



Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing
19 April 2018

Are urban designers equipped to design for older people?

Joan Rutherford MRTPI (Rtd.)

Age friendly Manchester Design Group

Outline

- Age friendly Manchester Design Group
- Creating an Inclusive Environment
- Images of inclusive (and not-so-inclusive) urban design
- Key conclusions & sources of guidance



Manchester was the first city in the UK to be declared an Age friendly city by the World Health Organisation.



Age-friendly Manchester Design Group...



- Established in 2012 following the launch of the Age-friendly Manchester programme
- We have a varied membership and work with a wide range of partners

Age-friendly Manchester Design Group



Our vision:

To improve the quality of life for older people in Manchester by making the design of the city more Age-friendly.

Video interviews with older people confirmed that among things that contribute to their sense of well-being are...

- being with friends and family... and pets
- preparing and enjoying food
- gardening & green spaces
- moderate exercise
- feeling safe
- being independent
- helping people

All of these can help counteract feelings of loneliness and isolation... major problems for some older people

People's Voice Media and the Older Adults Who Are Well programme are looking for older people who want to share their stories about wellbeing...

Between January and March 2017, we will be working with a group of people to support them to plan, film and share their own and other people's stories of wellbeing. The group will use these stories to create a short film about what wellbeing means for older people in Manchester.

As part of the project, people will become Silver Community Reporters and join a storytelling movement that gives its members a platform to share their stories, opportunities to develop skills and a chance to be a part of growing network of Community Reporters that spans the UK and Europe. This is your chance to have your say on the things that matter to you, to brush-up on your digital skills, to meet new people, and to get creative!

Want to find out more?

We're running a Briefing Event for people who are interested in being involved in the project... either as a Community Reporter or to share their story about what keeps them happy and well. If you want to find out more, then join us on:

Thursday 15th December
10:30am - 12:30pm
Room 6005 Ardwick, Manchester Town Hall Extension, Level 6, Manchester City Council.

The Briefing Event will be your chance to ask questions about the project and shape how it is designed and delivered.

For more information and to register your interest in attending contact Patrick:
Email: p.hanfling@manchester.gov.uk
Call: 0161 234 4188


www.communityreporter.net



In 2015 we commented on the draft Strategic Plan for Manchester City Centre

- We said that prioritising housing in the city centre 'for students and young professionals' **would not result in a sustainable community**; and suggested that
- the city should try to **accommodate older people** in the city centre both for economic and for community sustainability reasons

In 2017 our comments were endorsed by MICRA

- Developing a plan to resolve concerns about limited housing options...is an urgent priority for GM to address.
- Developers and volume builders are unlikely to take the lead in this area, continuing to focus on homes for first-time buyers, families and single professionals (as in central Manchester):
an approach which if left on its own will almost certainly intensify age-segregation within GM, a tendency which would go against the benefits associated with mixed-age communities.

Developing a strategy for Age-friendly Greater Manchester
MICRA, February 2017



In 2017 we commented on the draft GM Spatial Strategy

- we welcomed the reference in the Strategy to the need for 'age-friendly design', but said that we were not sure what this meant, as we were not aware of any generally accepted standards for Age Friendly design
- we suggested that the term '**inclusive design**' would be more appropriate as there **are** extensive inclusive design standards.



We are supporting a Salford University **THINKlab** project that



- will create an immersive experience to help identify good design, workable solutions and good practice
- will focus on design solutions for older people and those living with dementia
- is aimed at helping architects, planners and other urban designers to embed good design principles at an early stage, and throughout the design process

We helped Care and Repair England to develop
Street Design for Age Friendly Neighbourhoods

...and produced a template to help older residents in
Whalley Range carry out a **Street Audit** of their
neighbourhood



With Southway Housing Trust we organised a Mobility Scooter event.

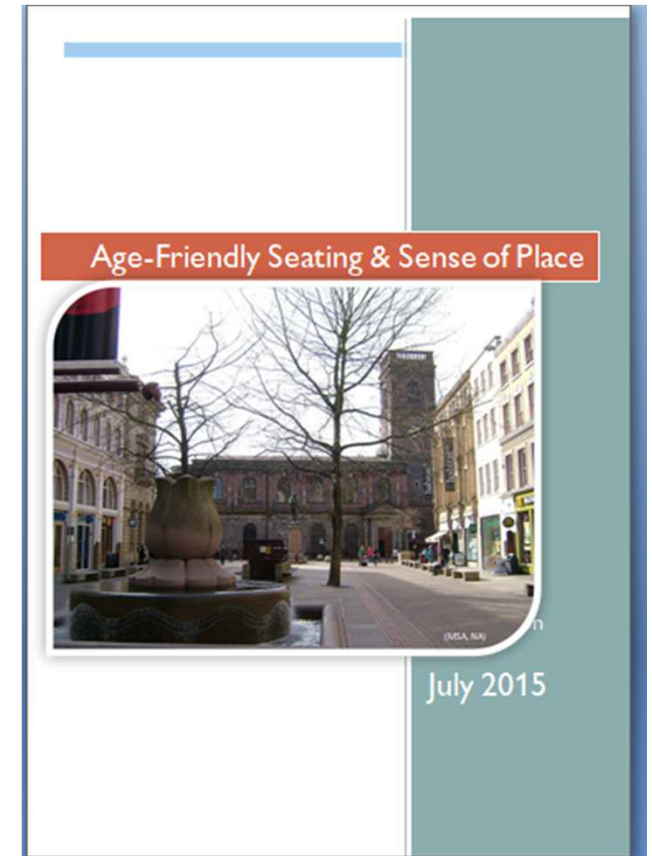
- people could try out different types of scooter
- an obstacle course was laid out for them to negotiate
- the police gave advice on road safety



We supported a PhD student doing research into Age-Friendly Seating and Sense of Place

which found (among other things) that seating should be...


