



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL



Wokingham Market Place Improvements Disability Groups Workshop 7th & 25th September 2015

7th September the Market Place was not in use on 25th Market was trading but to be noted that it was a quiet trading day and town itself also appeared quiet.

Feedback

What Works Well

7th:

- Traffic lights – give confidence/stress free experience
- Shop access – on whole this is good
- Wide pavement
- Designated parking OK
- Dull metal bollards very positive

25th:

- Consistency of stall placement
- Café Rouge barriers
- Benches that fit alongside the building (CLASP)
- Maintain good seating provision
- Was sufficient space
- Pedestrianized area considered very positive

What Does Not Work

7th:

- Angles of slopes etc need careful thought eg Bookends has incorporated slope inside premises boundaries offering ease of access
- Dry cleaners & butchers Denmark Street problematical
- Red brick paving – very slippery even when weather fine √√√
- Café furniture
- Current surface and usage does not enable the easy following of any building lines for visually impaired
- Bollards – positioning
- Road in Market Place not good with kerbs etc
- Crossing by triangle not good experience
- Grey on parts of surface
- Chamfered kerbs
- Loose block work
- Parking – unofficial



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- On some of street pavements missing drain covers for guttering run-off
- Insufficient dropped kerbs – distance between too far eg Specsavers to Argos
- Gradient/age of dropped kerbs mean ineffective – Millets Peach Street particularly poor
- Insufficient guidance routes
- Cobbled areas difficult for all
- Size of trees & canopies too big and produces too much shade/dark areas
- Rose Street – parking too near the crossing at Broad Street end
- Narrow pavements Denmark Street
- Traditional black fingerpost signs not helpful for visually impaired (lack of contrast)
- Bollarded & gravel area from former tree

25th:

- Rubber cable strip covers not working, moved as went across. Need fixing and greater level of marking such as yellow stripes
- Benches 'fade' into the background – need contrast
 - Any metal should be contrasting colour not black eg gold/silver (c/f other comment that positive to have against Town Hall walls)
- Plant stall very difficult to navigate, narrows marked access to Market Place
 - Dementia sufferers welcome plants etc but does need to offer consistency of layout
- Concern that not true representation of normal conditions as seemed 'very tidy' with no boxes etc visible
- Some signage such as 'A' Boards manageable for those with guide dogs but very problematical for cane users. Significant problem when these are also put over bollards (possible link to Town Team to speak to retailers)
- Stalls serving from both directions creates challenges – people just stop resulting in potential accidents
 - Could the stalls all face one way?
- Outside Boots and contra-flow bus lane – dangerous
- Very difficult if no dropped kerb (chamfered does not help wheelchair users and offers insufficient definition for guide dogs)
- Fruit stall best kept on triangle
- Single palette on surface could prove difficult. Dementia sufferers find contrasting colours (ideally primary) most helpful
- Lack of parking for dementia sufferers as they do not always qualify for a blue badge
- Barclays Bank crossing very challenging

Future Suggestions

7th:

- Any bollards could have contrasting colour considered (yellow)
- Any café furniture should be confined within barriers, commonly used outside cafes etc, with a tap row
- Consider moving benches
- Minimum kerb height – 6cm



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- Need to consider scooter users (seat at back of vehicle and do not usually pull right up to kerb which creates very different sight line)
- Need to control speed
- Signage
 - Very clear
 - Good directional
 - Contrasting colour
- Guidance pavements/tactile to include route to crossings/into cafes/Town Hall
- Market Place very big open space if does not have some support re directions/textured markings etc
- Crossings must be identified clearly – contrasting colours
- Consider additional crossings Boots, Denmark Street (Pelican?)
- Invite strangers to offer feedback (Sovereign Group Housing?)
- Consider wood for bins and benches not shiny/stainless steel

25th:

- Consensus across all present that natural stone could offer appropriate texture and difference in shading. Also bigger paving blocks is helpful for everyone
- Could a 'test bed' for any proposed surface be provided for the access group?
- New surface should be textured to offer best grip

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