



Comms Officer Report

For Town Council Meeting on 29 June 2026

What is Website Accessibility?

Website accessibility is the practice and application of methods to ensure that a website or mobile application (and the information published on it) is accessible to all users, especially those with disabilities that include, but are not limited to:

- impaired vision
- motor impairments (*ie. Parkinson's or Cerebral palsy*)
- cognitive impairments
- learning disabilities
- deafness or impaired hearing

At least 1 in 5 people in the UK have a long-term illness, impairment or disability, and many more have a temporary disability, so this is important to a large number of people. Website accessibility means making content and design clear and simple enough so that most people can use it without needing to adapt it, while supporting those who do need to adapt things through using assistive technology (*ie. text to speech software or screen readers*) to adjust website settings and other hardware and software.

Website Accessibility Compliance

Assertion 10 requires parish and town councils to ensure digital and data compliance including operating an accessible website.

Following a recent Accessibility Check by our Internal Auditor, we updated areas needing text and background contrast and correcting labels for page titles on our website to ensure we are compliant as required in WCAG2.2AA standards [SLCC | WCAG2.2AA Compliant Accessible Websites](#).

Our current Accessibility Score is 79.5% compliance - with 20.5% non-compliance attributed to website plug-ins such as for Cookies, and a "slider" app for our news articles and picture galleries.

Overall, our compliance covers the most important areas including Readability, Forms, Documents and Graphics.

In addition to the required [Accessibility Statement](#) on our website – see attached – we also have a widget offering accessibility options to users such as a text reader, highlighting headers, text magnifier and being able to change text and background colours.

Maintaining Website Accessibility Compliance is an ongoing process and we will continue to strive for maximum compliance.



Accessibility Statement

This accessibility statement applies to www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

This website is run by New Milton Town 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

www.mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/ 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
- some images do not have alt-text
- some external links are not as descriptive as they could be
- you cannot skip to the main content when using a screen reader

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:

- [by email to us](#)
- call 01425 619120
- visit New Milton Town Council, The Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton, BH25 6AS

We'll consider your request and get back to you within 7 days.



Reporting accessibility problems with the 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 us by email, telephone or visiting our office using the contact details given above and ask for the matter to be referred to the Town Clerk.

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 \(EASS\)](#).

Visiting us in person

For people who are deaf, hearing impaired or have a speech impediment, we can arrange a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter if you contact us before your visit.

Find out how to [contact us](#)

Technical information about this website's accessibility

New Milton Town 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 fully compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.2 AA](#) standard.

What we're doing to improve accessibility

If you have any issues with the accessibility of any of the content on this website, please [contact us](#) and let us know and we will forward the information on to our web development team.

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 6 November 2024.

Website appraisal from New Forest Mencap and NFDIS January 2025.

It was last reviewed on 27 April 2026.

Skynet Accessibility Report 15 June 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND
(CHARITY NO. 301891) FOR THE YEAR ENDED - 31 MARCH 2026

Last year marked the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe with VE Day on 8 May 2025 and finally VJ Day on 2 September 2025 commemorating Japan's formal surrender that took place aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

On Remembrance Day 100-year-old D-Day veteran Jim Justice, a Green Jacket joined us. Rifleman Jim Justice landed in Normandy, his platoon then marched to liberate Bayeux, encountering resistance and hand-to-hand combat. In 2024, Jim visited commemorative events in Normandy with the RBL and had tea with the Royal Family.

In New Milton, we remembered 223 local servicemen who lost their lives in the two world wars - 83 in WWI and 140 in WW2. Their names are on the Memorial.

In total, over 250 local people lost their lives in the two World Wars, including 31 who died as a result of 3 WW2 bombings of the Town.



On Remembrance Sunday, the Last Post was sounded, and Brigadier Paul Jepson President of the New Milton Royal British Legion recited the Exhortation

We then observed 2 minutes' silence from 11 o'clock. After the Reveille, Royal British Legion Colonel Ron Back recited the Kohima. A bagpipe lament was then played by Cllr John Adams.

Wreath Layers numbering around 50 were called forward 2 and 3 at a time. Reverend Jon Westall from St Mary Magdalene Parish Church lead us in prayer.

RBL Parade Marshall Lee Fleming re-assembled the Parade and marched along the high street to the Memorial Hall for a Service of Remembrance that included presentations from students of Arnewood and Durlston Schools, plus Readings from Ballard School and their Senior Chamber Choir performance.



Act of Remembrance VJ80 Anniversary - 2 September 2025

Events on the War Memorial Recreation Ground April 2025 – April 2026

4 May 2025	New Milton Lions VE80 Celebration Event
8 May 2025	Act of Remembrance VE80 Anniversary
6 July 2025	Afternoon of Music featuring Groovemeister
3 August 2025	Afternoon of Music featuring The Wise Guys
2 September 2025	Act of Remembrance VJ80 Anniversary
7 September 2025	Afternoon of Music featuring Total Madness
9 November 2025	Remembrance Sunday Parade & Wreath-Laying
11 November 2025	Armistice Act of Remembrance



Mayor Cllr Alvin Reid with Total Madness on the War Memorial Recreation Ground – 7 Sept

