



**Public Consultation Report
for
Borough District of Wexford**

**Disability Strategy
Implementation Plan**

2015-2016

**Report to the Members of the
Borough District of Wexford**

Prepared February 2015

Table of Contents

Section 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Consultation.....	1
1.3 Submissions and Observations	2
Section 2 Key Objectives.....	3
Section 3 Conclusion.....	3
3.1 Conclusion	3
3.2 The Next Stage.....	3
Section 4 Persons and Bodies who made Written Submissions and Observations and a Summary of the Main Issues Raised and Responses.....	6

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 saw the abolition of the Town Councils and their structures and, as a result, the Town Access Focus Groups' functions ceased. A new consultation process was introduced to cover each of the Municipal Districts consisting of drop in/open meetings to be held each year in each Municipal District; these meetings are in addition to the new Public Participation Network for Wexford County Council.

The aim of the public consultation event held on 14th October, 2014 at Wexford County Council's Offices, Carricklawn, Wexford was to help identify the key issues regarding accessibility, access and disability-related access issues and universal design for the plan area.

This report, which summarises the issues raised at the public consultation event, is presented in four sections:

Section 1 provides an overview of the public consultation process undertaken.

Section 2 outlines the key objectives.

Section 3 concludes the report and outlines the next stage in the plan preparation process.

Section 4 lists the persons and bodies, their submissions and observations and provides Wexford County Council's responses to those issues.

1.2 Consultation

The pre-consultation stage consisted of the following activities:

1. Letters (thirty-seven in total) were sent to local community groups, stakeholders, and relevant government departments informing of the intention to review the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan, and inviting these parties to a public consultation event on 14th October, 2014.
2. A notice was published in the local newspapers covering the period from 30th September to 14th October, 2014 informing the public of the intention to review the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan and inviting their attendance at the public consultation event.
3. In recognition of the extensive area under the remit of the Borough District of Wexford Area, it was decided to advertise the public consultation event via as many avenues and in as many formats as possible. In this regard, notices were included in Parish Newsletters during the weekend of 4th/5th October, 2014 and were read out to congregations in many parishes.
4. A radio campaign was arranged and ran from 9th October to 14th October, 2014 to inform of the public consultation event.
5. Notice of the public consultation event issued via Wexford County Council's MapAlert System to persons within the Borough District of Wexford Area.
6. Notice of the public consultation event was displayed on Wexford County Council's website and staff intranet.
7. Additional supports were made available at the public consultation event to facilitate access for all including the provision of a sign language interpreter and visual presentations.
8. Despite the extensive promotion / advertising campaign, the public consultation event at Wexford County Council's Offices, Carricklawn was poorly attended with the attendance register showing ten signatures.

1.3 Submissions and Observations

Written submissions and observations could be made in the period from 30th September to 24th October, 2014. A total of nine submissions/observations were received – four at the public consultation event on 14th October, 2014 and five via email (prior to and following the public consultation event).

The submissions/observations received covered a wide range of issues from access to community facilities, dropped kerbing and crossing points on footpaths, access to public events and spaces, disabled parking provisions and locations, access to Wexford County Council services and access to Wexford County Council public buildings.

Section 2 Disability Strategy Key Objectives

1. Size of Disabled Parking Bays

In Conjunction with the Senior Executive Engineer parking facilities in car parking locations along the Quay will be reviewed and extended where this will not have an adverse impact on traffic safety.

2. Dropped kerbs at various locations in and around Mulgannon; intersection of Bishopswater; Corish Park Summerhill and Clonard (Maps Attached)

A review of the areas identified in the submission has been carried out by the Senior Executive Engineer for the provision of upgrade works.

3. Access issues re Whitemill Industrial Estate

The preparation of an audit of the area will be carried out.

4. Difficulty in navigating turnstile at Ravens Wood with a wheelchair

Advise the National Parks and Wildlife Services of the problem and assist with alternative solutions if required.

Section 3 Conclusion

3.1 Conclusion

The Access Section would like to thank the local community for taking the time to make written submissions and observations and attend the public consultation event held on 14th October, 2014. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable information gathering exercise.

The submissions and observations received were detailed, informative and provide an enhanced understanding of the key access issues of the area. There are many reoccurring issues throughout the submissions and it can be concluded that the local community consider these to be priority issues to be addressed.

3.2 The Next Stage

The Access Section will continue with the preparation of the Draft Borough District of Wexford Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2015-2016 based on the outcome of the submissions, findings and responses of the public consultation. Once the draft plan is approved, it will be published on the Council's website on the Access for All page.

<http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/AccessForAll/>.

Copies of the report on the public consultation for the Borough District of Wexford Area will be forwarded to all those who participated in the process by submitting their items of concern.

