

Accessibility Audit and Overview for Bethel Village

Bethel for All: Village Accessibility Plan | Public Version



Prepared by Direct Access Consultancy LLC

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Executive summary

Bethel has set out to assess accessibility provisions to identify options that could be taken forward in the short, medium and long term. There are two aspects to this particular project – stormwater design and accessibility. It is intended that this report provides a variety of options which include:

- Works that can be implemented to instantly improve the accessibility of Bethel with minimal if any budget costs
- Works that can be implemented with funding in place
- Works that can form part of a longer term plan to source funding

The approach to determine the accessibility was taken in three parts, looking at how the current village functions, the key amenities and then the crosswalks. The best starting point for any accessible village is to ensure that they key amenities are available such as the local grocers, the library, key socializing area, key parks, shops and the local school. Once those areas are accessible, these can then provide a launch pad for an inclusive town.

What has been very clear and immediately identified is the willingness of the people of Bethel to be on board with this project. The general accessibility recommendations such as interpretation panels are highlighted in section 5. The accessibility overview of the key areas are covered in section 7 and then the crosswalks in section 8.

2. Acronyms, Abbreviations and Definitions

2.1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Expansion
ADA	ADA 2010 Standards for Accessible Design
ADA1991	1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards 1991)
ADT	Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Transportation Facilities (2006)
PRW	Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG, 2011)
ADAP	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Supplemental Changes for Play Areas (2000) and Recreational Facilities (2002)
ASL	American Sign Language

2.2 Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
People with disabilities	Includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Personal Assistant	A personal assistant will enable disabled people to live their day-to-day life as normal as possible and assist the individual to take part in everyday activities that other people take for granted. The duties of a Personal Assistant will vary with each individual.
Sign language interpreter	A sign language interpreter will translate from a spoken language into a sign language and vice versa.
Audio Description	A person will audibly describe an item or exhibit to assist someone who is Blind or has a vision impairment.
Inclusive design	Approach to the design of the environment, including buildings and their surrounding spaces, and managed and natural landscapes, to ensure that they can be accessed and used by everyone.
Light reflectance value (LRV)	Total quantity of visible light reflected by a surface at all wavelengths and directions when illuminated by a light source.
Manifestation	Permanent markings or features within areas of full-height transparent glazing, glazed walls or screens, fully glazed doors or glass doors, which help to prevent collisions by making the glazing more visible to building users.
Illuminance or Luminance	Amount of light falling on a surface, measured in lumens per square metre (lm/m ²) or lux (lx).
Level	Gradient not steeper than 1:60.

Term	Definition
Nosing	Front edge portion of a tread and riser or landing and riser.
Ramp	One or more inclined surfaces with a gradient between 1:20 and 1:12.
Refuge	Area that is both separated from a fire by fire-resisting construction and provided with a safe route to a storey exit, thus constituting a temporarily safe space.
Unisex	(Of sanitary accommodation) designed for use by all, with or without assistance.
Color (or visual) contrast	Perception of a difference visually between one surface or element of a building and another by reference to their light reflectance values (LRV).
Way-finding	Means of ensuring that someone can find their way, avoid obstacles, and know when they have reached their destination.
Dropped Kerb	Construction in the form of an inclined plane that makes it possible to pass from street level to a higher accessible pedestrian path.
Interaction space	The interaction space is the space required by a person to interact with another person, furniture, appliance, machine or another item.
Mobility aid	A device that is used by persons with functional limitations to assist walking. Examples include canes, arm crutches, and walkers. Within this report the term “wheelchair” is used to include manual wheelchairs, sports chairs, electric powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters, unless otherwise stated.
Mobility device	A manual or motorised device to be used by persons with functional limitations in their mobility. Examples include manual and sports wheelchairs, electric powered wheelchairs, and three and four-wheeled mobility scooters.

Term	Definition
Induction Loop	An induction loop helps people who use a hearing aid or loop listener to hear sounds more clearly because it reduces or cuts out background noise such as at a service counter. A hearing aid user would set their aid to the 'T' position and would only hear the staff member.
Operable with the elbow	<p>This expression is frequently used in this report. It is used as an abbreviated explanation of the manual operations that can be executed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With one hand only • Without wrist turning • Without finger grip • Not requiring very precise psychomotor skills • With low strength requirements
PTV	Pendulum Test Value. This parameter provides information about the slipperiness of a floor surface. Floor manufacturers may provide this value in the technical specifications of their products. Pendulum Test Value (or sometimes BPN, British Pendulum Number, or SRV, Slip Resistance Value). The standard EN 13036-4 determines the test methods.
Newton	The newton (symbol: N) is the International System of Units (SI) derived unit of force. 1 newton of force is the force required to accelerate an object with a mass of 1 kilogram 1 meter per second per second.
Lux	The lux (symbol: lx) is the SI derived unit of illuminance and luminous emittance, measuring luminous flux per unit area. It is equal to one lumen per square metre. In photometry, this is used as a measure of the intensity, as perceived by the human eye, of light that hits or passes through a surface.

3. Documents and Best Practices

3.1 Documents

The following documents are used as the main sources of comparison in this report.

Note, those in italic are international guidance documents. The brief for the project is to future proof the village and the current ADA Standards were written in 2010.

Documents

Title II and III regulation 35.105 of the U.S. Department of Justice

ADA 2010 Standards for Accessible Design

1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards, 1991)

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas

1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards, 1991)

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas

Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Transportation Facilities (2006)

Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG, 2011)

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Supplemental Changes for Play Areas (2000) and Recreational Facilities (2002)

British Standards BS 7913:2013 Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings.

Documents

BS8300-2:2018; Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 2: Buildings — Code of practice. (Both parts 1 and 2 of BS8300:2010 will be referred to as BS8300 throughout this report).

BS9999: 2017 Code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings.

BSEN 81-70:2003 Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Part 70: Accessibility to lifts for persons including persons with disability.

British Standards BS 7913:2013 Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings.

RNIB See it right, making information accessible, 2006

Smithsonian Guidance for Accessible Exhibition Design, 2005

Sign Design Guide, Barker and Fraser, Sign Design Society, 2000

3.2 Best Practices

To create an inclusive Bethel the implementation of best practices at a strategic level should be applied. The principles that should be incorporated are:

- Place people at the heart of the processes.
- Acknowledge diversity and difference.
- Offer choice where a single solution cannot accommodate all users.
- Provide for flexibility of use.

It is important to acknowledge and adapt any best practices to the particular requirements of Bethel. The needs of the local population must be considered for the accessible built environment to maintain a legacy of inclusion for Bethel. Best practice can vary depending on the political, cultural, social and economic environment as well as the particular climate and topography of the state of origin. It is important to ensure that any best practices recommended in this report are implemented in conjunction with local expertise.

Recommended best practices are provided to enhance public understanding of accessibility issues, and where relevant, they may be used as resources in the development of other national or local standards.

3.3 Resources

U.S. Department of Justice ADA Information

800-514-0301 voice

800-514-0383 TTY

www.ada.gov

ADA National Network

800-949-4232 voice/TTY connects to your regional ADA Center

www.adata.org

U.S. Access Board 800- 872-2253 voice 800-993-2822 TTY

www.access-board.gov

ADA Title III Regulations 28 CFR Part 36

www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/titleIII_2010_regulations.htm

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

www.ada.gov/stdspdf.htm

Tax Deductions and Credits for Barrier Removal

www.ada.gov/taxincent.htm

Numerous of the illustrations used within this report are from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Access Board or are based on illustrations produced by the U.S. Access Board and the U.S. Department of Justice.

4. Introduction

4.1 Commissioning

Bethel in 2021 appointed Direct Access Consultancy LLC to carry out an accessibility overview of the village. There are two aspects to this particular project – stormwater design and accessibility. Direct Access' focus is on the accessibility of the ½ mile village business district focused on Main Street. An overview was also undertaken of the key community facilities and amenities including the public areas of the school, community spaces and parks.

Making heritage available for future generations is a key part of sustainable conservation practices, which should include the participation of people from all ages and abilities. Achieving heritage accessibility is much more than just adding elevators and ramps. It includes being sensitive to the preservation of Bethel for generations to come. Technological developments have helped to pave the way to creating an accessible experience while respecting and preserving protected monument status.

This report is part of a suite of planned project deliverables. The next phase of the project will be to create a Rural Access Guide. This document will draw on established research Direct Access has produced in relation to applicability of ADA standards in different operational environments, Direct Access will develop guidance that selects what is relevant to Bethel and that takes into account the Vermont Access Rules which apply to commercial and residential premises.

The Vermont Access Rules exceed federal requirements for public buildings both new construction and alternations to existing buildings. There are also minimum access standards for newly constructed single and multi-family dwellings. These need to be set out and explained in a way that is understood in relation to Bethel along with details of:

- IRS disabled access tax credits
- Tax deduction to remove Architectural and Transportation barriers

- Vermont Downtown tax credit program (currently closed to 2022)
- Community development block grant program
- Cultural facilities grants

4.2 Accessibility audit

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires state and local governments, businesses and non-profit organizations to provide goods, services and programs to people with disabilities on an equal basis with the rest of the public. Many assume that only new construction and alterations need to be accessible and that older facilities are potentially exempt, this is incorrect. The ADA is a civil rights law and not a building code, older facilities are often required to be accessible to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate.

The ADA has different requirements for state and local governments and for places of public accommodation (businesses and non-profit organizations that serve the public).

This Access Audit will review accessibility for people with disabilities and compliance with the duties of the client under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The audit will benchmark against the relevant codes and offer recommendations to improve access further to achieve compliance with best practice standards wherever possible within the context of building use, heritage, conservation, and structural and management constraints.

This Access Audit report is compiled using photographic evidence, information and other evidence gathered during site visits carried out in September 2021.

Where inclusive design advice is given, this takes account a certain level of 'reasonableness' Where it is not possible to alter a feature either by feasibility or lack of funds, creative approach solutions are provided when possible. Many recommendations are not featured within the ADA such as the implementation of QR codes and will be based on the knowledge of the surveyor using experience of projects.

4.3 Purpose of an access audit

The purpose of the access audit is to assess how well a site performs in terms of access and ease of use by a wide range of potential users, including people with disabilities. The audit provides a certain “snapshot” of a site at one point in its life. As the starting point of an ongoing access action plan, it can be used to highlight areas for improvement as well as a general risk assessment. Areas which are a potential risk such as trip hazards are reflected in the report priorities.

The most obvious part of a site, which determines its accessibility, is the shell. Decisions made by the design teams can fundamentally affect the accessibility for a long time.

When a site is fitted out, fixtures and fittings can be critical. Most do not survive as long as the building itself, and if deficiencies are identified, these can be included in the next potential refurbishment. A building is next furnished and equipped, and at this stage many mistakes can occur. Furnishings are generally short-lived so opportunities for improvement tend to occur more regularly.

Finally, as a site is occupied, the way it is used and managed becomes crucial. Accessibility is affected when bad housekeeping exists causing tripping hazards or over-zealous polishing leads to slippery floors. Continual monitoring by management therefore has a considerable role to play.

