

Park Access Action Plan Hartcliffe Millennium Green



Accessibilty Plan

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Contributors

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Introduction

This plan is a list of changes to make to Hartcliffe Millennium Green Park to make it more accessible for Disabled people and carers. The ideas came from a group of local Disabled people and carers working with the charity Your Park. The Disabled people had a wide range of disabilities including **neurodiversity**, and **mobility** and **sensory impairments**. This group came up with lots of changes they wanted to see then decided together which were the most important **priorities** to go into this plan.

All **accessibility** changes noticed by the group have been added to the plan. The aim is to work on all the ideas in time but to start with the **high priority** ideas and move down from there. Several other priorities based around 'community', 'nature' and 'health' are included. These are ideas that will make the park more interesting to visit and better looked after by the community.

To our knowledge, this was the world's first community led access audit of a park. The learnings from the project are being used to make that other communities can use to make their park better for Disabled people and carers.

Note on bolded words

Words in bold are explained in the Jargon Buster at the end of the document.





Accessibility Changes

High Priorities

Entrance and Gateway

1 Currently many users can't get through the gate. It needs to be changed to be made **accessible** to everyone. Arrival makes a big difference to how people feel about a visit, so work will also be done on to entrance make it more welcoming and help people walking by notice that the park is there. This could include a sign and colourful plants. The raised drain cover next to the gate

Who: Council with CIL,
Cost: Low.
Time: Low.

Accessible Bus Stop

2 The nearest bus stop to the park needs to be made **accessible** to everyone. This will include a **raised kerb** for wheelchair access and a shelter.

Who: Council,
Cost: High,
Time: Long.

Accessible Paths

3 The current paths need to be fixed so that they are flat and without cracks. Any new paths will be **accessible**. This includes adding texture to the paths for the **visually impaired community** (VIs) and lighting changes. These ideas are in their own **priorities** below.

Who: Your Park and the local community with council support,
Cost: Low,
Time: Low.

Easy to access information about the park online

4 Changes will be made to sites so it will be easy to find information about the park online, including **accessibility**, location, address, features, images, description, noisy areas and things that people might be interested in. These sites will be made accessible. This will use the use the **Sensory Trust's idea of the 'Access Chain'** to make an inclusive experience for people using the park.

Who: Council,
Cost: High,
Time: High.

Better paths for the visually impaired community

5 Texture will be added to the paths to allow **VIs** to tell the difference between the centre and edges of the paths. **Tapping rails** at the edge of the path will help long cane users as well as stopping mud spilling on to the path. The paths will be **designed** using advice from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) document on Tactile Paving and 'Paths for All Outdoor **Accessibility** Guidance'.

Who: Council,
Cost: High,
Time: High.

6 **Play equipment in the park is currently Better play equipment for Disabled children and younger children**

not good for some Disabled children and younger children. Different equipment will be added to meet their needs.

Who: Your Park
with council support
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.

Pilot access bench and handrail

7

One accessible bench with a handrail to it will be added near the entrance to the park. This will mean that people who could not be able to go to the park without will be able to start to use it while the work is done to make the whole park is made accessible. It will also give us a sense of how many people need this.

Who: Your Park
with council support
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.



Accessibility changes

Medium Priorities

1

Accessible Information in the Park

Accessible signs will be put in the park, meeting the needs of people who need **BSL** and **audio descriptions**.

This will include information about the size of the park, the different areas of the park, pathways, wildlife and how people can use things in the park, such as the orchard. This will include an online audio/visual guide to help **d/Deaf** people and **VIs** find their way around the park. This can connect with information on existing free apps e.g.

Accessible benches

Accessible seating will be added. The benches must be **accessible** for who people who may struggle to lower themselves or pull themselves up. The type of bench chosen and where to put them will be decided through **research** on the type of person who uses the path.

Who: Your Park with community and council support
Cost: low
Time: low.

Who: Your Park with community and council support,
Cost: low,
Time: low.

