

# Website Hosting Report

## Summary

Lichfield District Council have advised they can no longer host the Parish Councils website, due to security concerns.

The Parish Council will need to consider alternative options for website hosting as we are required by law to have a public website.

## Recommendation

To transfer hosting from Lichfield District Council (via Think:Inc) to Parish Council websites at a cost of £19 per month / £228 per annum.

## Background

Lichfield District Council have advised they are clearing out their multi-site platform and wish to transfer the website into the Parish Council's control.

LDC have advised that they use the hosting provider Think:Inc and have been advised that they will offer a preferential rate of £250 to move our site and for the first year of hosting including quarterly updates. Thereafter Think:Inc can offer a direct hosting arrangement that we would need to discuss and agree with them directly, which would include regular plugin and security updates.

Alternatively, once an independent site has been created, we can seek a wider competitive quote for the ongoing hosting/support beyond year 1.

Whilst LDC cannot support the long-term hosting of our site, in a bid to support the move of our site to an independent platform, if we are going to struggle to afford to pay for the move/y1 hosting they will discuss whether they can financially support the Parish Council to do so.

The Parish Council may also choose our own supplier who can work with Think:Inc to do move our website to them.

Current domain provider HCI data (domain purchased for 2 years £119, 2yr renewal cost £85)

[Prices for web services and registering domains including a .gov.uk domain \(hcidata.uk\)](https://www.hcidata.uk/)

£119 for 2 years to register, £85 for 2 years at each renewal thereafter.

HCI data no longer take on new clients for web hosting however they support third party hosting.

They cannot offer any advice on the suitability of third party hosting but mentioned two possible options for the Parish Council.



- HugoFox - used by several of our clients as they can provide free hosting for clubs & charities. Parish Council hosting packages Silver £19.99+ VAT monthly, Gold £29.99+VAT monthly + £399 website build <https://www.hugofox.co.uk/parish-councils.html#pricingbox>
- WordPress - may be able to help in migrating our existing site to a WordPress. Details can be found at <https://wordpress.com/> and we can direct your www.wiggintonandhopwas-pc.gov.uk at WordPress. £32 per month or £240 per annum.

### Parish Council Websites:

To host the current website for Wigginton & Hopwas Parish Council (including support) £19 per month / £228 for the year (+ VAT) which includes the site SSL certificate, daily backup, disaster recovery and technical support, the hosting is UK based to ensure GDPR compliance. We would host the website as is, there's no obligation to have a new website design but happy to quote for that later down the line if it is something you wanted to pursue.

We would also be happy to transfer the domain from HCI Data to our registrar account - the domain transfer and website migration would be done at no cost (the transfer also keeps account for the time left on the domain until renewal, so you won't need to renew immediately). We would recommend you to continue using Microsoft 365 for email and would ensure you lose no service during migration.

### Finance and Value for money

Supplier	Hosting Fee	Extras
Hugofox	£19.99 or £29.99	Nil or £399 (website build)
<b>Parish Council Websites</b>	<b>£19 per month / £228 per annum</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Think:Ink	£250 1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year price to be agreed
Wordpress	£32 per month / £240 per annum	

The quote from Parish Council Websites represents the best value for money to host the website as it is. The hosting fees include support, updates and an SSL certificate and the supplier is specialised in helping Parish Councils with their websites and the Council would benefit from their sound understanding of the web accessibility 2.1 requirements for public authorities.

### Risk Management Issues

Purchasing our own hosting package helps to mitigate the risk of potential data security breaches.

**This report was prepared by the Clerk**