4.4 Factors contributing to accessibility

There are many factors that contribute to accessibility, the most obvious being the building itself and the fixtures, fittings, furniture and equipment. It is important that awareness is raised regarding other factors that have an impact on the day to day running of a building and the operation and provision of any auxiliary aids or services.

The training, attitude and disability awareness of staff contributes greatly to the accessibility of the building and is a crucial area to consider. The policies and procedures used to manage a building are another crucial area that impacts upon accessibility. Policies and procedures can dictate maintenance and procurement strategy that affect the accessibility of the building in the long-term. Making adjustments in these areas as a result of an access audit will maintain and improve access for people with disabilities and for everyone using the building.

There are factors beyond the immediate boundaries and responsibilities of the audited areas that also have a huge impact on accessibility. The surrounding services, such as transport provision and connecting pedestrian infrastructure, provide connecting

access for people with disabilities. These areas are rarely the responsibility of the client, but they can be monitored and managed to ensure that related accessibility concerns are reported to the relevant authorities.

4.5 State and Local Governments Requirements

State and local Governments have the responsibility to ensure that services, programs and activities (when viewed in their entirety) are accessible to people with disabilities. This is part of public entities' program accessibility obligations. Alterations to older buildings may be needed to ensure program accessibility. Generally, this is a greater obligation than "readily achievable barrier removal" the standard that applies to public accommodations. State and local governments are not required to take any action that would result in undue financial and administrative burdens.

State and local governments' ADA obligations for program accessibility are in the Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations 28 CFR Part 35.150.

4.6 Public Accommodations

Public accommodations that are private entities that own, lease, lease to or operate a place of public accommodation have legal obligations under the ADA. This means that both a landlord who leases space in a building to a tenant and the tenant who operates a place of public accommodation have responsibilities to remove barriers.

- A place of public accommodation is a facility whose operations affect commerce and fall within at least one of the following 12 categories:
- Places of lodging (e.g., inns, hotels, motels, except for owner-occupied establishments renting fewer than six rooms)
- Establishments serving food or drink (e.g. , restaurants and bars)
- Places of exhibition or entertainment (e.g. , motion picture houses, theaters, concert halls and stadiums)
- Places of public gathering (e.g. , auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls)
- Sales or rental establishments (e.g. , bakeries, grocery stores, hardware stores, shopping centers)
- Service establishments (e.g. , laundromats, dry-cleaners, banks, barber shops, beauty shops, travel services, shoe repair services, funeral parlors, gas stations, offices of accountants or lawyers, pharmacies, insurance offices, professional offices of health care providers, hospitals)
- Public transportation terminals, depots, or stations (not including facilities relating to air transportation)

- Places of public display or collection (e.g. , museums, libraries, galleries)
- Places of recreation (e.g. , parks, zoos, amusement parks)
- Places of education (e.g. , nursery schools, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, or postgraduate private schools)
- Social service center establishments (e.g. , day care centers, senior citizen centers, homeless shelters, food banks, adoption agencies)
- Places of exercise or recreation (e.g. , gymnasiums, health spas, bowling alleys, golf courses).

Many of the above requirements for public accommodations apply to Bethel Village.

4.7 Variations of Discrimination

Discrimination towards people with disabilities can happen in a variety of ways, the main are highlighted as per below:

- **Direct discrimination** - because of their disability a disabled person receives worse treatment than somebody who is not disabled.
- **Indirect discrimination** - a policy rule or practice that is applied to everyone places people with a particular disability at a disadvantage compared to people without that particular disability, unless it can be justified.
- **Discrimination arising from disability** - a person with a disability is treated unfavorably because of something connected with their disability but not their disability itself unless it can be justified.

The ADA gives people with disabilities rights in most ways of life including – employment, access to goods, facilities, and services, including transport

Under the ADA It is unlawful for service providers to treat people with disabilities less favorably for a reason related to their disability. Service providers must not **refuse to serve a disabled person, offer a disabled person a lower standard of service or offer a disabled person less favorable terms**. Whilst this may not always be possible due to the way a building is designed, the onus should be on the service provider to try and implement a reasonable adjustment to overcome a barrier. This could happen in a variety of ways

- change a **practice, policy or procedure** which makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for people with disabilities to use their services, for example, amending a “no dogs” policy to allow a disabled person accompanied by a guide dog to enter their premises.
- provide an **auxiliary** aid or service if it would make it easier for disabled people to make use of their services, for example, the provision of information in alternative formats such as audio tape, Braille, or large print.
- provide a reasonable **alternative method** of making services available to disabled people where a **physical feature** makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to make use of them, for example, providing staff assistance to people with disabilities who cannot access goods due to their disability when shopping.

4.8 Disclaimer

The implementation of advice and recommendations given in good faith in this report cannot guarantee compliance with the duties of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or ensure immunity from the award of damages under the Act. For information regarding issues arising from the interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) it is strongly recommended that suitable legal advice is sought.

The recommendations given in this report are for guidance only and should not be acted upon to alter physical features of a building without knowledge of the building fabric, structure and status and the engagement of suitably qualified professionals.

The standards, guidance and legislation referred to in this report are current at the time of writing and may be subject to change in the future.

5. Bethel General Accessibility Recommendations

5.1 Interpretation Panels

Bethel could consider the provision of interpretation panels within both the village and the proposed ADA trails. Within the village these could talk about the rich history of Bethel. Each panel should have a QR code. This is a cost-effective way of increasing access with options for audio description/narrative of the panel for visually impaired visitors and sign language for Deaf people. Visitors can use their own devices of which they are familiar.

QR Codes that are dynamic can be edited and amended over time and thus are more effective than static versions. The code itself does not need to change therefore signage can remain and content can be added/removed because of on-going feedback e.g.: more in-depth explanations or when the seasons change and what can be seen changes. Devices will be able to manage slower and faster audio for visitors to coordinate at their own pace.

Not every area within the proposed ADA trails are accessible for all disability cohorts. Consideration should be given to how people with disabilities who are unable to travel to parts of ADA trails are able to access what information is on offer. Correctly locating interpretation panels is essential to ensure that all users can access them. They should be placed on a hard surface next to an accessible path.

5.2 Access Guides

Creating a range of access guides for Bethel and its facilities would be beneficial. This is critical to achieve a greater turnout of people with disabilities. According to the Euan's Guide (based in the UK) –

93% of disabled people try and find disabled access information about somewhere before visiting for the first time. 83% are more likely to visit somewhere new if they can find the access information beforehand. 70% use two or more sources to try and find disabled access information before visiting somewhere new.

We believe that the guides should be available in the following formats -

- American Sign Language
- Audio description

- Large print
- Easy read / pictorial
- Dyslexia-friendly

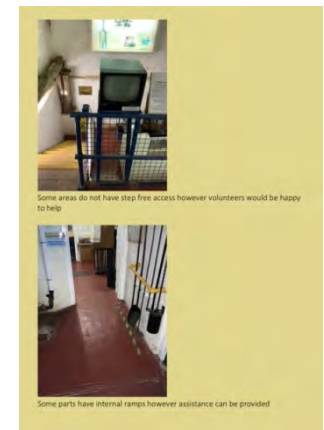
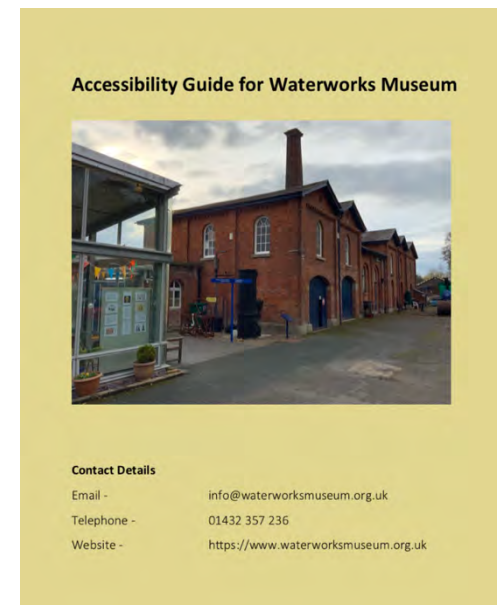
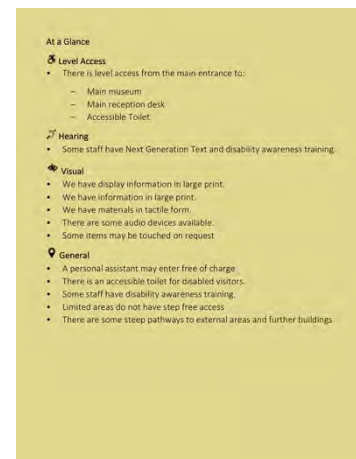
The Access Guides should cover but not be limited to advance information such as –

- Accessibility for Wheelchair Users
- Facilities for those with a Hearing Impairment
- Facilities for those with a Vision Impairment
- General Information
- Noisy and busy areas such as the Sandwich Shop
- Quieter times to visit

Furthermore, the Access Guides –

- Should be reviewed and updated frequently
- Have fresh photos
- Indicate if areas are being refurbished
- Indicate whether staff have had disability awareness training or/and American Sign Language
- Whether there is information in audio, American Sign Language and large print
- **Easily and instantly found on the website with key terms**

Access guides are not just about Bethel itself but wider aspects that help create an accessible experience. For example, the location and details of nearby accessible hotels for those wishing to visit Bethel. This would increase the geographical reach of visitors and increase the number of the visitors to the village.



5.3 Social Narratives

Social stories provide a guide or tool to help prepare neurodiverse individuals to understand and respond to a range of situations they may experience on a visit to Bethel. A visit is an exciting opportunity which may be overwhelming for first time visitors who will want to understand what they will see and what to expect. Such stories downloadable from the website will be a valuable resource for parents and educators.

5.4 Adding Sound Recordings of Key Areas

Adding sound of key locations such as Babes Bar can help people to understand the level of noise within an environment to make an informed choice of when to visit. It can also help neurodiverse people to understand what to expect from a site visit. It provides pre-visit information to achieve assurance. These links should also be available directly from the recommended social guides. Here is an example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnkSsq-gRT8>

EXPO METRO

If you arrive at Expo 2020 via Metro, be aware that the Metro station is very bright and has a shiny, slippery floor.



Sensory Tools

Sensory Tools are available at the Visitor's Centre if you forget yours!

Visitors Centres 1, 3, 4 and 6 have Ear defenders & sunglasses you can borrow.



5.5 Provide Information on when Bethel is Quiet

Many people with disabilities like to visit areas during quiet periods. This applies for most people such as those who have a hearing impairment (due to background noise), wheelchair users (to ensure accessible toilets are free and good maneuverability) and people with impaired vision (to ensure that their assistance dogs are not distracted)

Google actually has a feature which illustrates busy and quiet times using a chart. We recommend that key areas of Bethel such as the Sandwich Shop consider using the API key in order to provide this information directly on its own website. This will provide people with the reassurance that it is a good time to visit.



