



Hebden Bridge Disability Access Forum

HBDAF Annual Review September 2022

As we did not have an AGM in 2021 due to COVID pressures, this review covers the past 2 years. It includes many, but not all, of our activities during that time.

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Current membership

- currently 29 members, 13 associates, 20 members-only google group members. Several members have left and several joined since last AGM in 2020.

Regular activities

- local disability related and service information is regularly circulated to the membership and associates
- extra information is circulated via google group
- HBDAF meets on the third Monday of each month currently by zoom video link, and we are looking at re-starting physical meetings
- additional informal chat meetings, no agenda or minutes, first Monday of each month by zoom video link. Peer support and general chat, plus another chance to raise access issues in a different format to our formal meetings. Helps us to be inclusive as some members prefer the chat meetings.
- all meetings continued throughout the Covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021
- GP Patient Participation Group - our co-ordinator Vicki relayed information from the practice back to HBDAF, and fed in HBDAF concerns and questions
- Attended and contributed to Calderdale Covid Disability Advisory Group throughout the pandemic
- With support from Healthy Minds, in 2021 we started occasional HBDAF "Focus on Mental Health" meetings to increase inclusion

Consultations by many and varied HBDAF members. By a mixture of Zoom or video meetings, in person meetings, hybrid meetings, site visits, phone and email

- Calder Valley Community Land Trust, consultation on their plans for High Street, Hebden Bridge. We achieved improvements to their plans, by increasing the number of accessible homes - see their website

- High Hirst woodmeadow - consulted on access to the site and on improving the existing Calderdale Council footpath, works are now in planning stage
- Hebden Bridge Town Hall improvement plans, we achieved significant improvements to accessibility in the plans and future usage proposals
- Trades Club - changing places toilet and general access. Their lift and accessible toilet are now in use
- Environment Agency Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme, several consultations have achieved improved accessibility
- Canal towpath access improvements achieved during numerous consultations
- Advised together Housing on access improvements to Heptonstall housing complex, including new gate and handrails which are now fitted
- Advised Hebden Royd Town Council on Mobiloos, now used for events
- Advised HRTC on cycle parking spaces in Hebden town centre
- Brief advice to Covid Recovery Group and to Age Friendly Working Group
- advised Hebden Bridge Picture House on improving access even further
- advised on some access issues to Mytholmroyd festival June 2022

Calderdale Council Local Plan

We have continued to submit our views and recommendations on Accessible Housing policy, and we spoke at the Planning Inspector's public hearing in 2020.

Highways issues

- Achieved a commitment from Calderdale Council to ban A boards in Hebden Bridge Town Centre, due to start soon
- At our request, works were done to permanently open Walshaw Pennine Way access to people with impaired mobility Autumn 2021
- New Road pedestrian crossing limited repairs achieved Summer 2022

Access maps and guides

- published an updated Hebden Bridge Step-Free access map and guide in summer 2020
- currently updating Hebden Bridge map and guide, to publish in October 2022
- currently re-distributing portable ramps to Hebden Bridge town centre premises to increase access
- currently working on a new Mytholmroyd access map & guide

Networking with other local disability groups and services

- established improved networks with other local disability groups, particularly when working on the Local Plan and A boards ban
- In 2020 we initiated the Covid Disability Advisory group, DAG, with other local disability groups and service providers. Through DAG we accelerated Covid vaccination rollout to vulnerable groups and helped with Covid information and support throughout Calderdale
- through the DAG we initiated the new Direct Payments User Group
- currently working to establish DAG continuation post-Covid