

WEBSITE ACCESSABILITY BRIEF

The Government has set out new website accessibility guidelines for public sector bodies. The aim of the new regulations is to make sure that all public sector websites are accessible to all users – especially those with disabilities.

The regulations state that by September 2020 all parish, town and borough councils must have a website that complies with the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines.

We have to make our website accessible to everyone, including users with impairments to their:

- **Vision** – those who are severely sight impaired (blind), partially sighted or colour blind
- **Hearing** – those who are deaf or hard of hearing
- **Mobility** – those who may find it difficult to use a mouse or keyboard
- **Thinking or understanding** – for example, those who are dyslexic, autistic or have learning difficulties

In order to comply with the new accessibility guidelines our website must also be compliant with these new regulations, such as:

- We must have an Accessibility Policy Statement that follows a standard format
- Also an Accessible Documents statement that follows a standard format
- A process in place to regularly monitor and review the website
- And a process to provide requests for content that is not in a compliant format

Whilst I think that our website is largely compliant the actual checking of it, along with any remedial actions is a huge task. It will also involve checking the many documents that we have there. As the website editor I do need some help.

Our website provider can do this for us at the cost of £350 plus VAT.

They will check through the site, make any adjustments where necessary and provide us with the necessary documentation which has to go on the site.

I myself will go through the documents stored on the site.

2nd October 2020