5.6 Sensory Access Kits

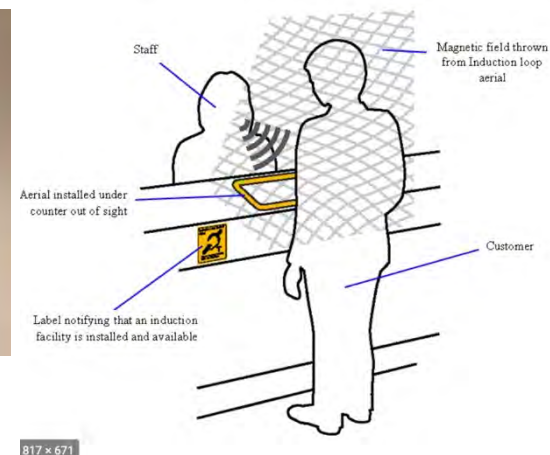
Bethel should consider holding sensory kits and making their availability known on the website. This would include a sensory bag with one pair of ear defenders, card, fidget and one pair of dark glasses. The locations that would be beneficial for these kits would be suggested as follows – Babes Bar, Outdoor Grandstand/Theatre, Town Hall (for external events/parades etc.)

5.7 Communication Cards

Communication cards for deaf or non verbal persons would be beneficial for areas such as Town Hall, Hardware Store and the Hairdressers.

5.8 Reception Counter Induction Loops

Within key areas of Bethel, there is a requirement for counter induction loops to benefit those with a hearing impairment. An induction loop helps people who use a hearing aid or loop listener to hear sounds more clearly because it reduces or cuts out background noise such as at a service counter. A hearing aid user would set their aid to the 'T' position and would only hear the staff member.



The initial locations identified for these include the Town Clerk Office, Babes Bar, Library desk, Central market and the Hardware store.

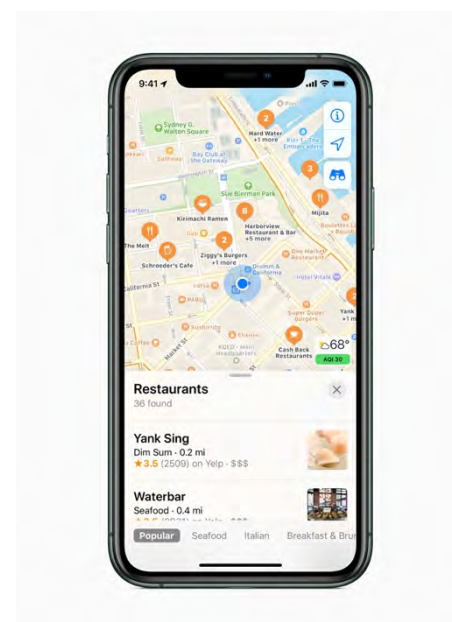
5.9 Geocode locations

Post codes and maps assist people to locate the general area of a site. An increasing trend is the use of a proprietary geocode system such as what3words that is designed to identify any location with a resolution of about 10ft. What3words encodes geographic coordinates into three dictionary words; the encoding is permanently fixed.

Those who are hard of hearing may benefit in being able to understand clearer words in contrast to letters and numbers of a postcode.

Many of the key mapping apps such as Apple, Google, TomTom rely on zip codes.

Using post codes means many people will not directly be led directly to the main entrance and this can cause difficulty for many. People with impaired hearing may have to ask for directions, wheelchair users may have to take unexpected longer routes and people who are anxious will have to deal with an unplanned part of their day.



5.11 Sunflower Lanyard

Bethel should consider recognizing the Sunflower Lanyard Scheme, this is also known as the 'hidden disability lanyard'. We would suggest also providing the round Sunflower stickers on each of the counters within the village and at the entrances to the key amenities. These can be sourced directly from Direct Access (www.directaccessgp.com) / info@directaccess.group



5.12 Maximizing Disability Specific Days

There is a wealth of dedicated days or weeks throughout the year aimed to raise awareness of disabilities or specific disabilities. Themed events around these may be an opportunity to raise awareness of the range of features available within Bethel.

It is important to ensure that sites remain accessible throughout the year and not just during specific dates. This can be addressed through thematic approaches.

Some disability specific days:

- 29 March – 4 April Autism awareness week
- 3-9 May – Deaf awareness week
- 27 June – 3 July – Deafblind awareness week
- 8 October – World Sight Day / 5-10 Oct – National Braille week
- 3 December – UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities



International
Day of
**Persons with
Disabilities**

3 DECEMBER

5.13 Quiet Room

Quiet rooms (or spaces) provide a place of low sensory stimulation for people who may have found a visit to be overstimulation or anxious about crowds, for example. There is an opportunity to create a dedicated quiet room within the town, potentially within the Town Hall. This can be of a small size and generally used as when required such as when events are taking place.



5.14 Food and Drinks

Menus provided within Bethel restaurants such as the pizza place or sandwich shop could be available in alternative formats to give people the independence to select their own food. Large print and Braille menus will cater for people with a visual impairment and pictorial menus benefit not just non-verbal visitors but international visitors with limited English.



Bethel website could display eating options online including dietary options which will assist prospective visitors plan their visit around any specific eating requirements.

5.15 Must See Information

Some sites have previously produced printed information for visitors such as a 'Must See Guide'. These can be useful as an opportunity for neurodiverse visitors to record which aspects of the site they have visited. There is great potential to create a 'Must See Guide' for Bethel



5.16 Accessibility Consultant on Call

It may be helpful for Bethel to have access to an Access Consultant as a single port of call for any queries or clarifications ranging from reviewing materials to advising on information displays and the creation of the ADA trails.

5.17 Tactile Drawings and Maps

Tactile paper maps may be an option to help people to orient themselves and plan routes. Paper maps are a useful solution to avoid COVID implications of tactile models. A map should cover the external locations and key points of internal spaces.

They can be easily adjusted when there is a change such as a new shop in town. This is not possible with static tactile map displays. Simplicity of maps is key – external maps of the whole village can illustrate different buildings and entrance locations. Internal maps would cover the key elements within specific buildings.

Bethel could go further by considering tactile drawings of, for example, Babes Bar and its adjacent rail track.

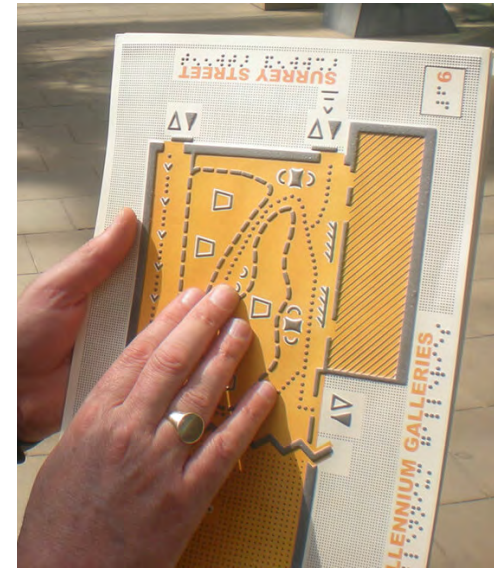
5.18 Social Media Tool Kit

A Social Media toolkit should be developed by Bethel. This would be a useful way of ensuring all of the social media is maximized for accessibility. All videos should be subtitled as many people view videos online without sound. American Sign Language should be used for flagship videos.

5.19 Disability Awareness Courses

Disability awareness training would be a great opportunity for Bethel to ensure that it is as harmonious, collaborative and non-discriminatory as possible. Disability awareness training would challenge attitudes amongst both those with and without a disability, increasing understanding of disability issues. Courses encourage people to discuss their preconceptions of disability and their fears of interacting with people with disabilities. Awareness courses provide a wealth of information on a range of disabilities, including acquired disabilities, hearing and visual impairments, learning disabilities and issues surrounding mental health. Often role play is also used to encourage people without disabilities to place themselves in the position of someone with a disability, and to encourage an empathy and understanding of the experiences many people with disabilities face.

The end result would be an increased level of disability awareness amongst Bethel.



5.20 Basic ASL Sign Language Courses

It would be useful for some basic ASL sign language courses to be taught within Bethel. These could not only be used in the local social media but would also be fun for the residents and business owners of the village. The course could cover areas such as Fingerspelling, Numbers, Colors, Deaf Awareness, Introductions, Family, Relationships, Descriptions, Hobbies, Time, Money, Days, Months, & Seasons, Food & Drink, Emotions and Conversation.

5.21 Sensory Garden

A sensory garden within Bethel Recreation Ground could be considered. A sensory garden can be enjoyed by a range of people. A sensory garden is a self-contained garden area that allows disabled people to enjoy a wide variety of sensory experiences.

Sensory gardens are designed to provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, both individually and in combination, in ways that users may not usually encounter. Sensory gardens have a wide range of educational and recreational applications. They can be used in the education of special-needs students, including autistic persons. As a form of horticultural therapy, they may be helpful in the care of people with dementia (Bethel has a aging population)

Sensory gardens can be designed in such a way as to be accessible and enjoyable for both disabled and non-disabled users. A sensory garden, for example, may contain features accessible to the disabled individual such as: scented and edible plants, sculptures and sculpted handrails, water features designed to make sound and play over the hands, textured touch-pads, magnifying-glass screens, braille and audio induction loop descriptions. Depending on the user group, other provisions may integrate sound and music more centrally to combine the play needs of younger users with their sensory needs.

Many sensory gardens devote themselves to providing experience for multiple senses; those specializing in scent are sometimes called scented gardens, those specializing in music/sound are sound gardens where the equipment doubles up to provides an enhanced opportunity for strategic developmental, learning and educational outcomes. Sensory Gardens usually have an enhanced infrastructure to permit wheelchair access and meet other accessibility concerns; the design and layout provides a stimulating journey through the senses, heightening awareness, and bringing positive learning experiences.

Sensory Garden Features and Ideas



Activities (colors/ sounds/visual).



Differing Paths in texture and color.



Water features - unique sounds.



Plants with differing scents.

5.22 Detailed Accessibility Audit and Action Plan for School

An education is one of the most valuable things anyone should ever have the right to achieve. The local school is also used by the local community such as for the main hall and events. It is recommended that a full comprehensive accessibility audit be undertaken

for the school with a prioritized action plan. Direct Access has provided access audits for over 1500 schools globally and would be delighted to provide this service.

The school access audit would start outside with inspections of the approach to the school, the entrances, the car park, the routes to reception, signage, and playgrounds. Then the access audit would take a detailed look at routes within the school and internal circulation. The audit also includes classrooms, hall, corridors, doors, toilets, reception, staffroom and staff areas and emergency exits.

5.23 Traffic Calming Signs Featuring Children's Artwork

Consistently throughout the audit it was identified that vehicles were speeding through the Main Street. Discussions with the residents of Bethel also highlighted that this was a prevalent issue.

What has been very successful in the UK and other parts of the world is artwork produced by children asking motorists to slow down which are then incorporated into street signage. Whilst understandably this may not be possible in the US (*incorporating into road signage*), artwork on the street or posters is something that could be utilized and incorporated by the local school in Bethel.