MAPs - Wex Co Co GIS Viewer. Please note all details to be verified on site



© Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. 2014/34CCMA/WexfordCountyCouncil. Please note all details to be verified on site Sun Oct 19 2014 04:18:10 PM

Circles indicate intersections that require adequate dropped kerbs and marked/painted Pedestrian crossing points for wheelchair users.

MAPs - Wex Co Co GIS Viewer. Please note all details to be verified on site



Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. 2014/34CCMA/WexfordCountyCouncil. Please note all details to be verified on site Sun Oct 19 2014 04:14:10 PM

Caroline Horan
Access Officer
Wexford Co. Co.
County Hall
Carricklawn
Wexford

Circles indicate intersections that require adequate dropped kerbs and vertical Plateau Crossing points for wheelchair users

Section 4 Persons and Bodies who made Written Submissions and Observations and a Summary of the Main Issues Raised and Responses

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
01	Michael Hyland, Chairperson. Wexford Branch of Irish Wheelchair Association.	(i) Size of disabled parking bays. (ii) Doors on automatic toilets.	Due to the varying degrees, levels and abilities associated with disabilities, not all disabled spaces provided will suit all users. The topography of Wexford Town, such as narrow streets and hills may also present restrictions for the size and location of spaces. Wexford County Council's website details the location of our accessible parking facilities. Action: The Senior Executive Engineer will investigate the possibility of including larger accessible parking facilities in car parking locations along the Quay. APCs are standard and universally issued.
02	Barbara Murphy, Treasurer, (limited mobility) Wexford Branch of Irish Wheelchair Association.	Layout and location of disabled parking spaces.	As above.
03	Thomas Murphy, Transport Manager, Wexford Branch of Irish Wheelchair Association.	Lack of disabled accessible toilets; difficulty with doors on automatic toilets.	There are a number of accessible WC facilities throughout the County and these facilities are informed on Wexford County Council's website. A number of Wexford County Council's public facilities have been upgraded around the County within the lifetime of the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan. Those that have been upgraded since 2010, where practicable, have provided for the door opening outwards, or the internal dimension of the WC has been increased to facilitate the door opening inwards. Action: The Council will continue to review and upgrade these facilities where practicable.