2

Making two accessible parking bays

3

Two accessible parking bays will be made by cutting into the grass bank outside the park and adding painted lines. A dropped kerb will need to be added and the spaces must be easy to get to from the entrance.

Who: Council,
Cost: Medium,
Time: Long.

Who: Your Park with council support
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.

Undercover seating area near the play equipment

4

An accessible seating area will be made in the playground, which can be used in all weather. It will be placed so that the person sitting there can easily see what the children they are looking after are doing on the play equipment.

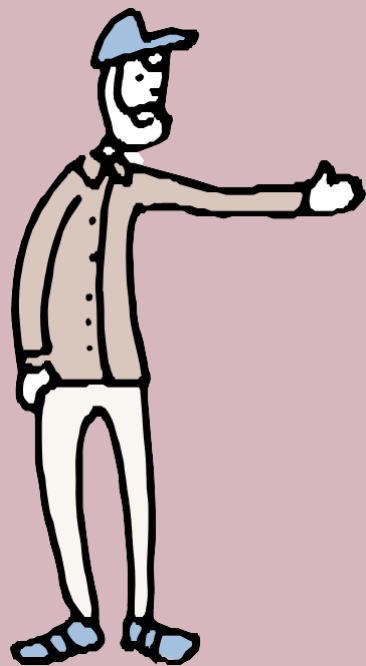
Who: Your Park with council support
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.

Accessible toilet

5

A conversation will be held with the River of Life Church (the church next door) to see if they can offer the use of their accessible toilet to Disabled people and carers. As this idea moves up the priority list and funding is found, discussions can be held about if it's possible to have an accessible toilet in the park itself.

Who: Council
Cost: High
Time: High.



Accessibility changes

Low Priorities

Additional hard standing areas

6 These areas will be in places that people can leave wheelchairs and pushchairs that isn't on the path itself, for example next to benches. This will be useful for storing necessary equipment such as wheelchairs and pushchairs, so the main pathways remain clear.

Who: Your Park with council support,
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.

Benches to be painted to be high contrast to their background

7 This will make benches easier to find for VIs. This work could be done as an art project with a local artist and people in the community. This would give people more sense of ownership of the park.

Who: Your Park with council support,
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium

Additional hard standing areas

4 These areas will be in places that people can leave wheelchairs and pushchairs that isn't on the path itself, for example next to benches. This will be useful for storing necessary equipment such as wheelchairs and pushchairs, so the main pathways remain clear.

Who: Your Park with council support,
Cost: High
Time: High.

Benches to be painted to be high contrast to their background

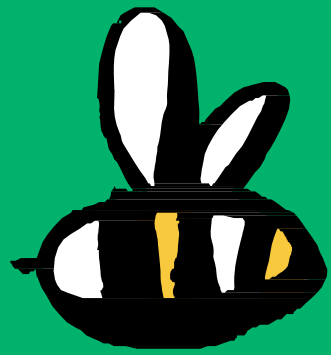
5 This will make benches easier to find for VIs. This work could be done as an art project with a local artist and people in the community. This would give people more sense of ownership of the park.

Who: Your Park and the local community with council support,
Cost: Low,
Time: Low.

Handrails for path

6 Handrails will be added to all the paths will help VIs and people with mobility impairments.

Who: Your Park with council support
Cost: High
Time: High.



Nature Priorities

Planting

Planting will be carried out to add interest and colour to the park and help wildlife. The planting will follow the paths to make a sensory trail. Some bat and bird boxes will also be added.

Who: Your Park and the local community with council support
Cost: Low,
Time: Low.

Community Allotment upgrade

A community allotment scheme will be tried. This will include improving the accessibility of the planters already at the park and adding others if needed. Vegetables, fruit, and some flowers would be shared with local people. The allotments would give people a reason to visit. The possibility of vandalism and how to stop it will be explored through trying this.

Who: Your Park and the local community with council support,
Cost: Low
Time: Low.

Community Priorities

Benches to be painted to be high contrast to their background

1 Events will help bring people into the park and make it feel more owned by the community. This will mean the park is looked after better and there is less vandalism, making it feel safer. Popular ideas for events included youth theatre, community planting, cooking, yoga, fitness, and sports.