- provided at regular intervals in pedestrian areas;
- located in safe, clearly visible and well-lit areas; and
- at different heights to accommodate various needs



We contributed to Ageing Well: A Housing Manifesto

- house condition audits should be re-introduced to tackle disrepair and prevent the decline of **existing** housing stock;
- all new homes should be **built to accessible standards** and be suitable for further adaptation;
- older people – experts through experience – need to be **engaged and involved** in developing and delivering


Care and Repair England, 2017



Ageing Well: A Housing Manifesto

This Manifesto has been produced by the Older People's Housing Champions, a national network of older activists who support action by older people's groups to improve housing and related services for an ageing population across England.

web: housingactionblog.wordpress.com
email: housingchampionsnetwork@gmail.com



Older People's Housing
Champions

- Plans should be developed for **retrofitting** the current housing stock that take holistic approach to maximising health and well being.

All Party Parliamentary Group for healthy homes and buildings, 2017

- Build **all** new homes to accessible and adaptable standards so that they are 'age proofed' and can meet the current and future needs of older people.

Report of the Select Committee Inquiry into Older People's Housing, February 2018

The Age Friendly Manchester Design Group has given talks on inclusive design to, among others:

- Manchester Design Conference 2016
- Urban Design Group AGM 2017
- BBC DiverCity Conference 2017
- Royal Town Planning Institute NW Branch 2018

Features of Ageing that might impact on health and well-being:

- Increasing health issues such as physical, mobility, hearing and vision changes
- Memory and/or cognitive issues
- Multiple health conditions
- Safety concerns
- Isolation, loneliness

Like all population cohorts, older people are not an **homogenous** group...

Inequalities in living conditions and lifestyle - as well as genetics and opportunities
- can have a significant impact on health and life expectancy.

Life on the line? Differences in life expectancy across Greater Manchester



● Female life expectancy at birth (years) ● Male life expectancy at birth (years) ● IMD Decile (1 most deprived; 10 least deprived)

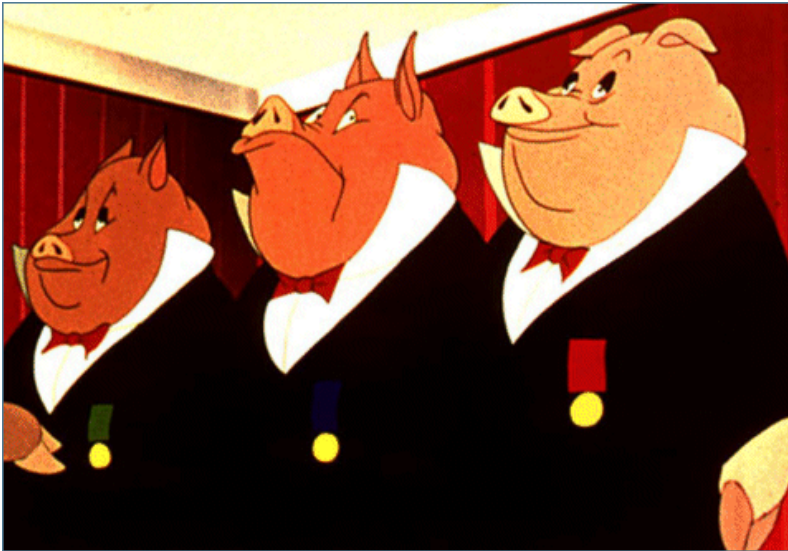


Tram Network: The Metrolink tram network across Greater Manchester includes nearly 100 kilometres of track and 93 stops. In 2015 there were around 33.4 million journeys (Metrolink 2015). The average journey time between tram stops is 2 minutes, but some stops are further apart.

Data Sources: Office for National Statistics experimental ward level life expectancy and health living life expectancy estimates (ONS 2006) linked to selected Greater Manchester Metrolink tram stops. The selection highlights some of the biggest differences between tram stops. We also include information on socio-economic deprivation at ward level from the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The life expectancy data is based on mortality among those living in each particular ward in 1999-2003. The estimates are not the exact number of years a baby born in the ward could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future, as is health care provision and because many of those people born in the ward will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