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
04	Ann Cahill	<p>(i) Difficulty in accessing beaches.</p> <p>(ii) Difficulty in navigating turnstile at Raven Wood with a wheelchair.</p> <p>(iii) Lack of changing bed at Ferrybank Swimming Pool; lack of safe method of transporting a person with a disability from changing room to swimming pool.</p> <p>(iv) Access to Wexford Arts Centre.</p>	<p>Beaches by their very nature prove difficult and present many challenges to provide for full accessibility. Challenges to the coast include coastal erosion which can have serious economic and social consequences. Therefore, consideration in carrying out any works must have regard to the effects of coastal erosion. Wexford County Council has provided details of the various facilities and level of accessibility of many of the beaches around the County; these details are available on Wexford County Council’s website (see link below): http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Environment/Beaches/ There are accessible parking facilities, accessible WC facilities, accessible boardwalks and viewing points identified for many of the beaches. Action: Wexford County Council will support further efforts to make beaches as accessible as practicable.</p> <p>Ravens Wood (noted as Ravens Point Nature Reserve SAC 000710) is a recognised important amenity. However, this facility lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council: it is in the ownership of the National Parks and Wildlife Services. Action: In this instance, the Access Officer will inform the National Parks and Wildlife Services of the issue.</p> <p>Ferrybank swimming pool is a significant asset and facility for the Borough District of Wexford. Action: The Access Officer to investigate the options to retrofit facilities for this swimming pool, taking account of the current situation within the pool, the space restriction and practicability of same.</p> <p>Wexford Arts Centre – The Council acknowledges the significant importance of the Arts Centre for the Arts, Culture and Heritage. Wexford County Council will support appropriate development of the centre subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		(v) Lack of trained staff at swimming pool.	<p>the area. As a support measure, Wexford County Council has ring-fenced €65,000 for the provision of a lift and upgrade of the Accessible WC facilities to this venue. A Disability Access Certificate application has been granted for the proposed work.</p> <p>Action: To support the proposed development.</p> <p>Wexford County Council recognises the importance of disability awareness and training for all staff especially those who work in a front line capacity.</p> <p>Action: Wexford County Council will support the promotion of disability awareness training, and provide details of, and endorse participation in, the National Disability Authority e-Learning training modules in customer services to the Management of Ferrybank Swimming Pool.</p>
05	Dara Lynott	<p>(i) Creation of a 'Slí na Sláinte' route for wheelchair users.</p> <p>(ii) Access to Disability Access Certificates (DACs) on iMaps.</p> <p>(iii) Lack of wheelchair friendly entertainment venues.</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the significant contribution which the 'Slí na Sláinte' walkway facilities make to the County. However this issue lies outside the scope of the Access Office.</p> <p>Action: Wexford County Council will support and encourage any appropriate development in this area.</p> <p>Action: The inclusion of DACs on iMaps system.</p> <p>This issue somewhat lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council insofar as these premises are in private ownership. If the building is existing and not in the ownership of Wexford County Council, the Council has no remit in this regard.</p> <p>Wexford County Council enforces the relevant Building Regulations in the instances of new buildings/extensions/material changes of use. Additionally, the Council, if carrying out works to carriageways and footpaths along a thoroughfare will, when practicable, make provision</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		<p>(iv) Lack of dropped kerbs at entrances to new estates on Clonard Road; Mulgannon: Forth Mountain.</p> <p>(v) Lack of accessible venues to socialise in.</p>	<p>for level access to premises along the route e.g. Main Street, Wexford. Wexford County Council will continue to work with the ethos of 'Access for All' in mind.</p> <p>Action: Wexford County Council will support local business and appropriate further development of their respective premises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>This issue highlights two potential referral points; firstly, that the newer developments (developer) are not meeting the Planning conditions and, secondly, that the current Taking in Charge Policy may require input to ensure a more robust system to pick up on these issues.</p> <p>Action: To support a referral and assessment of this issue in conjunction with the Planning and Building Control Sections of Wexford County Council. Any review of Wexford County Council's Taking in Charge Policy will be cognisant of this issue to support accessible developments.</p> <p>This issue somewhat lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council insofar as these premises are in private ownership. If the building is existing and not in the ownership of Wexford County Council, the Council has no remit in this regard. Wexford County Council enforces the relevant Building Regulations in the instances of new buildings/extensions/material changes of use.</p> <p>Wexford County Council will support local business and appropriate further development of their respective premises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council, if carrying out works to carriageways and footpaths along a thoroughfare will, when practicable, make provision for level access to premises along the route e.g. Main Street, Wexford. Wexford County Council will continue to work with the ethos of 'Access for All' in mind.</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		<p>(vi) Access issues when granting outdoor event licences.</p> <p>(vii) Development of app identifying location of disabled toilets.</p> <p>(viii) Locations identified with access issues such as dropped kerbs.</p>	<p>Wexford County Council acknowledges that this is an area whereby further regard to accessibility is required. In 2014, the Council put in place a procedure to disability proof applications for event licences. Action: It is expected that input into this process will further inform best practice in this area to support information and inspection where appropriate.</p> <p>Wexford County Council acknowledges the advantages of such an initiative. Wexford County Council's iMaps provides details of accessible WCs, parking facilities and accessible heritage sites: http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/AccessForAll/AccessibleServices/</p> <p>Action: A review of the areas identified in the submission is currently being carried out with details of proposed upgrades to be presented for consideration.</p>
06	Keith Collie, Glenbrook Residents.	Glenbrook Estate – parking on roadway and footpath.	<p>This is a private estate not in the ownership of Wexford County Council; therefore, the Council is restricted in carrying out any works within the boundaries of the estate.</p> <p>The issue as outlined is not an access issue: it only becomes an access issue for the residents of this private estate when cars/vans are parked illegally on the footpath.</p> <p>Therefore, the issue relates to illegal parking and vehicles causing a road hazard and general obstruction.</p> <p>Action: Wexford County Council, in an effort to assist, can advise on the design and style of appropriate signage/bollards and any other measures which the residents decide to act on to improve the situation of illegal parking at the entrance to their estate.</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
07	Annie Murphy Community Resource Officer, DeafHear.ie.	Enquired re possibility of Wexford County Council providing subtitles, and sign language, on the YouTube videos "Access for All" available on the Council's Access webpage.	Action: The Access Officer will investigate the process, resources and cost involved in upgrading the existing videos (YouTubeLinks) to include sign language as proposed.
08	Avril Boland, Environmental Health Officer, HSE South.	Access issues re Whitemill Industrial Estate, particularly lack of dished kerbs.	This issue highlights two potential referral points; firstly, that the newer developments (developer) are not meeting the Planning Conditions and, secondly, under the Roads Act, Section 1. 80, the issue may be considered. Action 1: To support a referral and assessment of this issue in conjunction with the Planning and Road Sections of Wexford County Council. Any review of Wexford County Council's policies or procedures will be cognisant of this issue to support accessible developments. Action 2: A review of the areas identified in the submission in the form of a Access Audit of the Area will be carried out.
09	Anne Crowe- Fortune, Community Resource Officer, DeafHear.ie.	(i) Lack of loop systems e.g. the Opera House has none; signed performances/speed texts. (ii) Awareness road signs.	The Opera House is outside the remit of Wexford County Council; therefore, the Council is restricted regarding the rectification of this item. Action: The Access Officer will inform the Board of the Opera House of this issue. Point Noted.