5.24 Consultation with Disabled User Groups

Public consultation, particularly with persons with disability, is an integral part of any journey towards inclusion. It is recommended that Bethel seeks engagement with people with disabilities, in addition to this consider how this process is managed. Potentially look to engage a specialist firm to undertake this process to ensure that an independent assessment is implemented. Surveys and questionnaires have not always been accessible to every disability group.

It is important that any consultation takes the approach of asking people if they wish to be involved. If so, how? The communication and other access needs must be incorporated. Groups that could be worked with include :-

Deaf and hard of hearing – Two different approaches are required to engage: Deaf people who use American Sign Language will require access to meetings and survey content in sign language – Certified sign language interpreters should be engaged to prevent the miss-interpretation of information. Hard of hearing people who communicate through lipreading and reading subtitles/captions will benefit from accessing information in the formats they can understand.

Blind –Information about the consultation process should be made available in Large Print, Braille and audio description videos.

Deafblind - It is critical that people with dual sensory loss are involved as often they can fall through the gaps in different provision designed for deaf or for blind people but not both. Much of the communication by necessity is through face-to-face communication such as a screen Braille communicator. This is a small, portable device that enables them to communicate with sighted people. Or by tactile sign language where the individual's hands are placed over the signer's hands to feel the shape, movement and location for each sign.

Autism and neurodiversity – cognitive variations including dyslexia, dyspraxia, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Tourette's and dementia. A firm such as Sensory Access who Direct Access partners with on numerous projects could assist with this.

Learning disability – Characterized by difficulties with learning, memory, organization, and math/reading/writing skills. Much of the access to communication will be similar to that of Autism.

Limited Mobility and other impairments – this is a wide ranging group that may have physical access requirements but may not require the range of accessible communication formats to be able to participate in meetings. Meetings should be either online or in premises which are physically accessible such as Bethel Town Hall.

Direct Access has extensive experience of engaging different people with disability groups and have successfully delivered this for a range of clients globally. Direct Access can also help with advising teams on how to engage disabled user groups.

5.25 Tactile Map Boards

In addition to the paper tactile maps (5.17) it is recommended that Bethel considers the provision of tactile map boards. This could be one for Main Street covering the key elements and historical parts of the village. Tactile maps that offer embossed visual information and acoustic information should be provided when required. Acoustic information could also be provided along with ASL sign language via a QR code. The tactile map boards should only include only essential information: location of services and paths and position of elements such as information, main services, toilets, etc. Concepts used should be easy to understand.

Graphic plane representation (lines, surfaces) should be defined through embossment, textures and color contrasts.

The signs and lettering of the map should be considered in terms of contrast between fonts and background colors. The font size should be at least 20 mm in a sans serif type font. Furthermore, the information shall be represented in Braille.

When a tactile map is provided, it should always be located within the accessible path and its location should be indicated with a tactile orientation and warning surface. Direct Access can produce and manufacture standing tactile map boards.



5.26 Accessible Play Equipment

There is a great opportunity to consider the provision of accessible play equipment within Bethel Recreation Park.

Play areas should be designed to be inclusive and accessible for people with a variety of impairments. Bethel could consider installing play equipment which can be used by people with disabilities who require the use of wheelchairs or have mobility impairments as per fig 1-3.



Fig 1: Wheelchair accessible swings.



Fig 2: Wheelchair accessible roundabouts.





Fig 3: Climbing structures with accessible paths for wheelchair users.

Play areas should also avoid segregation and separation, and should provide:

- Clear routes through the play areas;
- Interesting landscapes with a variety of accessible ground levels;
- Sensory play opportunities, including visual, audible and tactile;
- Dynamic pieces within easy reach for a range of users (seated, standing and different heights);
- Accessibility to water and sand opportunities where these are provided;
- The ability to get close to and interact with climbing units which might not themselves be accessible;
- Challenge for those using the facility;
- Quiet areas that incorporate gentle sensory experiences;
- Quiet areas to allow those who require them to retreat to;
- Accessible observation points, where parents or carers can observe their children without being involved in play activities;
- Easy access to toilets nearby (which is available adjacent to the swimming pool)

6. Accessibility Overview Report Format

6.1 Report Format

Item	Identification	Comment	Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
Location / Drawing / Item	A screen grab with the relevant area highlighted	A description of the relevant issue and how it effects accessibility and/or usability	A recommendation to resolve the issue accompanied by a reference to applicable guidance where possible	1, 2, 3. As described in 6.2.	A, B, C, D, E, G, M. As described in 4.3.
Item	Identification	Comment	Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
Dunluce Castle / Reception / Induction Loop		On arrival there was no hearing induction loop. This was found in storage and plugged back in and found to be working.	Implement a management procedure to keep the system in view of visitors and ensure that the correct signage is prominently displayed. 	1	M

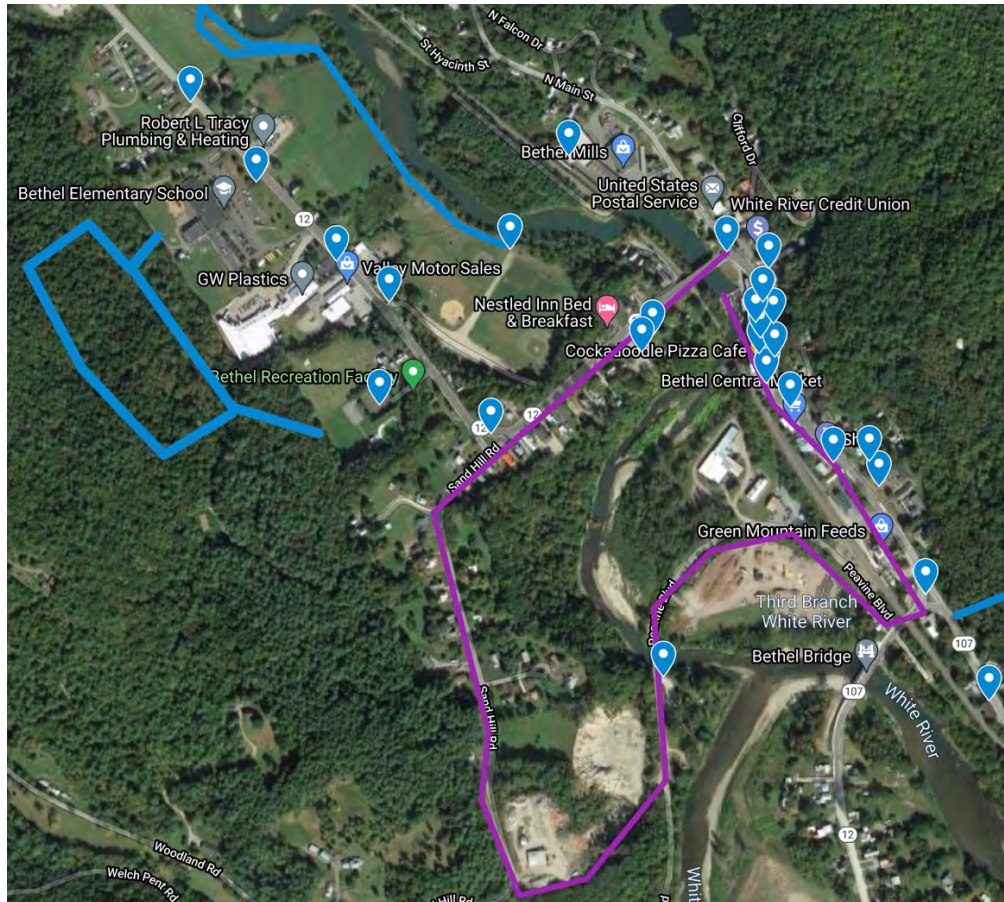
6.2 Priority Ratings & Definition

Access Audit & Suggested Action Priority	
1	HIGH PRIORITY - Where there are potential health and safety risks or where failure to implement changes would be highly likely to attract legal implications. Immediate action is recommended to put changes into effect. Change would also make a substantial difference to the current accessibility.
2	MEDIUM PRIORITY - Where action is recommended within the short term to alleviate an access problem or make improvements that will have a considerable impact. These may include quick wins that can be achieved easily/minimal cost.
3	LOW PRIORITY - Direct Access include where innovation or best practice may be worth considering that is not covered by or exceeds ADA requirements and which does not fit in the first three categories.

6.3 Cost Bands

Action Plan Cost Banding	
N	None
\$	Minimal Cost
\$\$	Structural Cost
\$\$\$	Major Structural Cost
MP	Management Procedure
Please note cost keys are indicative only and that Direct Access Consultancy LLC cannot be held liable for any misinterpretations.	

7. Accessibility Overview of Key Areas




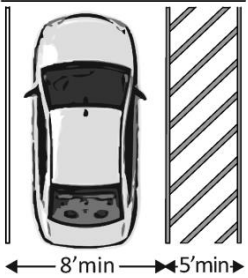


Note: This is a public version of the Accessibility Audit containing only assessments of public and community spaces. The Bethel for All Steering Committee provided business assessments directly to each one.



- 1) Library
- 2) Central Market
- 3) Mills Hardware
- 4) Babes Bar
- 5) Arnold Block
- 6) Cockadoodle Pizza (Limited Access)
- 7) Laundromat
- 8) Blossom Block
- 9) Mascoma Savings Bank
- 10) Sandwich Shop
- 11) Town Hall
- 12) Bandshell Park
- 13) Food Shelf / Bank
- 14) Recreation Centre & Trail System
- 15) Athletic Fields
- 16) Carla's Meadow – Proposed ADA Trail
- 17) School Key Public Areas
- 18) Peavine Park
- 19) Town Office
- 20) Bethel Mills
- 21) Post Office
- 22) Bethel Elementary Community Playground
- 23) Depot 1
- 24) Auto Parts Shop
- 25) Garage



7.1 Bethel Library







Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Bethel Library		There is step free access available to the back of the library however there is no signage to indicate the availability of this.	Install signage illustrating the International Symbol of Access (wheelchair symbol) along with an arrow to show that step free access can be achieved to the back.	2	\$

<p>2- Bethel Library</p>		<p>There are no ADA compliant accessible parking spaces provided within the small car park to the back of the library.</p> <p>Staff member at the library said that this would be beneficial to have.</p>	<p>Provide one accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>3- Bethel Library</p>		<p>The steps and pathways around the library are in poor condition and repair works should be undertaken to eliminate the potential hazards.</p>	<p>Repair works should be undertaken to the paving to eliminate the potential tripping hazard.</p> <p>Uneven surfaces, surfaces of loose materials (e.g. gravel) and large gaps between paving materials cause problems for wheelchair users, people with impaired vision and people who are, generally, unsteady on their feet.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>4- Bethel Library</p>		<p>The handrails for the steps to the front of the library are of exposed metal which is likely to make them extremely cold to touch during colder months.</p>	<p>The handrails should be coated with nylon or a suitable alternative to ensure that they are not cold to touch. In locations subject to extremely cold temperatures such as Bethel, handrails should not become excessively cold to touch, while being of a material that, if necessary, is sufficiently robust to resist vandalism or misuse.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>