We're all equal...
... but some are more equal than others



Some key urban design issues for older people

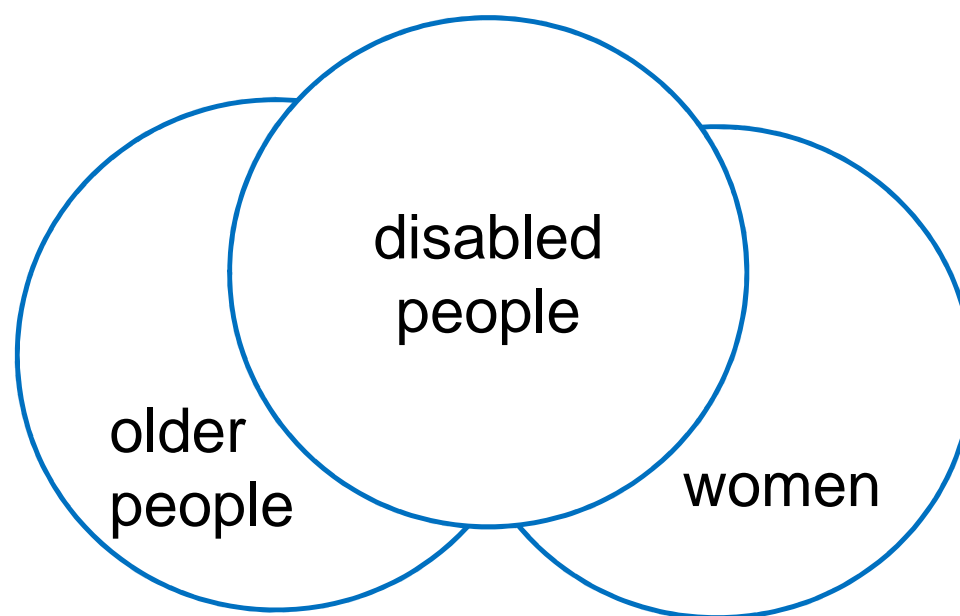
- **Routes:** accessible, obstacle-free, even surfaces, well-lit, safe crossings, appropriate dropped kerbs;
- **Transport:** accessible vehicles, bus & tram stops, interchanges, parking and drop off points;
- **Comfort:** accessible seating, public toilets, green spaces;
- **Communication:** clear signage, way-finding and information;
- **Venues (retail, services, health & leisure):** accessible, well-lit, served by public transport

older
people

disabled
people

women

Inclusive Design



Essential Principles



**for Built Environment
Professionals**

Essential Principles for achieving an inclusive environment (CIC, 2016)

Following the success of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics - the 'most inclusive ever' - the Government initiated the Built Environment Professional Education (BEPE) Project. BEPE was first promoted by CABE.

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has taken over from CABE to ensure that the principles of inclusive design are fully integrated into construction industry practice



The Essential Principles have been endorsed by the major built environment institutions who are promoting their use amongst their members

- Landscape Institute
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Local Authority Building Control (LABC)
- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
- Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation

Essential Principles for achieving an inclusive environment (CIC, 2016)

An inclusive environment:

- recognises that we *all* benefit from improved accessibility... including disabled people, older people, families with children... and those of us who don't consider ourselves to be disabled
- is the responsibility of *everyone* who works in the built environment

Essential Principles for achieving an inclusive environment (CIC, 2016)

1. Contribute to building an inclusive society now and in the future
2. Apply professional and responsible judgement and take a leadership role
3. Apply and integrate the principles of inclusive design from the outset of a project
4. Do more than just comply with legislation and codes
5. Seek multiple views to solve accessibility and inclusivity challenges
6. Acquire the skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence to make inclusion the norm not the exception

[illegible]

Actions / Professional Body	Review competencies including vocational courses, to ensure inclusive environments are properly supported	Collaborate on industry wide and sectorial Continuing Professional Development	Reward excellence and celebrate success	Champion inclusive design through leadership and promote awareness	Collaborate on research, innovation and co-educational improvement across industry	Communicate best practice to members and encourage knowledge sharing between professional institutions via Inclusive Environments Hub
Building Control Alliance (BCA)	●	●	●	●	●	●
British Institute of Facilities Management	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cabe at Design Council	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Construction Industry Council	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)	●	●	●	●	●	●
English Heritage	●	●	●	●	●	●
Landscape Institute	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Planning Officers Society (POS)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)	●	●	●	●	●	●
The Access Association	●	●	●	●	●	●

ⁱⁱ The Access Association is not a competency based organisation, however are happy to assist other bodies in reviewing relevant competencies.



- The Construction Industry Council has organised four 'briefings' on Inclusive Design. However, these are all in the morning and in London.
- So you would need to cover travel & accommodation costs as well as the fee.
- I hope we can persuade the CIC to deliver these briefings in the North West.





‘Windows a pain for Apple staff in new headquarters.’

