

Radlett High Street Access Audit

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Registered charity (no.1141836)

**Foreword**

Disability Watford is a charity run by people with a disability, to help support others with a disability, their family, friends, carers and anyone who has a personal interest in the problems surrounding disability matters. We have no paid staff and all of our work is undertaken by volunteers.

In 2022, Disability Watford was asked by Aldenham Parish Council (APC) to undertake an Access Audit of Radlett High Street (Theobald Street to Station Road), to note observations and offer suggestions to remove physical barriers in order to make the High Road accessible to all, especially those people with disabilities. In return, APC offered a donation to the charity.

The Audit was undertaken on the *18th June 2022* and the *14th September 2022* by Disability Watford’s Access Auditor Team led by Leigh Hutchings. The team has varying degrees/types of disability, including mobility, sight and hearing impairments.

Radlett High Street has a good mix of shops, cafes and restaurants. One of the main issues we came across as auditors with visual impairments and/or wheelchairs users, was how to navigate around the varies portable ‘A’ boards and raised flower-beds as shown in photos 14 and 15. Removing and/or repositioning these would offer a ‘quick win’ access solution.

We hope our suggestions will form the basis on an action plan which will offer accessibility to those who visit Radlett High Street.

Leigh Hutching, Chair

Disability Watford

20th March 2023

**Radlett High Street – Access Audit Observations 2022**

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|  | **Area** | **Observations** | **Recommendations** | **Additional Information** |
|  | **Theobald St. corner Watling Street** | * Tactile paving worn | * Replace worn-out paving and paint with effective colour/tone. | See Photo 1 |
|  | **Opposite Watling Mansions (No.1-17) Pavement** | * Pavement very narrow -inaccessible for a self-propelled wheelchairs/double baby stroller * Measurements: 6.1mm from top gradient to 4.1mm. Slope 3/5mm | * Increase the pavement space. * Improve the gradient of the pavement enabling wheelchair users to safely access it (and not fall into the road); or,   Install Signage informing wheelchair users about the hazard/potential. | See Photo 2 |
|  | **Opposite 5-21 Watling Mansions, Watling Street** | * Uneven paving * Tactile paving worn out | * Paving needs to be replaced * Update tactile paving and paint. |  |
|  | **Outside shops**: | **Budgens:**   * Flower stand takes up a large portion of the pavement * Disabled bay – only one disabled bay available here and an issue around how the driver exits their vehicle directly on to the pavement   **Radlett Opticians:**   * ‘A’ board sign outside the shop, poses a barrier to wheelchair users/strollers on narrow highway   **Jennifer’s Nails:**   * Sunken manhole cover poses a trip hazard and a slip hazard when wet conditions * No level access to shop   **Manor Pharmacy:**   * No level access to shop   **General issues noted:**   * No level access to shop * Camber (cross fall) in pavements slopping markedly – wheelchair pulled to the road.   **Harpenden Building Society:**   * Tactile bumps worn down/colour faded * Tactile bumps continue up to the glass window of the Building Society – hazard for visually impaired * Bench is not secured down well and has no back support or arms   **Other issues noted:**   * Slip road/hand-rail (between HOB Salon and Beaver Travel to car park)   **Tesco express:**   * Benches and shopping trolleys   **Other general issues:**   * Manhole cover * Disabled bay redesign   **Beauty Secrets**:   * Bike rack * Paving   **General Issue:**   * Tactile paving needs painting/some areas replacing   **Service Rd (next to Silvermans Butcher**):   * Handrail/barrier * Signage   **Shenley Road:**   * Across from Service Road   **Slicks studio:**   * Camber issues   **Daisy & Co:**   * Curb camber   **General issue identified:**   * Toilets   **Bus stop:** | * Work with Budgens to reduce the size of the flower stand or suggest they relocate it inside the shop * Review the safety issues around the disabled driver exiting their vehicle – could the bay be made bigger? * Speak to shop keeper