

Dent Parish Council
Website Accessibility Regulations

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, came into force on 23 September 2020.

All public body websites and mobile applications must comply with the WCAG 2.1 standards by this date.

Dentdale.com does not comply with these regulations and requires a considerable amount of work to ensure that it does, potentially costing thousands and take months to complete.

Peter Hunt, Website Administrator for Dentdale.com produced a report detailing what is involved in achieving compliance which demonstrates the work involved.

After speaking with CALC, who recommend that Parish Councils have their own website which is separate from any village or community website, I contact Matt at www.rocketbsites.co.uk to discuss the costs involved in developing a new website purely for the Parish Council. Matt has designed a number of sites for Parish Councils in Cumbria and comes recommended by CALC. He knew all about the new regulations and says he has received numerous requests from Parish Councils in the same position. Turn around for a new site would be roughly two weeks.

Matt builds websites in WordPress which, as clerk, I am fully conversant with and have been using for many years.

The costs for a new site from Matt would be:

- £600 to build the new site ensuring that it is fully compatible with the new regulations
- £95 per annum for hosting (including email) and domain registration

I also contacted another provider, Jennie Dawson at Lakeland Web Design to provide a quote for the purposes of comparison. Jennie knew nothing of the new accessibility regulations and had to research the work involved before making a quote.

Jennie builds websites in Joomla, which I have no knowledge of and so I would need to learn how this system works.

The costs for a new site from Jennie would be:

- £650 to build the new site using a compliant template
- £70 per annum for hosting which would not include email hosting or domain registration.

Time is of the essence here as we are already past the deadline for being compliant.

My recommendation would be to procure a new website from www.rocketbsites.co.uk as soon as possible.

Scott Thornley
Clerk
30 September 2020