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Access Audit REPORT

Tonbridge Cemetery

December 2012



A Report to: John Dicker – Planning Transportation and Leisure

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Visit to Tonbridge Cemetery

04 December 2012.

By Duncan White (Building Control), and John Dicker (Leisure)

Area or Building	Problem	Suggestion / Solution / Action
Footpaths	Uneven surfaces where tree roots have grown under the paths, or the path has deteriorated. Both causing a trip hazard for the visually impaired, and for wheelchair users.	Repair or resurface the paths as necessary. Consider removal of trees, but be aware that this may cause collapse of the path as the roots die away. Build up path to ramp over the root, but be careful not to create localised steep ramps.
Footpaths	Large areas of moss and debris creating a slippery surface and a hazard for the ambulant disabled.	Clear moss and keep paths swept clear
Footpaths	Grass and mud creeping onto footpath resulting in the edge of the path becoming indistinct for the visually impaired. Creating a slippery surface and a hazard for the ambulant disabled.	Edges to be kept distinct. Having clear edges helps the visually impaired identify where the path is.
Footpath	There is a clear "desire line" from the access point from Darenth Avenue to the central tarmac path. Currently this is an uneven grass/mud path which is unusable by wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled. To get the same point by existing path would mean going a couple of hundred meters up and back down existing paths	Lay a firm, level, and slip resistant path at least 1500mm wide, with a cross-fall of no more than 1:40, from the edge of the existing drive to the path. At the drive end tactile paving should be used.
Seating to the central "shelter"	Seats difficult to get up from where there are no arm rests.	Seats to have arm-rests to assist getting on and off the seat
Seating	Many seats are quite close to tarmac surfaced paths, however it is necessary to walk across grass, some of which is soft or uneven as a result of tree roots.	Level and firm access to the fixed seating from the footpaths.

Seating	Inadequate access to fixed seating (see item above). Also there is no space adjacent to the seat for a wheelchair or pushchair	Provide a level and firm space to the end or in front of the seat so that a wheelchair or pushchair can be accommodated.
Central Shelter	The shelter is on a level surface and the path slopes around it resulting in a step off at the bottom and onto the surface at the top. The step at top and bottom is less than 300mm and there is no handrail around the step. This is a hazard.	Alternatives that could be considered are the provision of a guard rail around the level area, or, clear well maintained markings at the edge all the way around.
Chapel	Raise indoor mat well to reduce trip/step hazard.	Place a piece of ply or wood under the mat to reduce the step down into the mat well and the step back up to the threshold. A shallow gradient fillet could also be considered.
Graveside	Only grass access to graves and memorials. This prevents access for wheelchair users when the area is wet.	Consider the purchase of a lightweight roll out path. Eg, http://www.allaboutramps.co.uk/Ramp+Stytle/Folding++Roll-Up+Ramps/Rollout+Trackway_RA0003.htm to assist wheelchair users. Other safety assessments should be carried out before its use – considering the slope; the cross fall of the mat; width of mat; undulating surface underneath etc.