

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council

*ADOPTED BY COUNCIL
13th February 2020*

Access Audit Policy

Introduction

The Town Council seeks to ensure that its buildings and facilities are fully accessible to all and undertakes to promote equality of opportunity, and promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, encourage disabled people's participation in public life; and take steps to take into account people's disabilities.

Policy objectives

In pursuance of this policy, the Council will improve and enhance, as far as is reasonable, all forms of access to its buildings and facilities and will conform to any legislative requirements bearing in mind the constraints contained within pre-existing legislation relating to the protection of listed buildings.

Definition of Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. The definition includes a wide range of impairments, including hidden impairments such as dyslexia, autism, speech and language impairments and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). These are all likely to amount to a disability, but only if the effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities is substantial and long-term as defined above.

The Town Council's Duty

The Town Council will discharge its responsibility towards disabled persons using and having access to its buildings and facilities by ensuring that disabled people are not treated less favourably in accessibility to the buildings and facilities in line with the current legislation.

Access means physical access to buildings and facilities, intellectual access to information, and access to services, by a wide variety of means. In practice, the measures taken to improve access for people with disabilities, from an adoption of the principles of 'universal design' to the provision of any reasonable temporary measures that may be required.

The Town Hall Building

In line with paragraph 16.2 of the Town Council's Policy Plan, and working in partnership with the Museum Group, the Council will support community access to the building and monitor the physical accessibility and use of the building in relation to access for all.

Accessibility Plan

The Council will ensure that the needs of disabled persons are fully considered in any plans for its buildings and facilities. The Council's aim is to enable disabled persons to have reasonable access to buildings and facilities and ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable the needs of disabled persons are taken into account.

The Council seeks to ensure that its buildings and facilities are accessible to everyone, wherever practicable and reasonable. It aims to provide easy, dignified access to its buildings and facilities whenever this can reasonably be done in line with legislation.

Access Audit

The Town Council will monitor and regularly review access to all its buildings and facilities on a regular basis and take forward any actions required in line with this policy.

This policy is to be reviewed at least every two years by the Town Council or where there is new legislation.

Town Council Address:

117 High Street,

Royal Wootton Bassett,

Wilts. SN4 7AU

Tel: (01793) 850222

Website: <http://www.royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk>