

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTIVE TRAVEL SURVEY DISABILITY ACCESS REPORT 2021

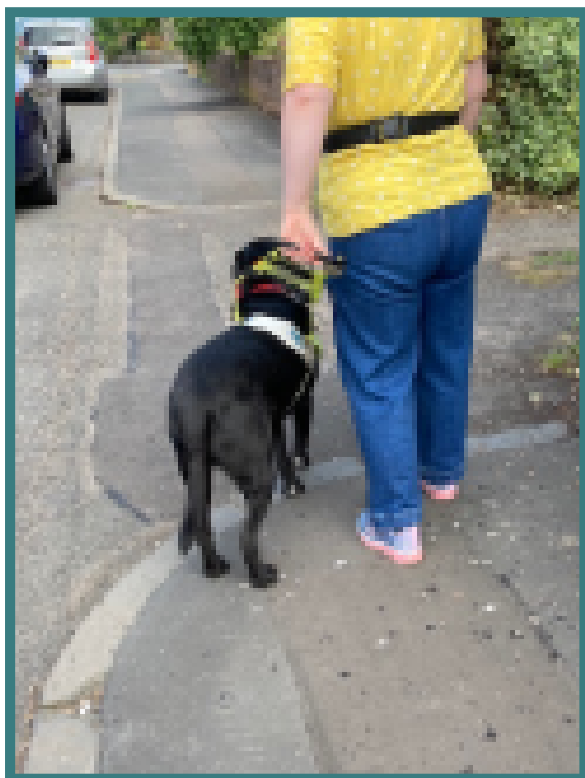


Funded by:

ABOUT THE SURVEY

As part of its **"Travel-Light Riverside Project"**, Riverside Community Council carried out a walking audit with people with a range of disabilities and the support of consultant David Hunter (Not for Profit Planning), a specialist in areas such as disability equality, and sustainable accessible transport.

The survey followed the **"Riverside Community Active Travel Survey"**, and aimed to find out more about the difficulties faced when travelling around Riverside.



Working towards making an area more accessible for people with disabilities makes the whole area better for all who use it.

Riverside being accessible for everyone makes for a community that is more inclusive, happier and more active.

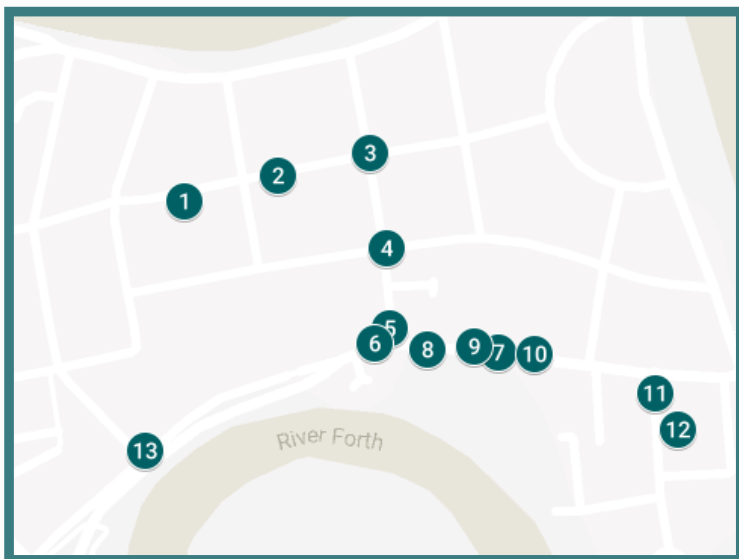
Results follow

Routes

Three groups chose separate areas of Riverside to audit.

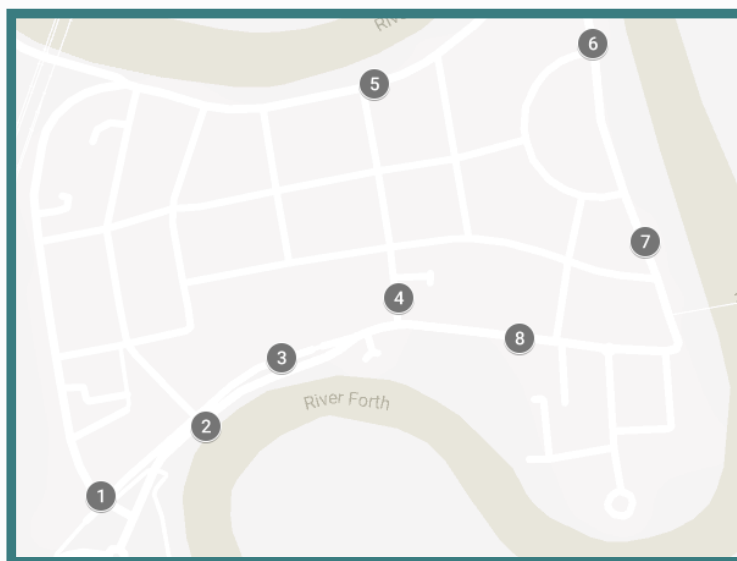


1. School exit
2. Dropped kerb prone to flooding
3. Vegetation obscuring hedge
4. Flooding and uneven footway
5. Bin obstructing footway
6. Footway clutter
7. Vegetation obstructing footway
8. Vegetation obstructing footway
9. Small text on timetable
10. Step up to shops
11. Footway clutter



