	Public Health Principal Integration & Inequalities Health, Wellbeing and Prevention Directorate
	Hannah Thomas	Community and Wellbeing Team Manager
Market Drayton Town Council	Tim Manton	Councillor and Mayor
Moreton Say Parish Council	Judith James	Parish Councillor
Fordhall Community Land Initiative	Charlotte Hollins	General Manager

	Marie Gibson	Deputy Manager
Market Drayton Library	Catherine Westwood	Coordinator
Market Drayton Patient Participation Group	Jenny Horner	Chair
Festival Drayton Centre	Gary Hoggarth	Manager
St. Mary's Church and Foodbank	Catherine McBride	Vicar
Ukrainian Hub	Iana Jacobson	Coordinator
The Grove School, School Governors	Richard Kolbe	Deputy Chair, Parent Governors, and Community Lead
Freedom Church	Mark Lawrence	Reverend
Market Drayton Community Enterprise	Alan Cartwright	Chair
Shropshire Youth Association	Kerry Williams	Youth Lead
Market Drayton Community Amateur Sports Club	David Beckwith	Treasurer and Board member
Walking for Health	Andy Brown	Group Lead
Market Drayton Sports Association	Grant Robertson	Chair
Baby Bank	Carolyn Lawrence	Founder and Lead

Other groups kept informed of our work:

The Royal Irish Regiment

Civic Society

The Zone

Foodbank

Men in Sheds

Rural Parishes