ENCLOSURE 2

Interim report on Accessibility scoping exercise

Cllr Zoe Leventhal, 24 November 2023

1. At the last Town Council meeting, we unanimously voted for a proposal to undertake a scoping exercise on a Town Council Accessibility Group, comprising councillors and local residents with lived experience of disability and/or expertise in accessibility, with a view to enabling the Town Council to make or seek improvements to the accessibility of Kenilworth for people with disabilities.

2. Cllrs Mark Stevens, Alison Insley, David Bailey & Kate Dickson volunteered to work with me on this.

3. Positive progress has been made since the last meeting including:

    a. An initial meeting on 10 November 2023 at Jubilee House with two local residents with lived experience of disability, Cyril Hobbins and Jenny Wheeler, the latter also being an Accessibility professional;
    b. An initial meeting online on of the councillors mentioned above;
    c. Work to identify, and discussions with, the key officer contacts at Warwick District Council and other relevant stakeholders.

4. By way of an initial pilot, with the help of the Town Council staff team, we reviewed the plans for the Christmas Lights Switch on taking place on Sunday 26 November in terms of accessibility. From residents' feedback, we raised some specific suggestions with the Events Team at WDC to ensure dropped kerbs are kept clear as far as possible throughout the event at Warwick Road and Abbey End (and yellow ramps available where not possible). WDC have taken this on board in their planning with the contractors operating the market stalls and rides.

5. We have also agreed to report three specific initial pavement / dropped kerb issues for wheelchair and mobility scooter users to WCC – the key one being the route via Station Road to the church where the Covid vaccination clinic is taking place.

6. Our initial meetings have shown that there is a need for this important work. Councillors wanted to discuss further how a group might operate alongside WDC, residents and other stakeholders, once it had been possible to have further discussions with the key people identified.

7. We intend therefore to report back further at the next Town Council meeting.

8. Our thanks to Ms Wheeler & Mr Hobbins for their time and input to date, and my thanks to the councillors and to Miles Wyatt-Smith & Gemma Honey at the Town Council for supporting this work so far.