Who: Council
with CIL
Cost: Low.
Time: Low.

Additional hard standing areas

2 More picnic benches will be added to the park. These will be accessible for all users, including wheelchair users. They will be placed in a way that makes sense based on the paths and how people use the park.

Who: Council,
Cost: High
Time: Long.

Additional hard standing areas

3 More picnic benches will be added to the park. These will be accessible for all users, including wheelchair users. They will be placed in a way that makes sense based on the paths and how people use the park.

Who: Your Park
with
council support
Cost: Medium
Time: Medium.



Benches to be painted to be high contrast to their background

4 Events will help bring people into the park and make it feel more owned by the community. This will mean the park is looked after better and there is less vandalism, making it feel safer. Popular ideas for events included youth theatre, community planting, cooking, yoga, fitness, and sports.

Who: Council,
Cost: Medium,
Time: High,

Handrails for path

5 Unmonitored CCTV cameras will be added to make the park safer and help stop vandalism. The video can be checked when needed and then used when following up problems with the police. The cameras will not be on the council system so that exact times can be checked.

Who: Council,
Cost: Medium,
Time: High,

Health and Wellbeing

Lighting

There is currently only one spotlight in the park. More lights will be added to help people feel safe. These lights will be placed in a sensible way, thinking about the areas people might still want to use when it gets darker and making sure that they don't disturb people in the flats nearby. This could include looking at motion sensors and lighting only the paths instead of using spotlights.

Who: Council | **Cost:** High | **Time:** High.

Quiet Area

The quiet area will be a part of the park that is less noisy so people can go there when experiences are too much or they want to relax. The quietest area of the park will be found, away from the road, play equipment and school. The sensory trail and the paths already there will link with this area. Planting will be used to dampen sounds on this route and in the quiet area.

Who: Your Park with community and Council support **Cost:** Medium | **Time:** Medium.



Jargon Buster

Accessible: When something meets the needs of Disabled people so that they can use it without problems.

Audio descriptions: When something is described with spoken words so that the visually impaired community can access it.

British Sign Language (BSL): This is a language that uses hand gestures. It is used by many d/Deaf people in the UK.

CCTV: Cameras that film an area so that it is easier to tell who carried out any vandalism that happens.

Contributors: People who were part of making something.

d/Deaf: People who don't have any hearing. The capital 'D' is used when someone is part of the community of Deaf people. BSL is often their first language.

Deafblind: People who don't have much hearing and sight so taking or BSL might not be accessible for them.

Designed: Planning how something will be made.

Dropped kerb: When part of the pavement slopes down so that people can get up and down from it easily.

Mobility impairments: When someone finds it harder to move around.

Sensory impairments: When someone is d/Deaf, visually impaired, or deafblind.

Sensory trail: A walk that has lots of experiences that are good for people who have sensory impairments. For example, there might be lots of flowers that smell nice for VIs.

Tapping rails: A small, raised edge to the side of a path so that VIs can find it with their canes.

Toolkit: A guide people can use to help them do a piece of work.

Raised kerb: When pavement is raised up so that it is easy for wheelchair users to get from it into a bus or other type of transport.

Research: When people look into something to understand it better.



Appendix

More Ideas

More ideas were put forward during the park visit than could go into the plan. These ideas are included below so that they can be worked on if another group of people would like to do more work after this project.

- 1 Health and wellbeing
 - 2 Dog walking area,
Opening up the park to make it feel safer,
-
- 1 Community Changes
 - 2 Signs to the park,
 - 3 New paths in play area,
 - 4 Community pop up café stall with teas and cakes etc,
(Option A) More bins and dog bins or (option b)
 - 5 encouragement to take waste home
 - 6 Skatepark
 - 7 Separate football pitch
 - 8 Water play area
 - 9 Mini-golf
Staff time for youth engagement and reducing ASB
-
- 1 Nature Changes
 - 2 Accessibility of pond area,
 - 3 New paths in orchard,
Wildlife areas.