<p>5- Bethel Library</p>		<p>The library has a steep driveway leading to the back entrance which is where the step free access is also available for wheelchair users. Many people are likely to find the gradients difficult to negotiate also potentially during colder months when it is icy.</p>	<p>Consideration to installing a free-standing handrail to one side. This should be well contrasted and not cold to touch.</p> <p>Top of gripping surfaces of handrails should be 34 inches (865 mm) minimum and 38 inches (965 mm) maximum vertically above the ground. Handrails should be at a consistent height above the ground floor level.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>6- Bethel Library</p>		<p>None of the library steps have color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings. This could make them difficult to see and cause a potential tripping hazard.</p>	<p>It is recommended that color contrast be painted to the edge of the step nosings to clearly highlight their presence.</p> <p>This will help people who are blind or partially sighted to appreciate the extent of the stairs and identify individual treads.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>7- Bethel Library</p>		<p>At the back accessible entrance there is a small metal ramp. It would be better in the long term to consider a more permanent option.</p>	<p>Consider building a small permanent ramp to the back entrance of the library. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [405.7.2, 405.7.3]</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>

<p>8- Bethel Library</p>		<p>The book drop off is positioned to the top of the main entrance steps. This means that wheelchair users or those who require step free access would be unable to access it.</p>	<p>Consider relocating the unit to an area in which those who require step free access would be able to access it.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>9- Bethel Library</p>		<p>At current the restroom facilities are not available for the public. There is a great opportunity to provide a large ADA compliant accessible bathroom for people with disabilities in the future.</p>	<p>To be considered. This would give many people with disabilities the confidence to go and visit the library. The ADA provision requirements state that where any type of sanitary facility is available to the public some must be to ADA accessible specifications, as detailed in ADA 603, 604 213 and 214.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$\$</p>




<p>10- Bethel Library</p>		<p>Within the library, all of the work benches are set at fixed heights. Not all wheelchair users would find these easy to use.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to providing one height adjustable table within the library for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>11- Bethel Library</p>		<p>Due to the size of the library, it is not possible to have wide aisles to accommodate those who require greater maneuverability such as wheelchair users.</p>	<p>This is deemed feasible to retain as less shelves would result in substantially less content. It is recommended that signage be installed stating that assistance can be provided on request. This sign should illustrate the International Symbol of Access (wheelchair symbol)</p>		<p>3</p>



<p>12- Bethel Library</p>		<p>The lighting within the library could be improved.</p>	<p>A lighting review should be undertaken. A new consistent lighting scheme should be designed which does not have reflections, glare and deep shadows.</p> <p>Lighting should create a confusion-free environment that avoids excessive reflection, glare, deep shadows and wide variations in lighting levels. The lighting design should aim to achieve this by controlling the location, quantity and quality of both natural and artificial light.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>13-B Bethel Library</p>		<p>There is no induction loop provided at the library desk to accommodate those who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an induction loop be installed to the reception desk. Signage indicating the availability of the facility should be provided and staff members should be aware in how to use the system.</p> <p>Direct Access always recommends an induction loop be installed at service or reception counters. ADA also states, in each assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system should be provided.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>



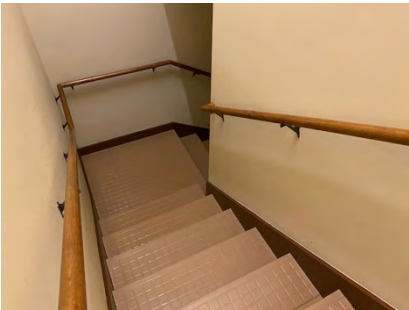
7.11 Town Hall


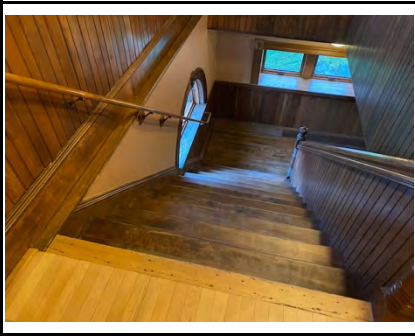
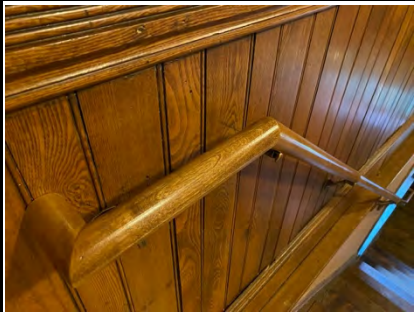




Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Town Hall		<p>The steps up to main entrance from the side walk do not have any color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings. This could cause a potential tripping hazard.</p>	<p>It is recommended that color contrast be painted to the edge of the step nosings to clearly highlight their presence. This will help people who are blind or partially sighted to appreciate the extent of the stairs and identify individual treads.</p>	2	\$

2-Town Hall		The ADA accessible parking space provided to the top opposite the accessible entrance should be remarked.	Remark the existing accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]	2	\$
3- Town Hall		The ADA accessible parking space provided to the top opposite the accessible entrance shas a sign which requires fixing.	Implement repairs to the signage.	3	\$
4- Town Hall		On approach to the main entrance, it may not be immediately evident that step free access into the hall is provided via the side of the building. It is recommended that further signage be provided.	Provide further signage. Refer to ADA [216.6]	2	\$

<p>5- Town Hall</p>		<p>The 8 steps from the side walk to the town hall car park has a crumbling top pillar which could cause a potential hazard. The steps also have no color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings or handrails provided.</p>	<p>Repair works should be undertaken to the top pillar to remove the potential hazard. Color contrast should be provided to the edge of the step nosings and ADA compliant handrails should be installed to both sides.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>6- Town Hall</p>		<p>Within the Town Hall car park it would be extremely beneficial to provide a further two ADA compliant accessible parking spaces. Ideally two bays closest to the bank if they would be willing to swop them around.</p>	<p>The accessible parking spaces should be at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>

7- Town Hall		<p>Within the main hall, many functions take place and there is a stage however there is no hearing enhancement system available for those who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to installing an induction loop to benefit hearing aid users.</p> <p>A hearing enhancement system, using induction loop, infrared or radio transmission, should be installed in rooms and spaces used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, spectator sport or films, and at service or reception counters where the background noise level is high.</p>	2	\$
8- Town Hall		<p>The steps to the left side of the stage should have color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings to prevent a potential tripping hazard.</p>	<p>Nosing strips should be installed to the edge of the steps.</p> <p>It is very helpful for steps to have clear color contrast edgings applied to nosings permanently contrasting material 55mm wide on both the tread and the riser.</p>	2	\$
9- Town Hall		<p>The steps should have color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings to prevent a potential tripping hazard.</p>	<p>Nosing strips should be installed to the edge of the steps.</p> <p>It is very helpful for steps to have clear color contrast edgings applied to nosings permanently contrasting material 55mm wide on both the tread and the riser.</p>	2	\$




10- Town Hall		The support rail for the platform lift is not color contrasted against the background upon which it is seen.	Color contrast should be provided to the support rail to ensure that it can be easily distinguished by people with impaired vision.	3	\$
11- Town Hall		The main steps should have color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings to prevent a potential tripping hazard.	Nosing strips should be installed to the edge of the steps. It is very helpful for steps to have clear color contrast edgings applied to nosings permanently contrasting material 55mm wide on both the tread and the riser.	2	\$
12- Town Hall		The main steps has handrails which are the same color as the background upon which they are seen.	The handrails should be color contrasted to ensure that they are easily seen against their background. This will aid people with impaired vision.	3	\$



<p>13- Town Hall</p>		<p>There is a conference room however there is no hearing enhancement system available for those who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to installing an induction loop to benefit hearing aid users.</p> <p>A hearing enhancement system, using induction loop, infrared or radio transmission, should be installed in rooms and spaces used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, spectator sport or films, and at service or reception counters where the background noise level is high.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>14- Town Hall</p>		<p>On the ground floor there is a hatch which is sometimes used to sell or disperse tickets. It is not clear if this is still currently in use, if so then this should feature an induction loop.</p>	<p>An induction loop should be installed to the counter.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>



7.12 Bandshell Park



Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Bandshell Park		There are two ADA parking spaces provided within the car park. These are not marked out.	<p>Mark out the two accessible parking spaces at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide.</p> <p>This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p>	2	\$

2- Bandshell Park		One of the signs for the ADA parking spaces is not standing upright.	Repair works should be undertaken to the post to ensure that it is standing upright.	3	\$	
3- Bandshell Park		The metal bench seating provided is likely to be extremely cold during certain months of the year. Additionally there are no armrests provided to aid ambulant disabled persons.	It is recommended that new seating be invested in. Ensure that the armrests are well contrasted and that there is a space either side of the seat so that a wheelchair user can park alongside a seated companion		3	\$
4- Bandshell Park		At current the central fountain and plaza are not accessible for wheelchair users or for those unable to negotiate steps.	It is recommended that consideration be given to making one side a ramp to provide access to the plaza and fountain.			3


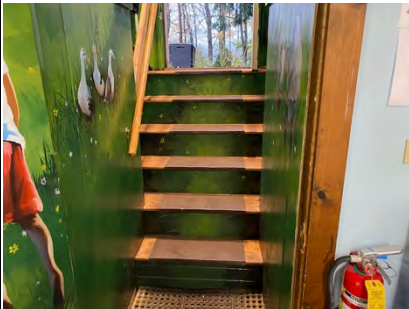
5- Bandshell Park		None of the steps feature color contrast to the edge of the step nosings and there are no handrails provided.	It is strongly recommended that color contrast be provided to the edge of the steps and free standing handrails be installed.	2	\$
6- Bandshell Park		There is limited hard standing area so wheelchair users are unlikely to get a good viewing point for the stage.	<p>Consider creating a hard standing area so that wheelchair users are able to have a good view of the stage.</p> <p>Uneven surfaces, surfaces of loose materials (e.g. gravel) and large gaps between paving materials cause problems for wheelchair users, people with impaired vision and people who are, generally, unsteady on their feet.</p>	3	\$
7- Bandshell Park	Benches	At current, none of the benches are positioned on a hard standing ground which means that wheelchair users would potentially find it difficult to park along side a seated companion without difficulty.	Consideration to providing some of the benches on a hard standing ground to ensure that wheelchair users are able to park along side a seated companion.	3	\$

8- Bandshell Park		<p>There is no hard standing pathway leading up to the stage ramp. This means wheelchair users (or those unsteady on their feet) would find it difficult to access the stage especially should the ground be wet.</p>	<p>Create a hard standing pathway leading up to the ramp. This will ensure that wheelchair users and those unsteady on their feet would be able to access the stage.</p>	2	\$\$
9-Bandshell Park		<p>The steps up to the stage have open risers which can cause a potential tripping hazard. There are also no color contrast provided to the edge of the steps.</p> <p>When steps are open, this can also make service dogs apprehensive to proceed due to being able to see through the gaps.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the edge of the steps be filled in to eliminate the potential tripping hazard.</p> <p>Color contrast should be applied to the edge of the steps.</p>	2	\$