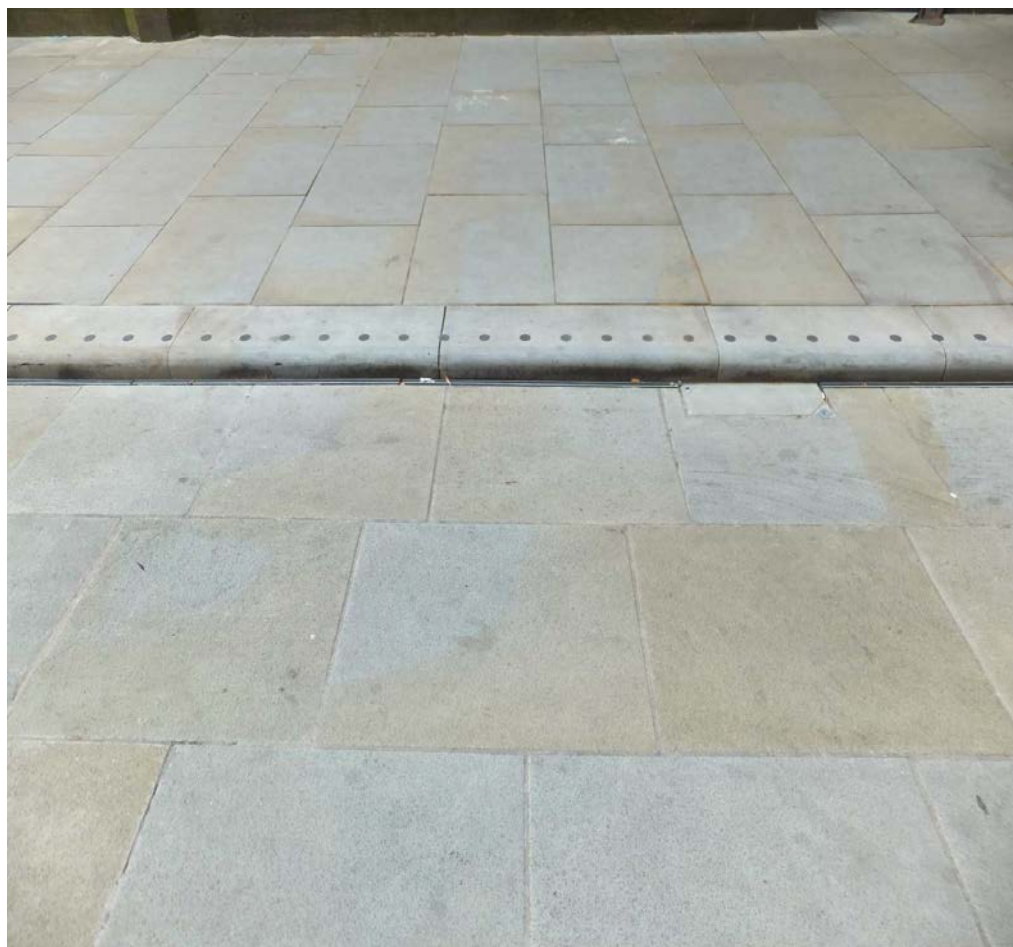
At least 3 employees at Apple’s new £3.6 bn HQ in California walked or ran into the glass doors while on their iPhones, hard enough to require emergency treatment.

Workers resorted to sticking yellow notes on the doors to help.

Guardian 6 March 2018

A tourist fell to his death while ‘absorbed’ by his phone at a sacred Buddhist mountain in China’.

