



Penrith Town Council

Date: Wednesday 31 January 2024
Contact: cs@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penrith Town Council collaborate with the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association to distribute Council News

Penrith Town Council has agreed to collaborate with the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association to distribute monthly editions of Penrith Town Council News.

The Eden District Talking Newspaper Association currently records and distributes readings of items of interest from the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald to visually impaired locals each week.

January 2024's edition of Penrith Town Council News will be the first to be recorded and distributed to visually impaired Penrith locals.

Councillor Hilary Snell, Chair of the Communities Committee said:

"I am pleased to see the Council taking further steps to increase the community's access to information improving transparency and accountability.

"Through this arrangement, the Council will be able to reach visually impaired locals each month who may not have otherwise heard about Council news and initiatives before.

"All parts of the community deserve to be kept informed, and it is incumbent on us as the Council to do all we can to reach all areas of the Penrith community.

John Poland, Chair of the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association said:

"It is great to see the Council making an effort to communicate with those with a visual impairment.

"The Eden District Talking Newspaper Association provide weekly readings of the news, giving around 70 recipients the independence to do things on their own they would have otherwise needed to get help for.

"However, we know there are more people out there who are blind or visually impaired who may not know about this free service.

"So, if you know of anybody who is registered blind or visually impaired, who would be interested in receiving weekly readings of the news, please contact our Co-ordinator & Secretary Janis Young (07443528991, janisyong@btinternet.com) or myself (07710035451), who will be able set you or someone you know up on our weekly distribution list."

Notes to Editor

At its meeting of Communities Committee on Monday 18 December 2023, Penrith Town Council resolved to provide the Eden District Talking Newspaper Association with a monthly copy of Penrith Town Council News to include in their recordings.



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Anyone in the Eden area who is registered blind or visually impaired may receive the recordings free of charge.

Recordings of the news are placed onto memory sticks and are then split into 10 sub-folders ("channels") for recipients to listen to.