7.13 Food Shelf / Bank







Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Food Shelf	Parking	One ADA parking space should be considered for outside the Food Shelf main entrance.	Provide one accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]	2	\$

2- Food Shelf		<p>There is no step free access available down to the food shelf. This provides a vital service to the local community.</p>	<p>This is not deemed viable to provide and there is very limited/or no scope to provide this on the ground floor. It is recommended consideration be given to relocating this to Main Street if feasible.</p> <p>In the short term, an easy to reach assistance bell should be provided near the main entrance which can be accessed.</p>	1	\$
3- Food Shelf		<p>The internal steps which lead down to the food shelf feature open risers and could cause a potential tripping hazard. There is also no color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings.</p>	<p>The risers should be filled in to minimise the potential tripping hazard. The edge of the step nosings should be color contrasted.</p>	2	\$




7.14 Recreation Centre








Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Recreation Centre		<p>The site identification could be improved. Many motorists are likely to drive past.</p> <p>Generally words entirely in upper case type (capital) should be avoided. A sans serif type face with a relatively large “capital” height to “x” height should be used.</p>	<p>Recommended that new site identification signage be considered. Signage should be in upper and lower case if possible.</p>	3	\$



2- Recreation Centre		The ADA parking spaces have now faded and are barely distinguishable.	Bays should be repainted as per ADA requirements. The accessible spaces should be at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide	2	\$
3- Recreation Centre		The signage to one of the ADA parking spaces is slanted and requires repositioning.	Reposition signage to ensure that the accessible parking space can be easily identified.	2	\$
4- Recreation Centre		There is no hard standing pathway leading up to the covered picnic area. Many wheelchair users are likely to find it difficult to access this area especially if the ground is wet.	Consider creating a pathway. Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.	2	\$\$



<p>5- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>There is great scope to build a sensory garden within the Recreation Centre.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5, General Bethel Accessibility Recommendations.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$\$</p>
<p>6- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>There are no accessible picnic benches provided for wheelchair users. At current wheelchair users would have to park to the ends.</p>	<p>Consider providing a wheelchair accessible picnic bench which has a specific cut out.</p>  		<p>3</p>



7- Recreation Centre		The picnic area has a graveled surface which can trap the wheels of a wheelchair.	<p>It is recommended that consideration be given to changing the surface to one that is hard standing.</p> <p>Uneven surfaces, surfaces of loose materials (e.g. gravel) and large gaps between paving materials cause problems for wheelchair users, people with impaired vision and people who are, generally, unsteady on their feet.</p>	3	\$
8- Recreation Centre		There is no pathway leading up to the skate park to aid wheelchair users.	Consider creating a pathway. Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.	2	\$\$
9- Recreation Centre		There is no pathway leading up to the Bethel Community Teaching Garden to aid wheelchair users.	Consider creating a pathway. Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.	2	\$\$

10- Recreation Centre		The signage for the skatepark rules has a very small type font that many may struggle to read. The notice is also not pictorial.	Consider replacing using pictorial information and larger type fonts.	3	\$
11- Recreation Centre		The benches are green seen against grass. This does not provide sufficient color contrast, additionally there is no space to the side for wheelchair users.	Consider painting the benches a color which will contrast against the surround upon which they are seen. Also provide a hard standing space to the side for wheelchair users.		3
12- Recreation Centre		There is no pathway leading up to the play equipment to aid wheelchair users.	Consider creating a pathway. Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.	2	\$\$


13- Recreation Centre		None of the benches within the covered area adjacent to the pool feature armrests to aid ambulant disabled persons.	Consider providing a drop down rail to one side of the seating to aid ambulant disabled persons.	3	\$
14- Recreation Centre		The edges of the swimming pool are not well defined. It is likely that the edging could cause a potential foot injury.	Consider redefining the edges of the swimming pool as part of a long term renovation programme.		\$\$

<p>15- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>Whilst not an ADA requirement, it would be beneficial to add color contrast to the surface of the ramp to indicate the presence of a gradient. Additionally, the handrails should be painted a contrasting color.</p>	<p>Color contrast should be added to the surface of the ramp. The surface of a ramp should contrast visually with the landings and the edge protection so that its presence is discernible by people who are blind or partially sighted.</p> <p>The handrails should be painted a contrasting color to aid people who have impaired vision.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$</p>
<p>16- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>There is no play equipment provided for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>There is a great opportunity to consider the provision of accessible play equipment within Bethel Recreation Park.</p> <p>Play areas should be designed to be inclusive and accessible for people with a variety of impairments. Bethel could consider installing play equipment which can be used by people with disabilities who require the use of wheelchairs or have mobility impairments. Refer to section 5.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>

<p>17- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>There are no accessible picnic benches provided for wheelchair users. At current wheelchair users would have to park to the ends.</p>	<p>Consider providing a wheelchair accessible picnic bench which has a specific cut out.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>18- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>It is understood that there used to be a swimming pool hoist system however this could not be traced.</p>	<p>It is recommended that Bethel invests in a new hoist system for the swimming pool. It would be beneficial to consider a mobile swimming pool lift which can be easier to use and feature more flexibility.</p> 		<p>3</p>


<p>19- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>The bathrooms are extremely well equipped however the color contrast is poor. Everything is white seen on a white background.</p>	<p>Greater contrast should be considered for the fixtures and fittings. This can be achieved by having light sanitary ware seen against a dark background or vice versa.</p> <p>To help blind and partially sighted people identify key objects within sanitary accommodation, support rails and grab rails should contrast visually with the wall, the WC seat and cover should contrast visually with the WC pan and cistern, and sanitary fittings and accessories should contrast visually with the background against which they are seen.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>20- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>The cubicle doors are not color contrasted against the side panels to aid people with impaired vision.</p>	<p>Add color contrast to the cubicle doors.</p>		<p>3</p>



<p>21- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>During the winter festive months, an ice skating rink would be laid out. Consideration to providing an Access Trax pathway</p>	<p>Procure an Access Trax pathway which will allow ease of access to the ice skating rink across the snow particularly for wheelchair users.</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>22- Recreation Centre</p>		<p>The barbeques are not on a hard standing ground which would make it difficult for wheelchair users to use the features.</p>	<p>Consideration to providing a BBQ on a hard standing ground to allow wheelchair users to use the feature.</p>		<p>3</p>


23- Recreation Centre		A harness would be extremely beneficial for the swing frame. This would make the feature more inclusive.	Consideration to procuring a harness. This will also need to be ideally in conjunction with recommendation 12-RC which is to create a hard standing pathway.	2	\$
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7.15 Athletic Fields




Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Athletic Fields		<p>The site identification could be improved. Many motorists are likely to drive past.</p> <p>Generally words entirely in upper case type (capital) should be avoided. A sans serif type face with a relatively large “capital” height to “x” height should be used.</p>	<p>Recommended that new site identification signage be considered. Signage should be in upper and lower case if possible.</p>	3	\$

<p>2- Athletic Fields</p>		<p>Two ADA parking spaces should be considered for part of the large car park.</p>	<p>Provide two accessible parking spaces at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>3- Athletic Fields</p>		<p>None of the covered bench seating within the viewing huts feature armrests to accommodate ambulant disabled persons.</p>	<p>Consider installing a drop-down rail to one side of the bench seats.</p> <p>The 2010 ADA Standards contain elements that are not in the 1991 Standards. These elements include recreation facilities such as swimming pools, team and player seating, accessible routes to court sports facilities, saunas and steam rooms, fishing piers, play areas, exercise machines, golf facilities, miniature golf facilities, amusement rides, shooting facilities with firing positions, and recreational boating facilities. Because these elements are not in the 1991 Standards, they are not subject to the safe harbor exemption. State and local governments must make these items accessible if necessary to ensure program accessibility, unless an undue burden would result. Public accommodations</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>

			must remove architectural barriers to these items.		
4- Athletic Fields		There are no hard standing pathways or platforms to allow wheelchair users to spectate games/events.	Consider creating a pathway up to the pitches along with a platform area. Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.	3	\$\$

7.16 Carla's Meadow – Proposed ADA Trail



Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Carla's Meadow		<p>Carla's Meadow is an area which is proposed to be an ADA trail. This is to run along the river.</p> <p>As part of the trail, we would recommend QR codes being installed along the route which will trigger audio narration for those who are vision impaired or sign language for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.</p>	<p>On September 26, 2013 the U.S. Access Board issued new accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas on federal lands. The guidelines provide detailed specifications for accessible trails, picnic, and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas when newly built or altered.</p> <p>Requirements for trails and pedestrian access routes address surface characteristics, width, grade, and cross slope. Exceptions</p>	3	\$\$


			<p>are included for these and other provisions under certain conditions stipulated in the guidelines.</p> <p>It is recommended that an Access Consultant is engaged for the design and creation of the ADA trail.</p>		
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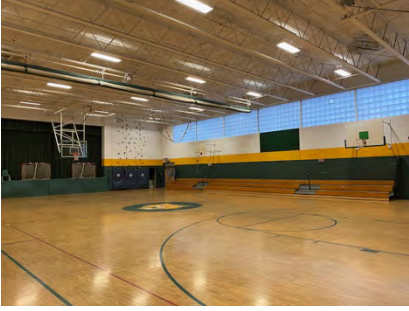
7.17 School (Key Public Areas)






Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-School		<p>The audit was a look at the key public areas in which are utilized by the local community such as the main hall.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a full scale accessibility audit be undertaken for the school with all areas being assessed for accessibility.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>

2- School		The signage for the ADA parking spaces are currently damaged.	Install new signage or undertake repair works for the signage in front of the ADA parking spaces.	2	\$
3- School		The ADA spaces do not feature an access aisle. This could result in wheelchair users being unable to access their vehicle on return.	It is recommended that the ADA bays be repainted 8 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA 502.2, 502.3	2	\$
4- School		There are no accessible picnic benches provided for wheelchair users. At current wheelchair users would have to park to the ends.	Consider providing a wheelchair accessible picnic bench which has a specific cut out. 	3	\$