Metro 15 March 2018



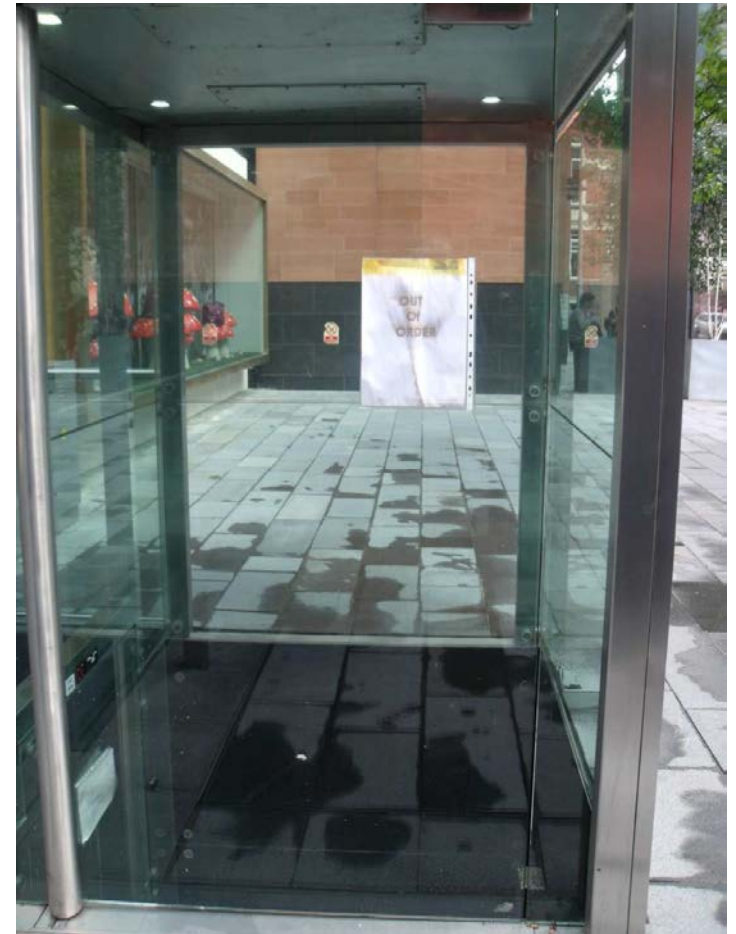


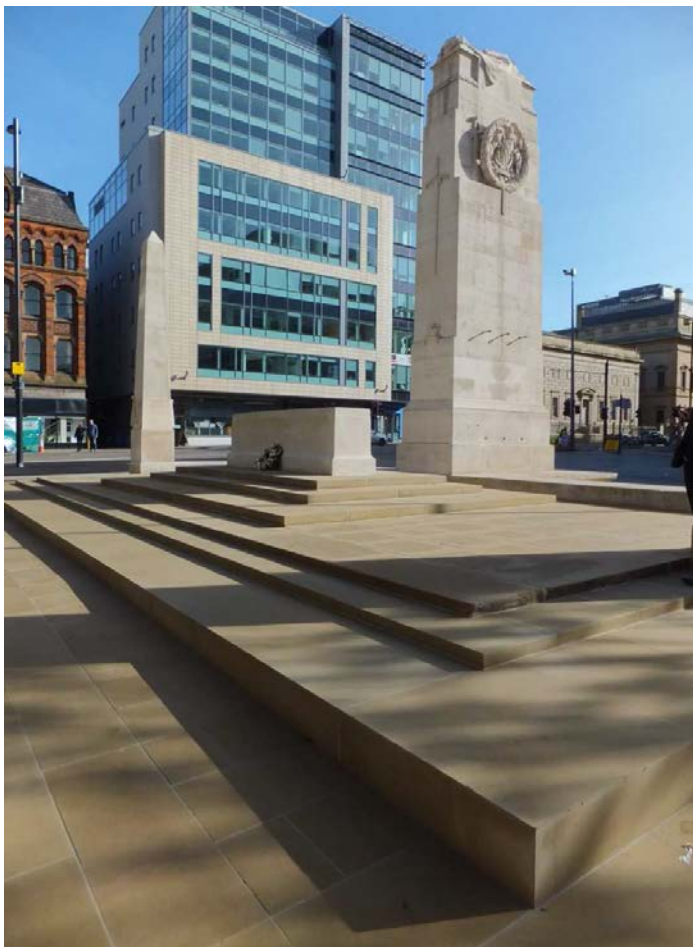






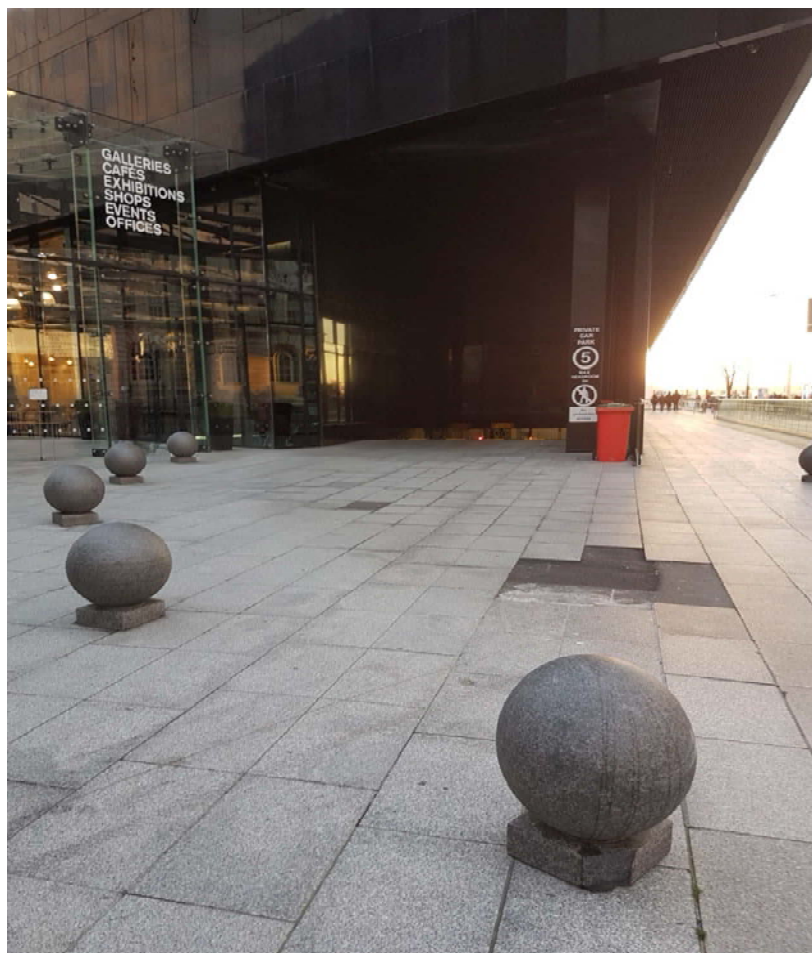




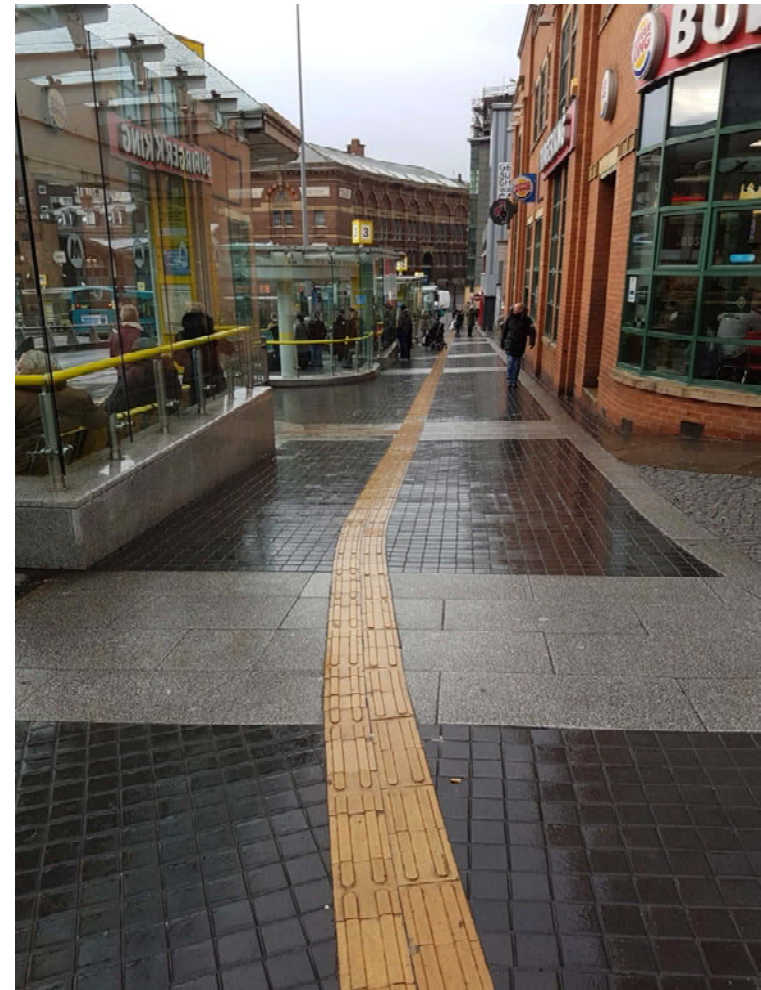


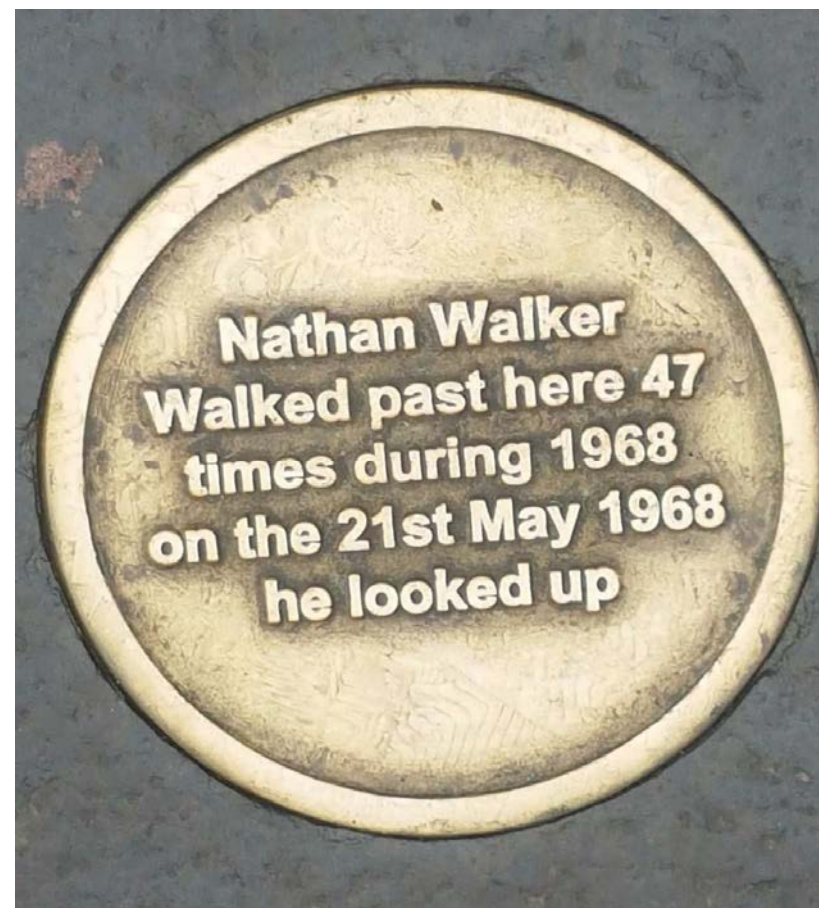




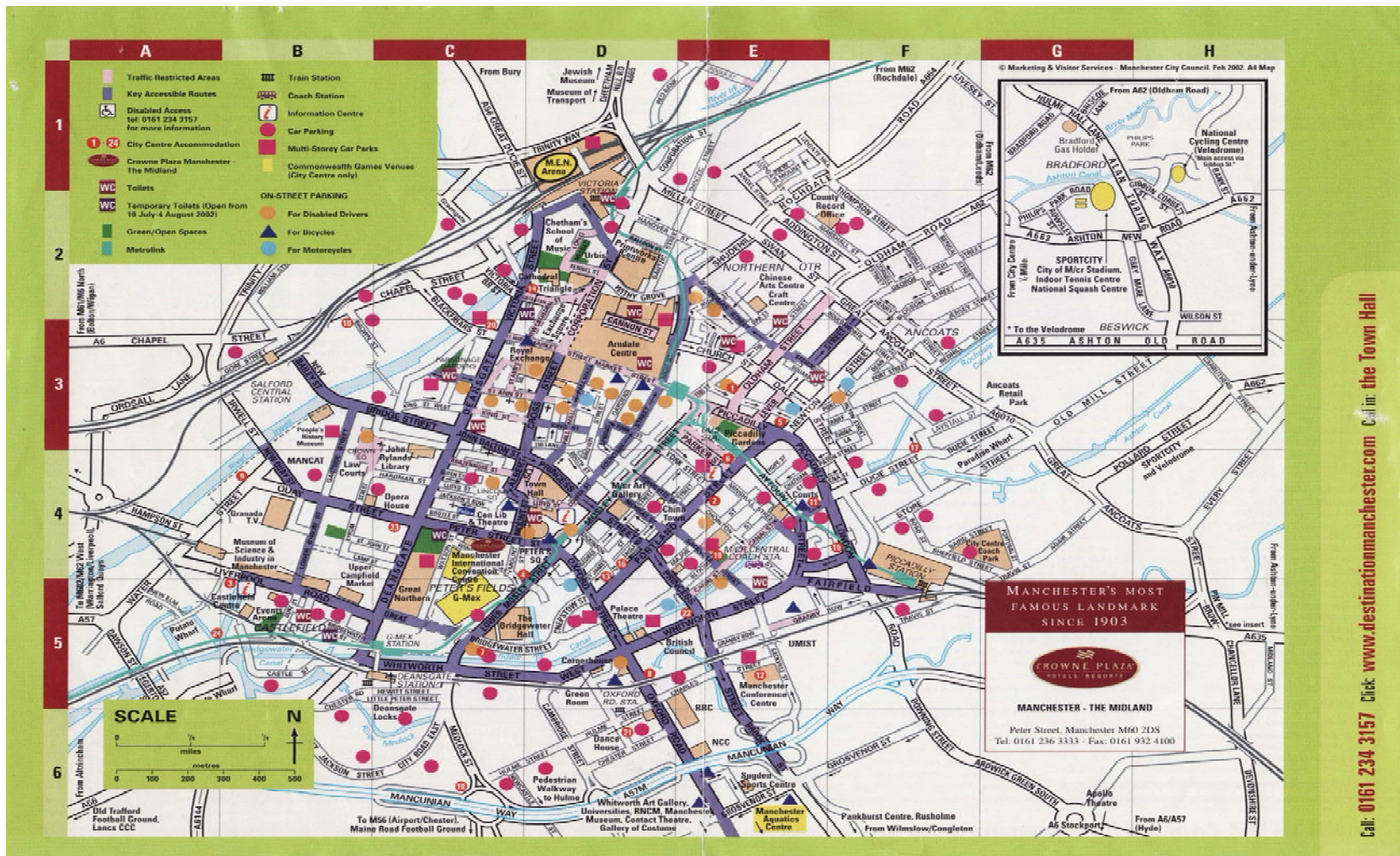








Key Routes in Manchester, Commonwealth Games, 2002



Shared space

