

## Equal Access Policy

All residents have an equal right to access Council services and the Parish Council will treat them with respect, courtesy and dignity. The Council will make every effort to meet their needs regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief.

As a provider of public services, under the Equality Act 2010, the Council needs to show that it has paid due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination)
- pregnancy and maternity
- race - this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief -this includes lack of belief
- sex (gender)
- sexual orientation

The Equality Act 2010 contains the Public Sector Equality Duty, the aim of which is to support good decision making by ensuring public bodies consider how different people will be affected by their activities, helping them to deliver policies and services which are efficient and effective, accessible to all and which meet different people's needs.