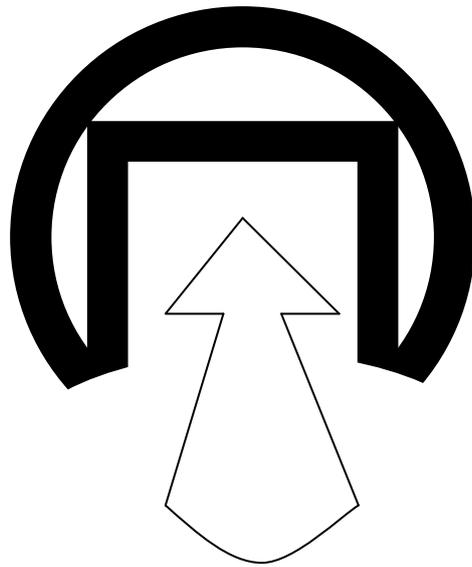


Rutland



Access Group

ACCESS AWARENESS DAY

Empingham
3 April 2019

Report on the proceedings

1. Introduction

- Rutland Access Group's main function is to support people with disabilities in efforts to ensure safe access in and around buildings and within the built environment.
- In order to carry out this task it is essential to make the Local Authority, Commercial Interests and its population aware of the need to cater for people with disabilities.
- Those participating at the event included:

Rutland Access Group Members
Empingham Parish Council Members
- This report is to be forwarded to Rutland County Council with copies to Empingham Parish Council.
- The Rutland Access Group are willing at an appropriate time to report on the progress of their recommendations.

2. OBJECTIVES FOR THE DAY

- To promote awareness within the village and make people aware of the Rutland Access Group and its activities.
- To identify both access problems, deficiencies and also highlight areas where efforts have been made to improve facilities.

3. THE PLAN

- Two small groups walked through the village from the White Horse Pub. Group 1 focussed on Main Street, plus Willoughby Drive, whilst Group 2 looked at the loop along Audit Hall Road, then back into the village up Church Street, and Crocket Lane and including Exton Road up to the Cricket Pavilion.
- Whilst the groups were encouraged to comment on the good aspects – surfacing, signing, ramps, dropped kerbs and white lining, they were also required to report on aspects that needed attention.

4. PARTICIPANTS AND ROUTES

Karen Mellor

Bob Mundie

Neil Johannessen

Gale Waller

Vic Pheasant

Margaret Pollard

Jen Pheasant

Christine Johannessen

Rowan Scholtz

Paul Slater

Sally Redman-Davies

RAG

RAG: on large scooter

RAG and Empingham Parish Council:
on scooter

RAG and RCC County Councillor

Chairman Empingham Parish Council

Empingham Parish Councillor

Empingham villager

Empingham villager

Clerk to Empingham Parish Council

RCC Highways

RCC Transport



5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The dropped kerbs and narrow pavements with difficult cambers in the village continue to be problematic, and with improvement would ease the access in the village for all wheelchair, scooter and buggy users.
- Pavement obstructions, whether it is bins scattered on bin day, overhanging plant life, scattered gravel from private drives, or boxes and signs provided by utilities; all add to the difficulty of the wheelchair, scooter and buggy user and also people with sight impairments. Awareness of these issues by the residents of the village, would all assist with improving ease of access along the pavements in the village.
- This survey has only focussed on the village street scene. Detailed access surveys of the public buildings on the route has been limited in scope, and responsibility for improving access here lies fully with the building owners themselves.

