



Accessibility Guide for The Forest Community Shed

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We can all remove barriers, so that the world becomes more inclusive of disabled people.

Welcome

We are a voluntary community group providing a social environment for well being through shared creativity.

Our shed provides a safe, supportive and friendly setting where you can socialise, learn new skills and hone existing skills by working alongside each other on our own projects, community projects and projects that raise funds for the Shed.

We have made reasonable adjustment to the premises to improve accessibility of the services for people with disabilities.

We provide the following:

- communication by email as well as by phone
- disability awareness training to leaders
- large, well-defined signage for people with impaired vision
- a complimentary membership to a support/carer for an individual
- no steps at the entrance to the building
- high levels of internal lighting

We recognise that impairments include:

- physical, eg mobility impairments
- mental, eg learning disabilities and some mental illnesses if severe and long term
- sensory, eg hearing impairments or visual impairments

Disability results from the interaction of an individual's characteristics and the wider physical and social environment. We have thought about the additional range of impairments that our members may have, this has given us a better understanding of potential barriers to access and enable us to take steps to remove these barriers.

These include:

- mobility impairments eg stick users or wheelchair users
- visual impairments
- hearing impairments
- arthritis and limited dexterity
- mental health
- learning difficulties.

At a Glance

Facility

Located on the ground floor, there is direct access from the car park via a tarmac path.

The facility consists of an activity space, separate social space, outside space and toilets.



Level Access

- The main entrance has level access and there are no steps to the:
 - social space
 - activity areas
 - toilets and accessible toilets.

Hearing

- The fire alarm is very loud and linked in the 2 rooms used.

General

- We have a complimentary membership policy for personal assistants.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

Getting here

Forest Community Shed

Orchard Trust, Upper Stowfield, Lower Lydbrook, Glos GL17 9PD



Travel by public transport

- Bus services run to the bottom of the road.



Parking

- We have a free car park, which is approximately 100 metres from the main entrance
- There are accessible parking spaces at approximately 20 metres
- There is a drop off point in the accessible parking
- We encourage car sharing.

Arrival



Path to main entrance

- The route is 1000mm wide, or more.



Main entrance

- The access is flat
- The door is more than 1000mm wide
- The main double door is side hung and manual

Getting around inside

Visual Impairment - General Information

- Doors are clearly identifiable from their surroundings
- We have used colour and contrast to maximum effect and therefore enhance spatial awareness and navigation, aiding in the identification of key building features and contributing to safety
- User switches and sockets contrast with the walls



Hearing

- We attempt to keep noise levels down, but activities can include machinery
- When buying machines, the noise levels are taken into account.



Information

- From the main entrance to the information point there is permanent flat access. The route is 1000mm wide, or more



- The door is 900mm wide, or more.

Things to See and Do

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants
- We operate in a relaxed environment
- We have a designated quiet space.

Social/clean space

- From the main entrance to this area there are no steps. The route is 1000mm wide, or more. The door is 900mm wide
- Display information is available for wheelchair users.
- We can provide large format print literature of all documentation (available on request).
- There are seats
- Refreshments are available on a self-service basis.

Wc Toilet

- There are no steps to the accessible toilet
- The route is 1000mm wide, or more
- The toilet door is 900mm wide
- There is 1000mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 500mm high. There are grab rails
- There are additional toilets for other users close to the facility.

Customer care support

Emergency evacuation procedures

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors
- Trained first aiders are available if you require any assistance.

Customer care support

- Some staff have disability awareness training.

Site constraints

We recognise that as a temporary wooden building there may be some environmental factors that constrain best practice.

Management plan

Includes policies and approaches to ensure we maintain the Shed's inclusivity in the longer term, for example in maintenance programmes and management plans.

- Audit to take place every 3 years
- After each audit, develop an implementation plan for addressing each issue that the report identifies.