



Wicklow County Council
 CIONNAILE CHONTAE CHILL KHANTAIN

Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Ashford**

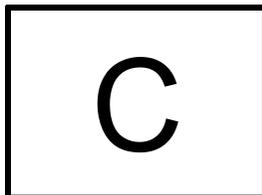
Audited: **13 March 2008**

Details: **Co. Wicklow**

Accessibility Grade

- A - Wholly Compliant
- B- Satisfactory, minor works needed
- C - Poor. Major alterations required
- D - Significant issues which severely restrict access and service operations. Major capital works required

Allocated Grading



Estimate of Totals	No of Alterations	Estimated Costs
Priority 1	3	€6,500
Priority 2	4	€13,740
Priority 3	4	€8,500
Priority 4	2	€5,000
All Costs	15	€34,240

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

Summary Statement

Ashford Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of average accessibility. Most paths were wide and of good surfacing. However there are areas where passage would be difficult either from discontinuities in paving or bad surfacing. At the lower end of the main street, heading towards the garden centre, there is a controlled crossing zone but no controlled crossings exists higher up the main street passed the roundabout. As the traffic flow is at times heavy with a mixture of vehicles, a consultation with road engineers should look to ascertain the need and value of a controlled crossing at or near the roundabout area. Currently the surrounding areas of the roundabout have pedestrian islands but these are poorly designed with no dropped kerbs, tactile warning, safety barriers etc. At the top end of the main street is public amenities of a church and school area, the access into this area is without pedestrianisation and is a considerable risk for all persons. Provision should also be considered for disabled access parking bays in this area at the lower end of the town centre.

As with most of the towns audited, considerable parking problems exist with an inherent attitude to off road parking at the expense of pedestrians. This is particularly problematic and of safety concern for vulnerable groups including disabled persons or children. A consultation with road safety engineers should be implemented considering measures such as alternative parking, out of town parking, bollards and restricted parking road markings, public education.

Regarding public transport, it is recommended that discussions with representatives of Bus Eirann should take place to provide supportive facilities such as wheelchair access. Most existing bus stops do not provide any shelter from the elements. It would be of good practice including general benefit for all the public to consider strategic placement of shelters. The access paths to the bus stop is restrictive in its width.

Along the main streets, there is generally a lack of suitable seating areas. Those seats that are currently in place are without arm rests. A review of providing seats at regular intervals along main thoroughfares should take place. Following guidelines from section 5.3.7 of NDA "Building for Everyone".

The main access audit was carried out by John Lowe and is based on the conditions encountered during an inspection on March 2008.