Audit of Empingham – Route 1			
Date: 3 rd April 2019 Time: 10:30 Conditions: Fine & Dry Audit Leader: Members: Paul Slater RCC Highways Vic Pheasant Empingham PC Bob Mundie RAG Route: Empingham Main Street – White Horse Pub to Village Boundary. (including Surgery, Methodist Chapel, School), Loves Lane, Willoughby Drive			
Item	Location Details	Comments	Recommendations (responsibility)
1.	Main Street – junction with Exton Road: entrance to farm opposite 23A	Dropped crossing in poor condition / uneven 	Improve dropped crossing (RCC)
2	Main St – at the entrance to Grayston Aggregate Services	Dropped crossing and access in poor condition 	Improve dropped crossing and surface footway (RCC)
3.	Bayleys Close: at the access to 2-6 Loves Lane	Dropped crossing in poor condition / uneven 	Improve dropped crossing (RCC)

4	Loves Lane –at access to parking to rear of Beckworth Grove	Dropped crossing in poor condition / uneven 	Improve dropped crossing (RCC)
5	Main Street – junction with Nursery Close	Dropped crossing in poor condition / uneven 	Improve dropped crossing (RCC)
6	Nursery Close: pedestrian area to front of terraced bungalows	Limited and poor provision of step free routes between the end of Nursery Close and the housing.	Review and improve ramps and dropped kerbs. RCC and Spire Homes
7	Main St – junction with Willoughby Drive	Carriageway requires patching in front of dropped kerb 	Repairs needed (RCC)
8	Main St – outside Lower Farm	No dropped crossing at the end of the footway	Install dropped crossing (RCC)

			
9	Willoughby Drive – various locations	No dropped crossings at cul-de-sac areas 	Install dropped crossing (RCC)
10	Main Street - various	Trees and hedges overhanging and reducing the width of footways	EPC to audit and contact residents
11	Church Street- near the junction with Main Street	No suitable dropped crossing 	Install dropped crossing (RCC)

Walk through Empingham starting at The White Horse Pub, Main Street, Empingham. Route 2			
	Location Details	Comments	Recommendations (responsibility)
1.	The White Horse pub	Access for scooter and wheelchair was impossible as there are steps at all entrances. Identify and implement step free access at at least one entrance	White Horse Inn
2	Driveway access to RH side of pub	Granite Dropped kerb a little uneven for use by wheelchair and scooter. Improve dropped kerb	RCC Highways
3	Driveway to house 2 Audit Hall Road(?)	Crossing directly opposite the pub so convenient to use but granite kerbs uneven. Improve dropped kerb	RCC Highways
4	Pedestrian Crossing of Main Street at the junction with Audit Hall Road	Whilst the crossing here (via the intermediary island) has acceptable dropped kerbs, the excessive width of the road and shape of the junction means visibility from the south pavement of vehicles approaching the junction from along Main Street is very poor and potentially very dangerous. Consider narrowing and reprofiling the junction.	RCC Highways
5	Crossing Audit Hall Road to reach Nook Lane	This is difficult due to lack of pavements on Nook Lane, inappropriate and slightly high dropped kerbs on Audit Hall Road, poor vision in both directions and the speed of the traffic on Audit Hall Road. Provide a well located pedestrian crossing across the A606	RCC Highways
6	Audit Hall, Audit Hall Road	Access acceptable as long as the gravel spread from adjacent drives is restrained, and dustbins not placed on the concrete access path. The path should be kept swept clear of gravel and RCC should be asked to collect/return the Hall's bins from their storage location. . 	Audit Hall Committee

7		Wheelchair access to the Hall is via narrow double doors, only one leaf being normally openable from the outside. If both leafs cannot be routinely free to open whenever the hall is in use, a possible alternative may be the provision of a suitable doorbell.	Audit Hall Committee
8		Good accessible toilet except that no colour contrast provided. Consider decorating walls a stronger colour when decorations next due to provide the colour contrast	Audit Hall Committee
9		A-frame advertising board often used when Hall in use. Care to be taken where this is positioned to avoid obstructing the wheelchair access.	Audit Hall Committee
10		Fire access from the main hall is down steps, with no hand rails, directly onto a narrow section of the A606 pavement. Assistance is required for wheelchairs, and to ensure that no one ends up on the highway.	Audit Hall Committee
11	Dropped kerb outside 22 Audit Hall Road	This is the only dropped kerb to provide access to the south end of Nook Lane. However visibility very poor so crossing is dangerous and dropped kerb is too high and not in a good position.	RCC Highways
12	Pavement outside 24 Audit Hall Road	Tripping hazard from tree roots. Pavement generally in very poor condition 	RCC Highways
13	Pavement outside 26 Audit Hall Road	2 Broadband Network Cabinets at the back edge of the pavement. Decorated to tone in with the hedgerow. This is an obstruction for someone with a sight impairment and could do with some coloured bands to stand out from the background on both sides.	Empingham Parish Council



