

THE WYCHWOOD SCHOOL

Last term the older children spent some time working with the DIALABILITY team. DIALABILITY is Oxfordshire's Independent Living Centre and gives out information on services and equipment for disabled people. In fact they brought out their mobile information unit and the whole school had the opportunity to look, listen and try out some of the special equipment.

The older children worked with volunteers from DIALABILITY over a six week period and found out a considerable amount about living with a disability. One of their projects was to discover what life in a wheelchair might mean if they were trying to shop locally and the following accounts are their own views. We are very grateful to Niz Smith and her team - we all learnt a considerable amount but as you can read in the children's accounts, there's still a lot more to be done!

Should you want any information, the DIALABILITY helpline phone number is 01865 791818.

GEOFF PADMORE

The Children's Accounts

I am not very happy about wheelchair access in Shipton-Under-Wychwood, most of all about the drop curbs. One of them is miles too high, which means a long drop which is not very good. There was one covered with grass which is very difficult for people in wheelchairs. On nearly every drop curb you have to go on the road. There are some steps which disabled people can't get up which means you have to go up a steep hill. Please can you help?

Nick Hext



Hi, I am writing to say about the access people with disabilities have getting around Milton. Here are a few of the things that I thought needed looking into. Steep slopes, over hanging bushes, holes in the pavement, paths are narrow, drains, dog mess, and steps. It's hard to post letters because the letter box is too high and high counters. Please show some thought and consideration for people in wheelchairs. Life in a wheelchair must be very hard and frustrating at the best of times, let alone these added problems

Katrina Aldons

Hi, I am Camilla Schofield and I am going round Shipton-under-Wychwood to see how hard it is for disabled people to get around. There are lots of hazards, for instance:- holes in the pavement, high shelves etc. and there are not enough slopes in pavements for people in wheelchairs and if you're on your own it is virtually impossible to get up on to the pavement. We've had a talk to Jeanette and Stephen. Jeanette is in a wheelchair and she finds it very hard to get around. She thinks it isn't good enough how there aren't enough things for disabled people. Drains are also a big problem because you could get your wheels stuck. I think a lot more could be done for disabled people

Camilla Schofield

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that people in wheelchairs have a problem getting round the village, because the curbs are too high for wheelchairs to go up or down if you are by yourself. Shops should have ramps so they can actually go in to them and there was a lot of dog muck and I think that owners of the dogs should pick it up or put it in a poop scoop. I know because me and some friends plus a lady called Jeanette (who is in a wheelchair) went round the village. I hope you will consider my points.

Yours Sincerely, Grace Du Prez

Access For The Disabled People in Shipton-u-Wychwood

I am concerned about disabled peoples access. Take people in wheelchairs for instance. How will they get down curbs if there are no curb drops and it is virtually impossible to get up on the path alone? Also for people in wheelchairs it must be quite difficult to get in and out of shops with no ramps. Some shops are quite impossible for people in wheelchairs. Then the counter is too high for any one in a wheelchair to reach. Now finally about post boxes, for some disabled people post boxes may be too high. So I think I have made my point. Shipton is no place for disabled people to be but I think it should be a better place for every one. I went on a walk round Shipton with Jeannette and Stephen. Jeannette is in a wheelchair because she has Multiple Sclerosis. Jeannette and Stephen are from the Dialability Unit which helps disabled people live an easier life and gain access to places that they want to go. Disabled people want to do things themselves and not have people doing things for them.

Kerris-Jane Harrison

p.t.o.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to tell you how hard it is for disabled people in Shipton. For starters when you go out of the school there is a very dangerous slope. People who are on their own would go straight into the road and possibly get run over. Secondly there's the curb drop. It would be so much easier if there was a ramp. Then there's the dog muck on the pavement, the wheels would go through it and whoever is in a wheelchair would get it all over their hands and the stinging nettles - people would get terrible stings and that's not only for people in wheelchairs but also old people who haven't the sight they used to have. There's also the steps up to the shop, it would be impossible to get up them. With all the cars there's always one in the way so you have to go right round them all and again, there's the slope you could easily get run over. Now, the last thing of all is the height of letter boxes, you'd never even be able to post a letter. You see people like to be able to do things on their own.

We have done a survey with a group called Dialability which is a group which helps people to help themselves. We took a wheelchair round with us and found it very hard even at times somebody would have to push the person in the wheelchair, so think how hard it would be for people who are really disabled who are on their own. We would be very grateful if you could help solve our problem.

Yours sincerely, Zoe Corbett, Wychwood School

