

# Local democracy in Kvam herad

Experience of Norwegian Municipalities



# Kvam herad

- The municipality has approx. 8500 inhabitants
- Located 1 hour by car from Norway's second largest city, Bergen.
- The workforce is approx. 4400.
- Kvam is part of a living / working region with 260 000 inhabitants.
- Kvam has a diverse business community
- Most of the leisure activities are based on volunteer work.



# Why did Kvam herad participate in the local democracy survey 2017?



1. Status update: How is our local democracy perceived?
2. Need for change and development? Where?
3. How can we better involve our citizens in decision making?
4. Our local democracy compared to other municipalities- Are we doing a good job?

# Some results ...

- As a rule, you can rely on the promises of the politicians here in the municipality ... 64,6 % believe that this statement fits quite badly
- Here in the municipality, the people elected do not abuse their power for personal benefit ... 59,4 % believe that this statement fits.
- In this municipality, the financial resources are managed in a proper manner ... 63,7 % believe that this statement fits badly.

# But ....

**Overall, I am pleased with the municipality's services to residents ... 67,1 % believe that this statement fits.**



# What did we learn?

**Trust issues**



**Citizens are overall pleased with the services offered by our municipality**

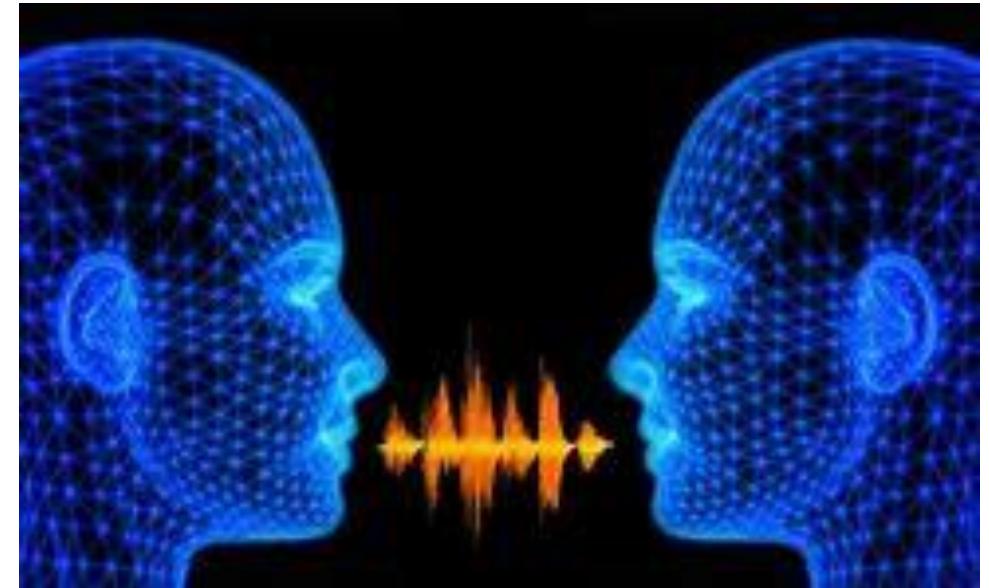


# We need to ...

**1. Get better at involving our citizens**



**2. We must work to improve our communication**



**3. We must work to improve trust among the population**



# Initiatives to get better...



Etikkplakat for folkevalde i Kvam herad

## Som folkevald skal eg:

### - gje tillit

- vera sannferdig i ord og handling
- vera open om eigne roller og vera merksam på eigen habilitet
- ikkje ta i mot gåver
- syta for likehandsaming

### - vera open

- respektera at politiske møter som hovudregel skal vera opne
- bidra til ein open politisk debatt
- syta for at lobbyverksemder er open
- leggja til rette for ytringsfridom

### - visa respekt

- ikkje påverka sakshandsamarar direkte
- respektera andre folkevalde og tilsette i kommunen
- leggja til rette for brukarmedverknad og inkludering
- visa toleranse for kjønn, legning, etnisitet, og funksjonsevne
- syta for at kommunen tek aktivt ansvar for å hindra forureining av lokalmiljøet

### - visa mot

- seia i frå om kritikkverdige forhold
- korrigera usanne opplysningar om politiske saker i samfunnsdebatten



[www.kvam.no](http://www.kvam.no)

## Ethical guidelines for the elected representatives of the municipal council (and other council)

## Key phrases:

As a people elected, I will ... :

1. Give trust
2. Be open
3. Show respect
4. Show courage

# We are working to get better at involving our citizens in political processes ...



Work with planning processes in Kvam herad. Cooperation between politicians, youth representatives, and other residents

# Cooperation Committee for Politics and Administration (SPA) Established 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018

- A committee whose task is to work for better interaction between politics and administration in Kvam herad.

## Why?

- Increase the trust of the municipality among the inhabitants.
- We achieve much more together!



A mixed committee consisting of 4 people from administration and 4 people from the municipal council.

# Our hardest lesson so far ...

**Trust is particularly vulnerable ... easy to break, easy to lose and some of the hardest to win back**

**We wish all the  
municipalities in Ukraine all  
the best for the future!**

**We have all an important  
work in front of us!**



Thank you for your invitation  
and attention!