			
14	Pavement outside 26 Audit Hall Road	Grass encroaching over the pavement, and pavement in poor condition	Empingham Parish Council & RCC Highways
15	Pavement outside 26 and 28 Audit Hall Road	Pavement narrows down to just 1m width. There is a parking layby adjacent which seems to be associated with the old school which is now residential and reducing the size of the parking layby could provide additional width for the pavement	RCC Highways.
16	30 & 32 Audit Hall Road	Hedging adjacent to the pavement starting to encroach narrowing the width of the pavement: clematis and privet. Grass also encroaching the pavement 	Empingham Parish Council
17	Barbara's Store, Church Street	Very small shop, with 1 small step. And little room to turn round inside. A bell on the outside would be helpful to someone who could not get access.	Barbara's Store
18	Hairworks, Church Street	Access good	
19	Church Street, dropped kerb to access Crocket	Dropped kerb poor and quite difficult to spot with no tactile paving. As difficult to see this is likely to be obstructed by	RCC Highways.

	Lane and the north entrance to the Church	parking.	
20	Church, Church Street	Casual access for visitors is via the Church West door, up steps from Church Street. For services and events, the North door is used, accessed via a loose gravel pathway from the corner of Crocket Lane and Church Street. The North door is otherwise kept locked, but a simple notice on the gate refers casual wheelchair visitors to a second notice in the church noticeboard to get the telephone number to call to request the door to be opened for them. However the notice on the noticeboard is not well presented and is not very visible to a wheelchair user. This could be improved perhaps by making the north pathway wheelchair friendly and placing a single low level notice on the north door itself. (we were not able to enter the church on this occasion but understand that the North door leads directly onto a couple of deep steps down into the nave.)	St Peter's Church
21	Pavement to East side of Church Street	This is very narrow so no need for any dropped kerbs	
22	Pavement on west side of Church Street	Pavement wide enough for general use though condition poor.	RCC highways
23	1 Church Street	Camber on pavement very difficult for wheelchair and scooter users	RCC Highways.
24	Junction of Church Street to Main Street	Difficult crossing the road here in any direction. Dropped kerbs all high and no direct crossing points.	RCC Highways
25	Exton Road	There are no pavements on Exton Road, so everyone walks on the road. There are no signs to make drivers aware of pedestrians. And planting including brambles at the side of the road does encroach in places	RCC Highways and Empingham Parish Council
26	Cricket Club, Empingham Road	The access driveway initially is tarmac, leading to loose gravel which is difficult for wheelchair access, especially up hill. A hard paved route for wheelchair access would be beneficial.	Empingham Cricket and Social Club



27		<p>Disabled parking is noted at the front of the building. However this is on a slope and the surfacing is gravel so not ideal. The flat area directly in front of the ramped access is flatter and could be paved and marked out correctly to provide better disabled parking</p>	Empingham Cricket and Social Club
28		<p>Access into the building for a wheelchair is OK; but there is no wheelchair access on the field side to watch the cricket, or access the fire escapes due to the steps.</p>	Empingham Cricket and Social Club
29		<p>There is an accessible toilet with colour contrasted support rails. There is no colour contrast though in the ladies to assist people with sight impairments. Consider adding colour contrast when next decorated.</p>	Empingham Cricket and Social Club
30	Bowls Club	<p>This is located off the driveway to the cricket club, and there is no wheelchair access</p> 	Empingham Bowls Club
31	Crocket Lane path to Willoughby Drive.	<p>Whilst Crocket Lane offers a good footpath route through the middle of the village, the kissing gate makes access for wheelchairs and pushchairs impossible. With thoughtful alteration and or modernisation, this route could be made fully accessible to all .</p>	Empingham Parish Council