Houghton Parish Council Accessibility Statement

This accessibility statement applies to the Houghton Parish Council Website: https://www.houghtonparishcouncil.org/community/houghton-parish-council-13622/home/

This website is run by Houghton Parish Council. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:
- change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.
AbilityNet has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is
We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:
- most older PDF documents are not fully accessible to screen reader software
- you cannot skip to the main content when using a screen reader
- focus is lost on our navigation menu and parts of the planning tracker
- keyboard users cannot access parts of the website because the drop down menus of the main navigation are not keyboard accessible

Feedback and contact information
If you need information on this website in a different format like accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille:
- email houghtonparishcouncil@gmail.com
- call 01264 782869

We try to respond to feedback within 7 business days.
If you cannot view the map on our 'contact' page, call or email us for directions.

Reporting accessibility problems with this website
We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact: Houghton Parish Council via the Clerk by email – houghtonparishcouncil@gmail.com or telephone on 01264 782869.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS).

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Houghton Parish Council is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Compliance status

This website is not compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard. The non-compliances and exemptions are listed below.

Non-accessible content

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

Focus indication is lost when moving through the navigation menu. This fails WCAG 2.4.7 Focus Visible (AA). This issue has been raised with the website supplier and we are working with the supplier to resolve it.

Some areas of the website are not accessible via keyboard because some sections of our navigation menu are not links and none of the dropdown menus can be activated by keyboard. This fails WCAG 2.1.1 Keyboard (A) and 2.4.5 Multiple Ways (A). We have a sitemap on the website which can be used for alternate navigation for the time being. We are working with our supplier to fix this issue.

There is no skip to content function on the website so keyboard only users cannot bypass the navigation menu. This fails WCAG 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (A). This issue has been raised with the website supplier and we are working with the supplier to resolve it.

Some of the links across the website are not descriptive. This fails WCAG 2.4.4 Link Purpose (A). We are working with the supplier to change these links to be more descriptive before September 2020.

User input fields on the Planning Tracker and our Contact form are not correctly labelled. This fails WCAG 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (AA) and 3.3.2 Labels and Instructions (A). This issue has been raised with the website supplier and we are working with the supplier to resolve it.

There are various contrast failures across our website pages. These fail WCAG 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (AA). This issue has been raised with the website supplier and we are working with the supplier to resolve it.

Disproportionate burden
At this time, we have made no claims of disproportionate burden.

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

Portable Document Format (PDF) and other documents
Some of our PDFs and Word documents are essential to providing our services. By September 2020, we plan to either fix these or replace them with accessible HTML pages.

The accessibility regulations do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018 if they're not essential to providing our services. For example, we do not plan to fix historical council meeting minute documents published before 23rd September 2018.

Any new PDFs or Word documents we publish will meet accessibility standards.

Online maps
Maps that are present on our website and are not used for navigational purposes are exempt under the regulations. We use several maps to show planning or other geographical information. If users require an accessible alternative to this information, please contact us.

What we're doing to improve accessibility
Houghton Parish Council is working with the website supplier Hugo Fox to resolve accessibility issues on the website.

Preparation of this accessibility statement
This statement was prepared on 8th September 2020. It was last reviewed on 8th September 2020.

This website was last tested on 07/08/2020. The test was carried out by All Able Ltd.

All pages of the website were tested along with a sample of the documents from each area of the website.