about placing the ‘A’ board nearer to the shop frontage * Realign the manhole cover to be level with the pavement * Advise shop-owners of any grants they can access to make their door entrances more accessible * Review camber on pavements - wheelchairs direct/move dangerously to the road * Replace tactile bumps and paint yellow * Realign tactile bumps * Replace bench * Barriers/hand-rail need to be extended   to meet the double  yellow lines (danger  that wheelchair  users can fall of the  edge)   * Signage - Service -road needs to be identifiable, i.e. ‘sign-posted’ as steep slope down to access road * Tesco shopping trolley rack blocking part of the pavement – see if can it be relocated in store * Benches – Remove bench directly outside store (opp. trolley rack). Replace bench that does not have back/arms. * Recycling bin obscures dropped-curb preventing access for wheelchair users * Manhole covers need to be level with pavements * Disabled-bay design need to be reviewed to ensure they comply with national standards * Can the bike rack be repositioned to allow more access on the pavement? * Paving around the shop front and bike area is very lose. * Tactile paving needs painting over and in some areas it’s so flat, needs replacing * No hand rail/barrier to prevent someone falling into the service road * No signage identifying that there is a service road ahead. * No formal designated crossing * Camber pulling towards the steps of the studio * Curb camber very steep pulling wheelchair user towards the restaurant * No public toilets * No seating * No voice activation * No line on bus stop (yellow curb) | See Photo 3  See Photo 4  See Photo 5 and 6  See Photo 7  See Photo 8  See Photo’s 9,10,11 and 12  See Photo 16 and 17  See Photo 18,19 and 20  See Photo 21  See Photo 22 |
| 4. | **203-205 Watling Street –Observations from public highway** | **Costa Coffee**   * Access by ramp for wheelchair users and strollers | * Excellent access for wheelchair users |  |
|  |  | **Pizza Express**   * Entrance inaccessible | * Observed inaccessible for wheelchair users – make the owners aware/offer advice * Incline varies in steepness to entrance |  |
|  |  | **Pizza Express/Shake-Tastic**   * Dropped curb | * Dropped-curb too steep. Slight gradient (20.5mm) pulling wheelchairs towards he road – Review access |  |
|  |  | **Peace Hospice Care Shop**   * Raised flower bed | * Reposition/remove raised flower beds as wheelchair and strollers are sandwiched between light posts and the flower beds | See Photo 24 |
|  |  | **SK/HD Hairdresser**   * Pavement inaccessible for wheelchair users | * Pavement too narrow for wheelchair and strollers - as it is populated with bollards, highways signs and flowerbeds.   Review access | See Photo 25 |
|  |  | **Brass Monkey (Coffee Shop) to Beauty Secrets**   * Road crossing | * Middle island of the road crossing is too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair (self-propelled or supported) | See Photo 29 |
| **5.** | **Aldenham Road exit/entrance to Watling Street** | **Storia Restaurant & Red Lion**   * Tactile paving | * Renew tactile paving as cannot distinguish when road ends/begins |  |
|  |  | **Carter & George Physio to Brass Monkey**   * Pavement in accessible | * Pavement too steep for wheelchairs * Pavement inaccessible as populated by highway sign and pedestrian crossing post | See Photo 27 |
|  |  | **Café Nero**   * Street furniture/un-emptied bins | * Street furniture and unemptied bins blocking public highway | See Photo’s 23 and 26 |
|  |  | **Cafe Nero - Lumley Estates**   * Bollard impeding access | * Bollards and shop ‘A’ boards impeding access | See Photo 28 |
|  |  | **Café Radlett – Aamcha Eastern Kitchen**   * Street furniture | * Street furniture for both establishment means that access is made very narrow for wheelchair users |  |
| **6.** | **Radlett Theatre** | **Radlett Theatre crossing to Boots Chemist**   * Tactile paving | * Replace/insert tactile paving so that people with a visual impairment can be made are of a safe place to cross (a busy road). |  |

Audits undertaken on the follow days:

Areas 1 to 3 - 18th June 2022

Areas 4 to 6 - 14th September 2022

Weather condition(s): 18th June – raining initially with low cloud, brighter as the morning progressed

14th September – slight drizzle all morning