'is an urban design approach that is intended to minimise the segregation of pedestrians and vehicles by **removing** features such as kerbs, road surface markings, traffic signs and traffic lights.'

Wikipedia



The problem is that shared space can **disadvantage** a number of different groups including...

- Visually impaired and blind people
- Mobility impaired people
- People with cognitive impairments
- Children learning about road safety...



Lack of an obvious kerb can also cause problems particularly for **drivers** who are unfamiliar with the area and in poor weather such as rain, fog, snow, low sun...

Lord Holmes described shared space as
“a recipe for confusion, chaos and catastrophe”.



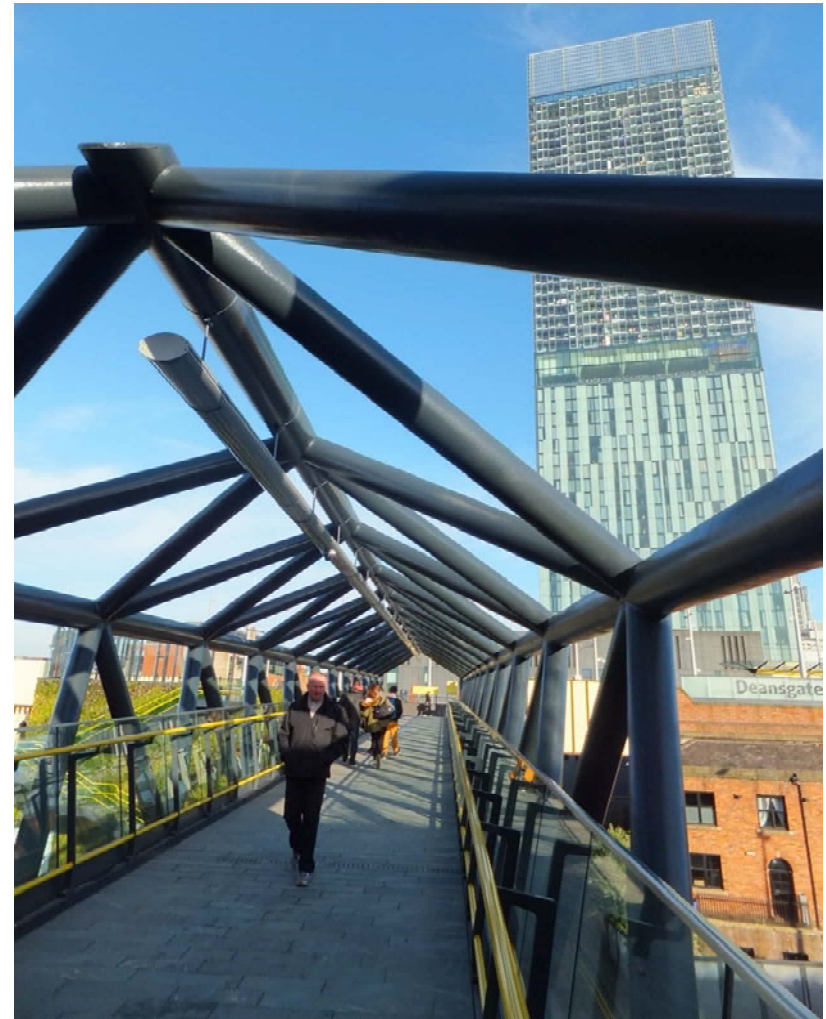
Many of us felt that what was needed was more sophisticated approach to designing shared spaces that made them inclusive...