<p>5- School</p>		<p>At the moment the ramp for the school to provide step free access is temporary and it is recommended that a permanent ramp be built.</p>	<p>The ramp should be built to satisfy ADA criteria.</p> <p>The ramp should be at least 36 inches wide (405.5)</p> <p>The ramp surface should be durable, easy to maintain, slip-resistant when wet (to allow for rain and other environmental factors) The surface should also be well contrasted to minimise a potential stumbling hazard which can occur if a gradient takes someone by surprise.</p> <p>Landings should be provided at the foot and head of the ramp, they should be at least the width of the ramp and not less than 60 inches long.</p> <p>ADA compliant handrails should be provided to both sides which are of an oval profile, be well contrasted and not cold to touch as per ADA 505.7.1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$\$</p>
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6- School		<p>The intercom at the main entrance is positioned too high off the ground floor level for wheelchair users and there are no access features.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a new intercom be installed which has tactile definition to the buttons and an LED display. The unit should be well contrasted against the background upon which it is seen.</p> <p>All the operational parts should be no higher than 48 inches above the floor.</p>	2	\$
7- School		<p>There is no induction loop within the main hall to benefit hearing aid users. This hall is frequently used by the local community.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an induction loop be installed within the main hall to benefit hearing aid users.</p> <p>A hearing enhancement system, using induction loop, infrared or radio transmission, should be installed in rooms and spaces used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, spectator sport or films, and at service or reception counters where the background noise level is high or where glazed screens are used.</p> <p>Section 219 - Assistive Listening Systems, in summary states: "in places of public assembly where audible communication is used to provide direction or critical information an assistive listening system is required to be provided</p>	2	\$




			for people with hearing loss and in conformance with Appendix L performance requirements".		
8- School		There is no induction loop within the canteen area to benefit hearing aid users. This area is frequently used by the local community.	It is recommended that an induction loop be installed within the main hall to benefit hearing aid users. A hearing enhancement system, using induction loop, infrared or radio transmission, should be installed in rooms and spaces used for meetings, lectures, classes, performances, spectator sport or films, and at service or reception counters where the background noise level is high or where glazed screens are used.	2	\$
9- School		The flooring within the corridors and amongst other areas are extremely 'busy' and may cause potential difficulties for people with impaired vision.	The Braille Institute states – The surface colors and patterns in a room have a huge impact on how well a person may see to locate objects or to move around safely in a space. Avoid floor coverings that have busy patterns that may be confusing.	3	\$

			It is recommended that the flooring be changed at the next planned refurbishment for the site.		
10- School		<p>Only one classroom was inspected and it is understood that the local community may use this one (photographed) for various evening classes.</p> <p>The classroom used by the local community does not feature an induction loop. There are also no chairs with armrests provided to accommodate ambulant disabled persons.</p>	<p>Install an induction loop within the classroom to aid those with a hearing impairment.</p> <p>Ensure that there is a chair with armrests available within each of the classrooms that may be used by the local community.</p> <p>Also ensure that any new furniture purchased will suitably color contrast against the background upon which it will be seen.</p> <p>If a seat is too high or too low, or if there are no armrests or side supports, a person may experience considerable discomfort as a result of poor posture. A person may also have difficulty rising from a seated position if the seat is set too low, or if it has no armrests.</p>	2	\$


7.18 Peavine Park



Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Peavine Park		Two ADA parking spaces should be considered for the left side car park.	Provide two accessible parking spaces at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]	2	\$


2- Peavine Park		There are no hard standing pathways provided within the park for wheelchair users. This will cause difficulty particularly if the ground is wet.	Consider providing a hard standing pathway within the park to accommodate wheelchair users.	3	\$
3- Peavine Park		None of the benches have armrests installed to accommodate ambulant disabled persons.	Consider providing benches with armrests. Ensure that the armrests are well contrasted and that there is a space either side of the seat so that a wheelchair user can park alongside a seated companion.	3	\$
4- Peavine Park		One of the benches closest to the car park has a damaged edge which could cause a potential hazard.	Repair works should be undertaken to the hazard.	2	\$




<p>5- Peavine Park</p>		<p>There is no hard standing pathway leading up to the gazebo ramp. This means wheelchair users may struggle to access the feature.</p>	<p>Consider providing a hard standing pathway within the gazebo to accommodate wheelchair users.</p> <p>Pathway should be at least 36" as per ADA requirements. Wider would be even further beneficial.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>6- Peavine Park</p>		<p>There are no accessible picnic benches provided for wheelchair users within the gazebo. At current wheelchair users would have to park to the ends.</p>	<p>Consider providing a wheelchair accessible picnic bench which has a specific cut out.</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>7- Peavine Park</p>		<p>The river front could be ideal for an ADA trail.</p> <p>As part of the trail, we would recommend QR codes being installed along the route which will trigger audio narration for those who are vision impaired or sign language for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.</p>	<p>On September 26, 2013 the U.S. Access Board issued new accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas on federal lands. The guidelines provide detailed specifications for accessible trails, picnic, and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$\$</p>

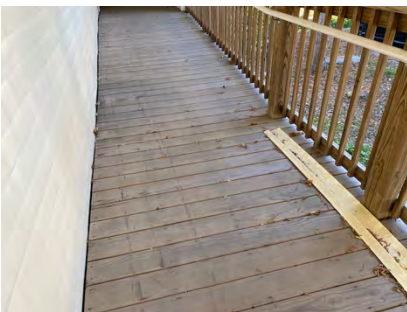
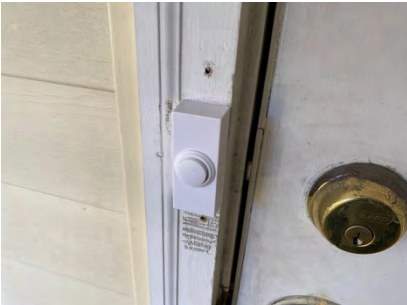

			<p>developed areas when newly built or altered.</p> <p>Requirements for trails and pedestrian access routes address surface characteristics, width, grade, and cross slope. Exceptions are included for these and other provisions under certain conditions stipulated in the guidelines.</p> <p>It is recommended that an Access Consultant is engaged for the design and creation of the ADA trail.</p>		
8- Peavine Park		One ADA parking space should be considered for the right-side car park.	<p>Provide one accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p>	2	\$


7.19 Town Office







Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Town Office		The ADA parking space provided within the Town Office car park is not clearly marked out on the ground.	Mark out the accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]	2	\$

2- Town Office		From the car park, the 'Access At the Side of the Building' sign may not be immediately obvious.	It is recommended that a further supplementary sign be installed in clear view of the car park.	2	\$
3- Town Office		The edge of the step nosings for the Town Hall are not color contrasted. This could cause a potential tripping hazard.	Bright color contrast should be painted to the edge of the step nosings to clearly highlight their presence.	2	\$
4- Town Office		The ADA van accessible parking bay to the front of the Town Hall building is not marked out.	The van accessible parking bay should be marked out at least 11 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide. Or At least 8 feet wide with an access aisle at least 8 feet wide [ADA 502.2]	2	\$

5- Town Office		<p>Color contrast should be added to the surface of the main entrance ramp.</p> <p>It is beneficial if the surface of a ramp could contrast visually with the landings and the edge protection so that its presence is discernible by people who are blind or partially sighted.</p>	<p>It is recommended that color contrast be added to the surface of the ramp gradient. This will forewarn people using the ramp of which section has a gradient and which does not.</p>	3	\$
6- Town Office		<p>The doorbell at the side entrance is not color contrasted against the background upon which it is seen.</p>	<p>Add color contrast to the door bell to ensure that people with impaired vision are able to easily distinguish the unit upon the background upon which it is seen.</p>	3	\$
7- Town Office		<p>The internal ramp inside of the side entrance is not color contrasted. Numerous people may not see the gradient and this could cause a potential stumbling hazard.</p>	<p>Color contrast should be added to the surface of the ramp.</p>	3	\$


8- Town Office		<p>It would be beneficial to provide a height adjustable to accommodate wheelchair users or persons of short stature. A portable induction loop should also be considered for people who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>Consider providing a height adjustable table. Provide a portable induction loop and ensure that staff members are versed in how to use the facility.</p>	2	\$
9- Town Office		<p>The flooring is extremely 'busy' and may cause potential difficulties for people with impaired vision.</p>	<p>The Braille Institute states –</p> <p>The surface colors and patterns in a room have a huge impact on how well a person may see to locate objects or to move around safely in a space.</p> <p>Avoid floor coverings that have busy patterns that may be confusing.</p> <p>It is recommended that the flooring be changed at the next planned refurbishment for the site.</p>	3	\$
10- Town Office		<p>There is no induction loop provided at the counters within the Town Office to accommodate those who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an induction loop be installed to the counters. Signage indicating the availability of the facility should be provided and staff members should be aware in how to use the system.</p>	2	\$



			Direct Access always recommends an induction loop be installed at service or reception counters. ADA also states, in each assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system should be provided.		
11- Town Office		The external signage could be improved. The existing signage is in capital letters and is not pictorial.	Consideration should be given to improving the existing signage. Words entirely in upper case type (capital) should also be avoided. A sans serif type face with a relatively large "capital" height to "x" height should be used.	3	\$
12- Town Office		All the entrances except for the side feature a threshold which could cause a potential tripping hazard.	When the doors are replaced, these should be changed with an alternative that feature a level aluminum threshold.	2	\$


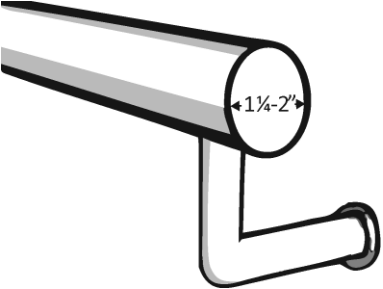
					
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7.21 Post Office




Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Post Office		The steps have no color contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings.	Color contrast should be provided to the edge of the step nosings.	2	\$

2- Post Office		<p>There is no induction loop provided at post office counter to accommodate those who have a hearing impairment.</p>	<p>It is recommended that an induction loop be installed to the cafe counter. Signage indicating the availability of the facility should be provided and staff members should be aware in how to use the system.</p> <p>Direct Access always recommends an induction loop be installed at service or reception counters. ADA also states, in each assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system should be provided.</p>	2	\$
3- Post Office		<p>The ramp up to the Post Office entrance at the side does not feature handrails.</p>	<p>A handrail should be installed to both sides which is circular. The handrail should be no less than 1 ¼ inches and no greater than 2 inches in diameter as per ADA 505.7.1.</p>	2	\$

<p>4- Post Office</p>		<p>The ADA accessible parking space is not marked out on the ground.</p>	<p>Mark out the accessible parking space at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle atleast 5 feet wide. This should follow the set guidelines as per ADA [502.2, 502.3]</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>\$</p>
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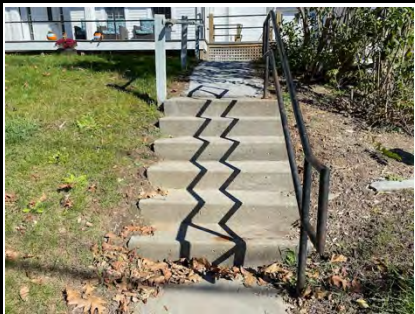
7.22 Bethel Elementary Community Playground





Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Bethel Community Playground		There is no play equipment provided for people with disabilities.	<p>There is an opportunity to consider the provision of accessible play equipment within the community playground.</p> <p>Play areas should be designed to be inclusive and accessible for people with a variety of impairments. Bethel could consider installing play equipment which can be used by people with disabilities who require the use of wheelchairs or have mobility impairments.</p>	3	\$

7.23 Depot 1



Item	Identification / Photo	Comment	Suggested Recommendation	Priority	Cost Band
1-Depot 1		Signage should be provided to state that level access available to side for wheelchair users.	Install signage indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance as per ADA 216.6.	2	\$

<p>2- Depot 1</p>		<p>The steps have no color contrast and lead to a steep gradient at the start and end.</p>	<p>Ideally this flight and approach should be rebuilt to be more accessible for all. ADA should be referred to for design guidance.</p> <p>In the short term, color contrast should be added to the edge of the step nosings.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>\$\$</p>
<p>3- Depot 1</p>		<p>The handrails to one side are of exposed metal which makes them potentially cold to touch.</p>	<p>The handrails should be coated with nylon or a suitable alternative to ensure that they are not cold to touch.</p> <p>In locations subject to extremely cold or hot temperatures, handrails should not become excessively cold or hot to touch, while being of a material that, if necessary, is sufficiently robust to resist vandalism or misuse.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>\$</p>




7. Crosswalks and Sidewalks

An area of particular focus was the sidewalks and existing ADA detectable warning strips which are used to alert visually impaired pedestrians. ADA detectable warning strips alert visually impaired persons that they are about to enter or exit a crosswalk. Detectable warning surfaces are required to be placed along the roadside edge of the sidewalks. These warnings are used to inform visually impaired people that they are nearing the edge of the curb and are close to the road. Not having the appropriate provision as identified in various area within Bethel, people could find themselves at risk of injury from tripping over or being hit by vehicles.

