

Comments raised at Bath Hacked Accessibility Meeting

8 Feb 2017

Dropped kerbs

Not all dropped kerbs are equal – even half an inch can be a problem if don't hit it straight on with a wheelchair as the wheels get caught and spin to the side.

Not always opposite each other on the pavements, so can end up going down the road for ages until find one on the other side

People park across them, rendering them completely inaccessible

Other Street issues

Cobbles (also if walking)

Christmas market

Steep slopes – knowing gradient is useful

Unsuitable pavements, e.g. paving stones not level, small bumps or slopes, slight tilt

Street furniture can block pavement e.g. A boards, Seating, lamp posts

Useful to know where benches are so that walkers know where can rest

Width of bollards can restrict access to paths e.g. Two Tunnels route and the river path

Pavement becomes too thin to navigate e.g. Walcot Street

Access to buildings

How to know which are accessible

Is there a disabled parking space nearby

Access inside the building e.g. are café tables or shop aisles too close together

Access to toilet facilities inside the building (again do tables being too tightly packed together restrict the access)

Need to know whether staff have to open a side door, bring out a ramp or operate a lift inside. And how to contact the right person or phone in advance to get this to happen in an efficient manner.

Heavy swing doors

Attitude of staff

Parking

Where are the disabled spaces

How big is the space, room to open side doors or boot and get a wheelchair in and out

Charges

Council may have some of this data already but probably not detailed enough

Technology and communication issues

Google walking instructions can take you on routes with steps

Google starting to put on info about cafes but this can't be edited

Shopmobility route leaflet is highly inaccurate

No information available at the Tourist Information Centre

Things changing over time, e.g. building works may block access temporarily for a few weeks

Frustration when council doesn't provide access as promised or plans don't include step free access.

Other disability groups

Should start with a defined group of users e.g. wheel chair and those with difficulty walking, and if successful then look to broaden out into different groups e.g. autism, visually impaired.

Tactile paving for visually impaired can provide a difficult and unpleasant experience for wheelchair users.

Wheelmap

Has Google Street map view but can also post own photos and info

Grey icons are places that are mapped on Open Street Map but haven't been assigned any accessibility information yet. Can add more places as needed

Not designed to deal with the dropped kerb type issues - potentially FixMyStreet could be used instead.

Maps can be embedded into other websites e.g. museum websites

Could start by filling in within 1 mile of the Abbey

Tom has developed a progress tracker

If we can somehow mark which updates have been done as part of the BathHacked project then people will have confidence that they should be fairly accurate.

Want to produce a set of guidelines on the best way of adding data to Wheelmap. Note that Wheelmap has its own set of guidelines regarding the Red, Yellow, Green flags etc and it may be important to keep to these in order to standardise the information for users who are not from the city.

GPS Trackers

Similar to the cycle project could start tracking wheelchair users and their routes around the city.

Awareness

Could run a local campaign and get local businesses to fill in their own details on Wheelmap

Could get the Bath BID (Business Improvement District) involved

Could ask parents with pushchairs to help with the mapping (particularly those with wider or heavier double buggies)

Bath Spa Geography degree includes a GIS course, previously they have divided areas of the city up between their students and asked them to map each part. (Although this was when there was a GIS degree)

Three Ways School parents may be keen to get involved.

Need to educate businesses on the issues caused by bins in aisles etc.

As well as Wheelmap should also put comments on tripadvisor - this will have higher visibility to business owners so make them more likely to make changes.

BANES have just set up an Access and Transport Forum (?) led by Paul Crossly. They will meet every 4 months. They have just had their first meeting and no disability groups were represented (although some were invited e.g. RNIB)

Can try and get publicity in the press once we have made some initial progress