04-05-2020

Summary of website provider options Cllr McCarthy

As instructed at the last PC meeting, the working group has looked at five possible website supplier options. Norman and I have spoken to all of them in an attempt to gauge which one might offer the best value for money / service for the purposes of making a decision on costs at the next meeting.

In coming to the recommendations below several factors have been taken into account: (i) expertise - especially in respect of understanding of, and ability to advise on Accessibility Regulations compliance (ii) service quality (rather subjective) (iii) costs in Year 1 and ongoing (iv) what we can expect to get for the quoted design costs and how much we might need to do ourselves in respect of initial design.

Five companies were asked to quote:

- Parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk;
- Function28;
- Aubergine;
- Vision ICT
- Narke Design

Pricing

The lowest quote (£350) from Narke Design has been removed because of concerns about technical expertise in respect of the Accessibility Regulations and the highest quote (from Vision ICT) has been removed on the grounds of excessive cost (over £1200 plus VAT for design). This leaves three potential suppliers for councilors to consider.

Costs have been presented from three of the five, and a summary is shown below, along with the website address for each company so you can take a closer look at the work they do.

Company	Build costs	Annual web hosting costs	Expected costs Year 1	Expected costs Year 2
Function28	£550.00	£144.00	£694.00	£144.00
Parish Council Websites.co.uk	£649.00	£228.00	£877.00	£228.00
Aubergine	£700.00	£300.00	£1,000.00	£300.00

<u>Summary of each company</u>

Function 28.

Has experience in local authority websites. Several staff so there should always be a back-up. £550.00 for the build stage and £144.00 for ongoing P/A costs. However this buys a parish council-level site plus a little more; we would need to do quite a bit of additional build work (i.e. page additions) to get to where our current website is now in terms of content/size. Friendly, helpful and worth considering - although a note of caution regarding how much extra work we might need to do.
https://www.function28.co.uk/

Parish Council Websites.co.uk

Considerable experience in building Parish Council websites.   Back up staff available. £649.00 (worst case) for the build and £228.00 for ongoing P/A costs including support. £649.00 buys a fully-functioning, legally compliant site that would include all our current village information too - we would get a site similar in size and content to our current site (although obviously navigation would be simpler / better). Very friendly, and clear advice. Nb. £649 is a worst-case and it is likely to be lower than this; I suspect they would be broadly similar to Function 28 in terms of cost. I spoke to a councilor from another parish who have used their services - he could not praise them highly enough.
https://www.parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk/

Aubergine262

Knowledgeable (about the Accessibility Regulations), responsive, friendly and jargon free. Back up staff available. The only company to offer formal, ongoing checks and reporting using scanning software to ensure the site remains compliant with the Accessibility Regulations in future (however there is a cost to this of an additional £300 p/a over and above the £300 hosting costs). Design costs were £700.00, but does not include migrating existing data (text + images) over into the new site - this would need to be done ourselves since their charges would be c£400 (2 days at £25/hr.) extra. Ongoing costs £300.00 P/A but this includes support.
https://www.aubergine262.com/