Within a study undertaken in 2012 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358127/>) it was identified that people who were blind and could only hear their surroundings were not as accurate in their street crossing decisions as their sighted and impaired counterparts. For these individuals, the inclusion of the appropriate detectable warning strips in Bethel is essential.

Investment into the appropriate and modernized detectable warning strips within Bethel will benefit the local businesses and communities. The following examples should be considered :-

- A stronger focus on accessibility will work towards revitalizing a community and reinforce a message to prospective residents (as well as potential businesses) that Bethel is dedicated to treating people with disabilities fairly.
- Retrofitting older sites and areas with new ADA compliant warning surfaces can make parking safer, reduce liability risks and encourage patronage by those with visual or other impairments.
- Bright visual detectable warning strips warnings will serve as an additional reminder to motorists that this is a community and safe driving should be promoted.

Item	Identification / Location	Comment	Suggested Recommendation
		<p>One of the significant challenges of the Main Street in Bethel and impacts on many of the key amenities such as the hairdressers, the sandwich shop, Blossom Block etc is the fact that the building entrances are higher than the sidewalks in front. This results in the majority of the buildings being inaccessible for wheelchair users or for those unable to negotiate steps.</p> <p>This results in alternative means of access having to be sought, different ways of providing services such as potentially installing an assistance bell to the base of the entrances.</p>	<p>The ideal solution and would be a significant benefit to Bethel would be to raise the sidewalk.</p> <p>This would substantially improve accessibility across Main Street.</p>
			



It was identified throughout the days of surveying that vehicles were consistently parking on both sides of Main Street. This makes it very unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

Consider providing signage to use the parking areas such as adjacent to Town Hall. Raise issue to see if this can be policed.



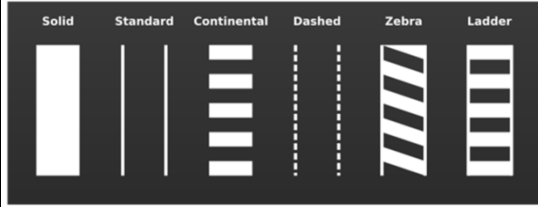
There is an opportunity to really significantly improve the contrast and visibility of the existing crosswalks.


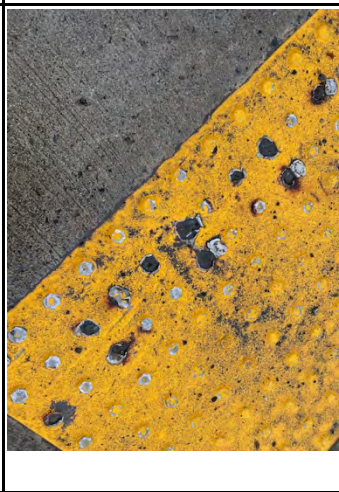
At the moment they have the standard double lines, one either side and then some are partially painted red.



It is recommended to improve their visibility (and also to deter motorists from driving fast through the town)

Crossings should feature the 'ladder treatment' This is recommended by VTrans for the highest visibility.

https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/ltf/Crossing%20Treatment%20Guidelines%20January_2015.pdf



		
	<p>Many of the detectable warning strips are damaged.</p> <p>If the truncated domes are damaged or flat then they will not be detected by people with impaired vision.</p>	<p>Investment is required in this area to replace the current damaged detectable warning strips .</p> <p>Truncated domes in a detectable warning surface need to have a base diameter of 23 mm (0.9 in) minimum to 36 mm (1.4 in) maximum, a top diameter of 50 percent of the base diameter minimum to 65 percent of the base diameter maximum, and a height of 5 mm (0.2 in)</p>

			
		<p>Crossing by Livery Stable Street has a warning strip which is not greatly color contrasted. Whilst this has adequate contrast by VT standards, many people with impaired vision would find it beneficial to have a strip that has greater contrast.</p>	<p>It would be beneficial to have a strip that has greater contrast. It is recommended that this be replaced.</p>



The sidewalk on approach to Babes Bar has damaged sections. These could cause a potential tripping hazard as well as cause difficulty for people with impaired vision or for wheelchair users.

Repair works are required to the sidewalks.

Large gaps between paving materials can problems for wheelchair users, people with impaired vision and people who are, generally, unsteady on their feet.



The vehicular entrance for the Babes Bar car park on the left side has no detectable warning strips on either side.

It is recommended that detectable warning strips be installed to both sides of the vehicular entrance for Babes Bar car park on the left side.

	<p>The right side vehicular entrance for Babes Bar only has a detectable warning strip on the left side. None is provided on the right side where the pizza restaurant is located.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a detectable warning strip be installed to the right side of the vehicular entrance for Babes Bar car park (right side)</p>
	<p>The right side vehicular entrance for Babes Bar strip on the left side is only aligned to indicate the crossing on approach to the pizza restaurant. It is not aligned correctly to indicate the crossing to the other side of Main Street. The curb ramp is also not flush with the red crossing.</p>	<p>This area needs to be reworked. The detectable warning strips need to indicate that there is a crossing to the other side of Main Street as well as on approach to the pizza restaurant.</p>



Just before the Sandwich Shop on Main Street there is a potential tripping hazard where the sidewalk is not flush.

Repair works should be undertaken to eliminate the potential tripping hazard.



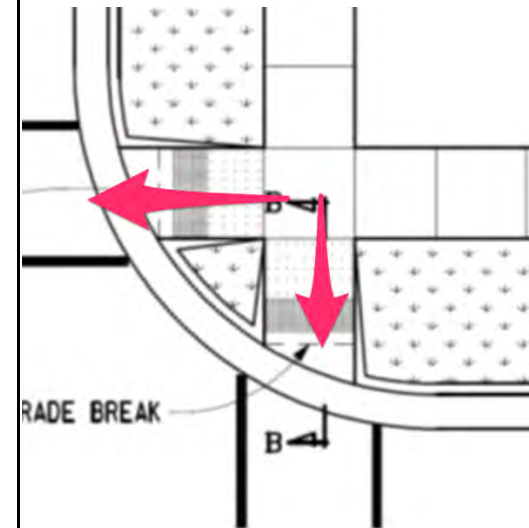
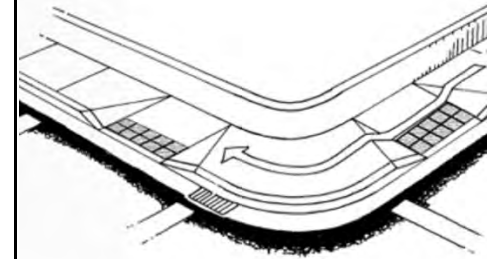
Some of the detectable warning strips are covered in mud and debris. This would result in the truncated domes not being felt by someone with impaired vision. This was identified along Main Street and Church Street.



Regular maintenance should be implanted i.e. power washing of the detectable warning strips to ensure that the domes are easily felt.








The positioning of the detectable warning strip near the car park entrance adjacent to the Bank is not correctly positioned. It is not advisable to have one detectable warning strip to cover two crosswalks. It is also not aligned which can cause potential difficulty for wheelchair users.



It is advisable that this be removed, and two new detectable warning strips be installed to represent each crosswalk. These should be aligned with their actual crosswalk (please refer to illustrations for clarity)





	<p>The detectable warning strip opposite the Town Hall is not well contrasted and does not match the strip on the other side.</p> <p>Whilst this has adequate contrast by VT standards, many people with impaired vision would find it beneficial to have a strip that has greater contrast.</p>	<p>It would be beneficial to have a strip that has greater contrast. It is recommended that this be replaced.</p>
	<p>From the Town Hall car park there is a detectable warning strip on one side (Town Hall side) but not on the car park side.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a detectable warning strip be installed on the car park side.</p>

		<p>The crossings on approach to the Post Office which is one of Bethels key amenities do not have detectable warning strips installed.</p>	<p>Detectable warning strips are required along this route.</p>
		<p>Along the Church Street bridge there are a series of tripping hazards and repair works should be undertaken.</p>	<p>Repair works should be undertaken to eliminate the potential tripping hazards along Church Street.</p>

		<p>The entrance for the car park between Bandshell Park and the Food Shelf/White Church does not have detectable warning strips either side.</p>	<p>It is recommended that detectable warning strips be installed either side of the vehicular entrance to the car park.</p>
		<p>One of the key areas requiring significant investment is the Sand Hill Rd /Pleasant Street intersection. New detectable warning strips are required due to poor contrast.</p> <p>The detectable warning strip at the north part of the island near the sign is not aligned correctly.</p>  <p>The detectable warning strip at the south part of the island is not aligned correctly.</p>	<p>Identified as one of the key areas requiring works. Additionally, this area is likely to be used heavily by young person’s attending school during peak times.</p> <p>This whole area should be revisited and redesigned. In the immediate short term interim works should be implemented to install new detectable warning strips .</p> <p>From an accessibility point of view, people with impaired vision are highly likely to find this area difficult to navigate.</p>

			
		<p>A key section of the sidewalk leading to Bethel Recreation Centre is too narrow to be used comfortably by wheelchair users. Indeed during peak times, should there be a parent pushing a pram, people would have to step onto the road in order to create a sufficient passing place.</p>	<p>A feasibility study should be undertaken to assess whether it would be possible to widen this section of the sidewalk or at least create a suitable passing place at the half way point.</p>

		<p>An area of considerable concern is the lack of a suitable sidewalk just before approaching the school. There does not appear to be any suitable segregation between pedestrians and business traffic.</p> <p>There are also no detectable warning strips .</p>	<p>This area should be completely redesigned and requires investment. Many children use this route, and it is shared with the commercial traffic. This was identified as the highest priority within the report.</p> <p>In the short term interim, consideration should be given to urgently marking out walking routes and installing street signage stating to beware of children.</p>
		<p>During the days of surveying it was identified that many vehicles were speeding down Main Street. Discussions with the residents of Bethel also highlighted that this was a prevalent issue.</p>	<p>What has been very successful in the UK and other parts of the world is actually artwork produced by children asking motorists to slow down which are then incorporated into street signage. This is something that could be utilized and incorporated by the local school in Bethel.</p>