

Website Accessibility Review

For Hednesford Town Council

1. Introduction

Hednesford Town Council asked us to carry out an accessibility review of its website to support compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018, and to provide supporting evidence for Assertion 10.

This review considers the website against WCAG 2.2 Level AA and identifies areas where improvements can reasonably be made.

2. Scope of Review

A representative selection of pages and content types were reviewed, including:

- Homepage
- Contact page
- News listing and individual articles
- Meetings and events pages
- Individual meeting pages
- Projects and community pages
- Community Centre (sub-site)

This approach ensures a balanced view across the main templates, content types and user journeys.

3. Methodology

The review was carried out using a combination of:

- Automated testing tools (WAVE and Google Lighthouse)
- Manual testing (keyboard navigation, structure and usability checks)
- Visual checks (contrast, layout and readability)

Automated tools were used to identify potential issues. These were then reviewed and filtered to focus on items that are likely to have a genuine impact on accessibility, as automated tools can generate false positives.

4. Summary of Findings

Overall, the website provides a solid baseline level of accessibility.

Navigation is generally clear, page layouts are consistent, and content is largely readable. No critical issues were identified that would prevent users from accessing core information or services.

However, a number of areas would benefit from improvement to better align with WCAG 2.2 AA, particularly around navigation, accessible naming, structure, contrast and forms.

5. Detailed Findings

See table below and section breakdown.

6. Documents (PDFs and Downloads)

This review did not include a full technical audit of PDF documents.

The website includes links to documents such as meeting agendas and minutes. These may not always meet accessibility requirements, particularly where documents are older or generated externally.

The Council should aim, where possible, to ensure that new documents are created in an accessible format and that key public-facing documents are prioritised for improvement.

7. Disproportionate Burden

Some improvements, particularly those relating to legacy content, branding constraints or third-party systems, may represent a disproportionate burden to fully resolve.

These should be considered and documented by the Council where appropriate.

8. Recommendations and Next Steps

Immediate:

- Resolve skip link behaviour
- Improve keyboard focus visibility
- Ensure all interactive elements have accessible names

Short Term:

- Review heading structures
- Improve colour contrast
- Improve form labelling

Ongoing:

- Review accessibility every six months
- Ensure new content follows accessibility best practice
- Update Accessibility Statement as required

9. Review Cycle

It is recommended that the website is reviewed at least every six months.

10. Disclaimer

This review is based on a representative sample of pages and does not constitute legal certification of full compliance.

Accessibility should be treated as an ongoing process.

Findings Overview

Area	Severity	Summary
Navigation & Keyboard	High	Skip link and focus visibility issues
Links & Buttons	High	Some controls lack clear accessible names
Headings	Medium–High	Inconsistent hierarchy across pages
Colour Contrast	Medium	Some combinations below AA
Forms	Medium	Labelling and grouping improvements needed
Images	Low–Medium	Some missing or overly long alt text
Third-party	Low	Minor issues outside direct control