



Wicklow County Council
 COIR-HAILE CHONTAE CHILL KHANTAIN

Access Audit Summary Sheet

CAPITA SYMONDS

Subject: **Newton Mount Kennedy**

Audited: **12 March 2008**

Details: **Co. Wicklow**

Accessibility Grade

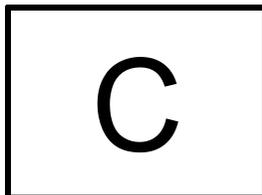
A - Wholly Compliant

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	€12,500
Priority 2	6	€15,900
Priority 3	10	€25,160
Priority 4	4	€5,780
All Costs	24	€69,340

Auditor:	J Lowe
Signed:	
Date:	

Summary Statement

Newton Mount Kennedy Town Centre, Co. Wicklow

The area audited was found to be generally of average accessibility with good wide pavements. Part of the main street has been upgraded with new paths however all uncontrolled side crossings could be improved by better placement of tactile paving, kerbing etc. No crossings are in place from one side to the other on Main Street or the Road to Seasons Park especially at amenity areas such as the church and car park area. At the top of Church Hill, there is a school and community hall. Pedestrians share road access with vehicles. As no path or demarcation exists, traversing is difficult and hazardous. Out of town areas are served with several bus stop areas some of which are opposite the provided path with no crossing zone and paved hardstanding waiting area. Some paths suffer from mud and foliage and make traversing difficult.

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. This was noticeable along Main street, with persons even parking at a specifically created road crossing.

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.

Along the main streets, there is generally a lack of suitable seating areas. The seat that is currently in place is 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".

A common, historical building practice is for rain downpipes to filter water across paving areas. This creates a potential slip hazard particularly in combination with foliage or icing at times of extreme cold. A design element of including a "below surface channel" should be employed with any future pavement works. This has been employed in some instances and is a cheap design incorporation but should become common practice.

A common, historical building practice especially in smaller towns with cottage dwellings is for access in and out of the house via steps. These steps protrude out onto the public footpath and are a trip hazard especially as they are of very low visual contrast. Secondly the steps conflicts with the access provided along the footpath by taking away the available width making it extremely difficult for persons to traverse pass.

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