



Improving Accessibility in Wells

Accessible Wells, Wells City Council, and Somerset Council are proud to highlight the positive and ongoing partnership work taking place to improve accessibility across the city.

Through close collaboration, the organisations have been working together to identify barriers, prioritise improvements, and deliver practical solutions that make Wells a more inclusive and welcoming place for everyone. This partnership brings together local knowledge, lived experience, and strategic support to ensure meaningful and lasting change.

Recent work has focused on reviewing key areas of the city, identifying accessibility challenges, and agreeing targeted actions to address them. This has included improvements to pathways, signage, traffic lights, and public spaces, as well as ongoing dialogue to ensure accessibility remains a core consideration in future planning and development. This is in addition to looking at our own practices. Meetings of Wells City Council and the Somerset delivered Local Community Network (LCN) meetings, are now all delivered at locations which allow ease of access, something which 18 months ago was not consistently the case. A small change which has made big impacts to those that can attend public meetings.

Accessible Wells has played a vital role in representing the voices of residents and visitors with lived experience, helping to shape priorities and ensure that solutions reflect real needs. Wells City Council has supported coordination and local delivery, while Somerset Council has provided strategic oversight and resources to help progress key improvements within their Highways and Street scene functions.

This partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to making Wells a city that is accessible to all and demonstrates, that whilst we are a heritage city, there are always ways to make reasonable and meaningful adjustments. While there is more work to do, the progress made so far reflects the strength of collaboration and the value of working together.

Cllr Theo Butt Philip, of Somerset Council and Wells City Council said: "All partners remain committed to continuing this work and building on the momentum achieved. The outputs offer a further insight for both Councils in their future policy development and operational delivery. It just goes to show that heritage and adjustment can work sympathetically together if managed correctly".

Cllr Shirley Eden, of Wells City Council said: “We have achieved some excellent results by working pragmatically together. Thanks, must be made to those in Wells with physical accessibility issues, who have enabled Accessible Wells to make progress in making Wells more accessible for everyone”.

Theo Van Hensbergen, of Accessible Wells said: “Together we are starting to take step to make Wells more inclusive for people with physical accessibility issues and visual impairments, and generally more empathetic and caring. More can be done, but an understanding of what needs to change and how we can make a difference is much improved.”

If you would like to find out more about the program of works being developed, you can visit Accessible Wells [HERE](#). Equally, the City Councils Outside Spaces Committee continue to monitor the governance of projects, and you can attend public meetings to ask questions or receive updates. The schedule of the City Councils meetings can be found [HERE](#).

For any further information or comment, please contact reception@wells.gov.uk.