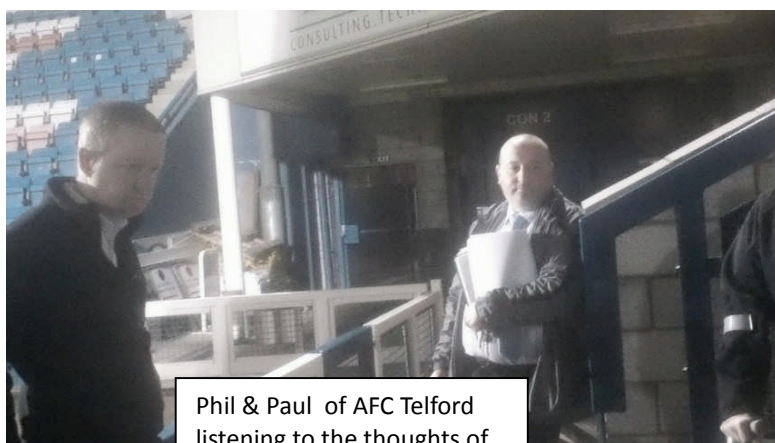


AFC Telford acts after receiving a complaint about Disabled Facilities at the ground.

Severn Radio have been really great publicizing on a number of things for SDN both on their community notice board and radio programs. This week it was SDN's turn to help Phil Sheiber out when he made contact asking if we could help. Phil is a trustee of AFC Telford Supporters club as well as working for Severn Radio.

AFC Telford want to give their disabled supporters a better experience when attending matches. It became quite obvious that a visit was required as this was something that could not be dealt with via email correspondence.

Last Thursday three members of Shropshire Disability Network, James, Trevor & I visited AFC Telford to meet with Phil Sheiber & Lee Carter-Chairman. Due to an unexpected emergency Paul Riley-Commercial Manager attended in place of Lee.



Phil & Paul of AFC Telford listening to the thoughts of SDN members.

While talking to Phil it became evident the contact with us had been made because they had received a letter of complaint from one of their disabled supporters saying the facilities at the ground were unsuitable and that in future he would not be attending matches.

Phil & Paul gave us a tour of the ground and AFC Telford do have good disabled facilities. While it appears there is only one disabled parking bay there are actually a further eight but on match days they tape off 35 places! They have disabled toilets and you can get round the terraces in a wheelchair. They have two areas of the ground where supporters with a disability can watch the match. It is this area that we have been able to comment on but I am not reporting here what has been suggested as a report is being sent to Phil, he will take this to the supporters club for discussion.

It is fantastic to know that AFC Telford have taken this letter of complaint seriously and want to do all they can to accommodate all their supporters. Watch this space for a future update of what AFC Telford do to help you make their matches a more pleasurable experience for you.

If you know of any venues that are concerned about their disabled access SDN would be pleased to hear from you or them.

Ruby Hartshorn, SDN Management Committee

