

<b><u>POLICY AND PROCEDURE:</u></b>	<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCESS</b>
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**PURPOSE:** Melbourn Parish Council (MPC) has a Policy for Equal Opportunities and wishes to ensure that it is put into practice with users of community facilities.

**SCOPE:** An inclusive community requires that all members of a community have fair and equal access to its resources and facilities. For example, improved access to buildings is beneficial to all members of the community, e.g. people pushing prams.

In law, a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with HIV, cancer and multiple sclerosis are deemed to be covered by the DDA effectively from the point of diagnosis, rather than from the point when the condition has some adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

MPC will consider the requirements of other disabled people if their needs are not covered by the 3 areas listed above. We will also consider whether individuals might need other adjustments to provide them with equal opportunities to access Council facilities and services.

This policy covers:

- physical access for people with mobility impairment
- help for members of the public with hearing impairment
- assistance with communication for those with English as a second language.

**POLICY:** MPC has a policy of promoting greater access for disabled people to Parish buildings and uses its authority to improve disabled people's access to public buildings.

**PROCEDURE:**

**1. Existing Facilities and Services.**

- 1.1 Melbourn Parish Council will ensure that its buildings comply with PART M of the Building Regulations. Part M's requirements will be met if 'Reasonable provision is made to ensure that buildings are accessible and usable.'
- 1.2 Currently the main legislation that controls access standards for disabled people is people, regardless of disability, age or gender should be able to:

- (a) Gain access to buildings and to gain access within buildings and use their facilities, both as visitors and people that live or work in them;
- (b) Use sanitary conveniences in the principle storey of a new dwelling;
- (c) Where a member of the public is hearing impaired, to attend and participate in public meetings of the Parish Council and at the Parish Office with the assistance of a hearing loop.
- (d) For members of the public with English as a second language, to attend and participate in public meetings of the Parish Council and at the Parish Office with the support of a language interpreter (prior arrangement to be made with the Parish Clerk.

**2. Future facilities and services**

- 2.1 MPC will plan future facilities and services with equal opportunities in mind.

**Document Approval:**



**(Chair to Melbourn Parish Council)**

**Date of Parish Council meeting: 26 March 2018**

*Review Policy: Every 12 months*