1. School exit
2. Missing dropped kerb
3. Uneven road surfaces at crossing point
4. Misused roundabout
5. Obscured bus stop
6. Uneven surfaces
7. Cobbles
8. Signpost stump hazard
9. No dropped kerb
10. Obscured bus stop
11. Missing dropped kerb
12. Cars parked on footway
13. Cobbles

Routes Cont.



1. Lack of dropped kerbs

Rough surfaces

No clearly defined safe route

Difficult to cross

6. Seating area can be hard to find

Stumps can be a hazard

Edging can be helpful

2. Lack of tactile paving

Cobbles are slippery when wet and uneven

3. Steep camber of footway

Manhole covers can become hazardous

4. Deterioration of tactile paving

Inconsistent tactile paving

Vegetation obstructing footway

7. Lack of dropped kerbs

Vegetation obstructing footway

5. Tree roots can cause a hazard

Undefined junction at crossing

No tactile paving

Quotes

"Sometimes I have to go on to the road because I can't get past a hedge."

"One of my friends fell over because the pavement was uneven."

"I can't use this street because there are not enough dropped kerbs."

"The park is inaccessible for some people at the main entrance because of the dog grate - that doesn't stop dogs anyway!"

"I worry that the children are leaving onto a very busy road with little visibility."

"I don't feel safe crossing because of the cobbles."

"The provision of public toilets, could be the kind of facility offered on campsites even if only for the summer months."

"Better accessibility to the park makes a community more inclusive."

"There is no where that I feel is a safe place for children to cross to get to school."

"It's too much hassle to get on the bus - the stop closest to me is always blocked by cars."

"Lack of tactile paving meant there is no clearly defined route of travel for disabled people."

Themes

Whilst walking around Riverside it was found that many of the access difficulties recur throughout the area. The following themes were identified. These will be explored in more detail in the report.

Kerbs
Footway Clutter
Parking
Bus Stops
Signage
Primary School
Waverley Park



Kerbs

- lack of dropped kerbs
- inconsistent and degraded tactile paving
- footways inaccessible due to lack of dropped kerbs
- parking over dropped kerbs
- poor quality of road at crossing places, cobbles are particularly problematic
- step up to phone box



Footway Clutter

- signposts in awkward or dangerous places
- over grown vegetation inhibiting safe travel on footways
- bins left on footway
- uneven surfaces
- sloping footways left ungritted in winter
- flooding in Lovers' Walk tunnel and path, and on the corner of Millar Place and Forth Crescent (Near the shops)
- redundant or hazardous signposts in footways



Parking

- parked cars make boarding and alighting difficult for passengers
- blind corners due to road layout



Bus Stops

- parked vehicles make bus stop inaccessible
- timetables could be bigger in some of the bus stops



Signage

- double yellows being ignored
- bus stop signage being ignored
- road markings in poor condition
- street names in poor condition



Primary School

- dangerous and inconsiderate parking around Riverside Primary School
- children exiting on to dangerous and busy streets



Waverley Park

- grate at entrance to the park is hard to use for those with walking aids
- difficulty to get to seating areas due to lack of footways
- more seating
- access to toilet facilities



Solutions

- Park and Stride - encourage parking further away from the school in other accessible areas of Riverside
- Supervised exit of school children at home-time
- Zebra Crossings
 - Abbey Road - from the shops to the market
 - Forth Street - from Forth Place to Forth Crescent
- Audit of Dropped Kerbs
- Put "Buses Only" in marked box beside bus stops
- Improve access and clean phone box
- Remove unnecessary pavement clutter
- Clean gullies, sweep roads, footways to improve drainage
- Remove vegetation from footways
- Encourage residents to cut back garden vegetation from the footways
- Introduce "Twenty's Plenty" campaign
- Re-paint road markings
- Improve street name signs and fix to buildings
- Improve information in bus stops for people with sight difficulties
- Further accessibility audit in the park focussing on entries/exits and access to seating areas



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Riverside Community Council would like to thank the following people for their help and support:

David Hunter (NFP Planning)
Riverside 60+ Group
Paths For All
Stirling Council
Riverside Community Volunteers