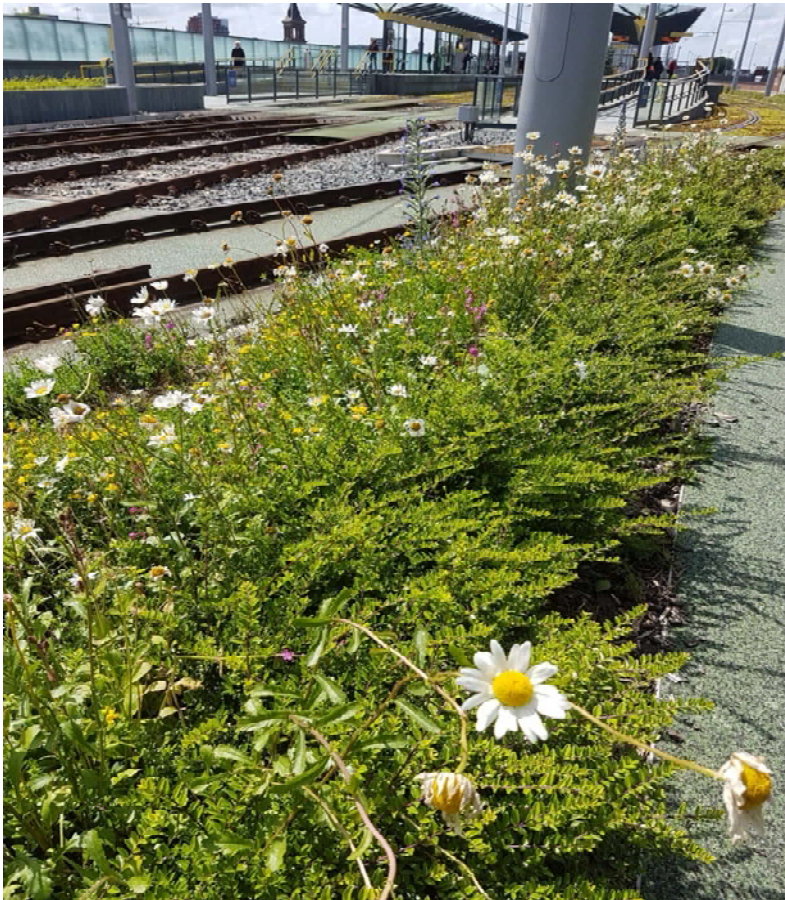
Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation report: 'Creating better streets: Inclusive and accessible places'

- the need for greater awareness to create streets that are inclusive and accessible;
- the need to replace the use of shared space as a concept with different design approaches;
- the need for detailed research into the needs of all users and around specific design features;
- a review of existing guidance and the development of new guidance to assist local authorities in producing better street design.

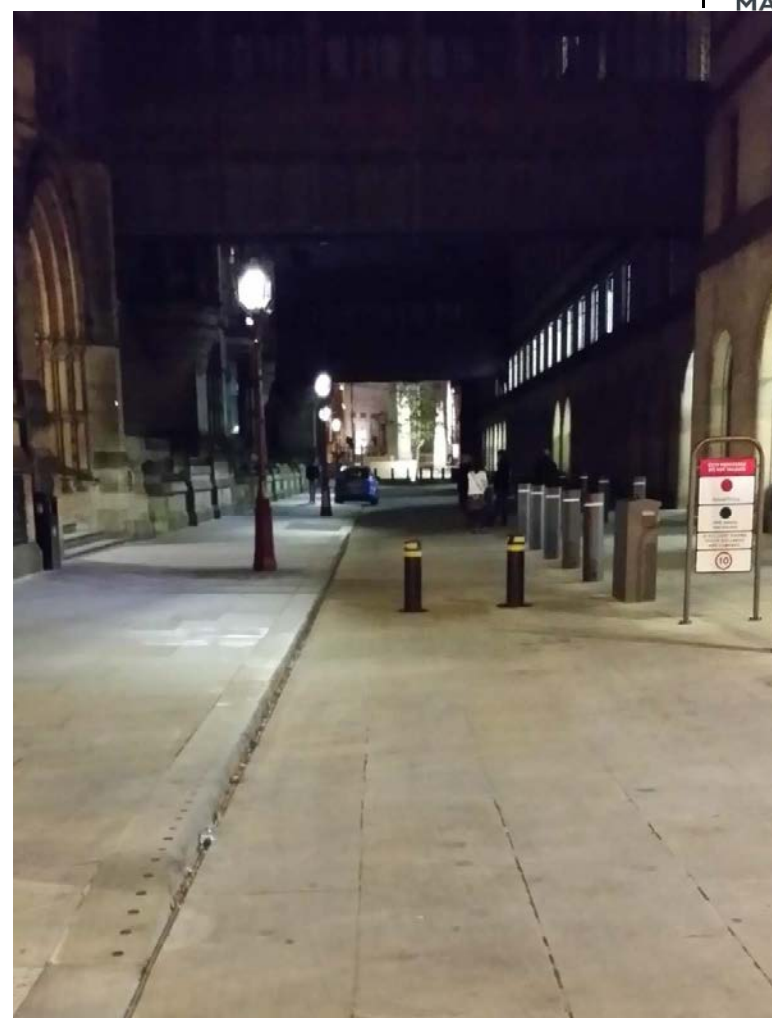
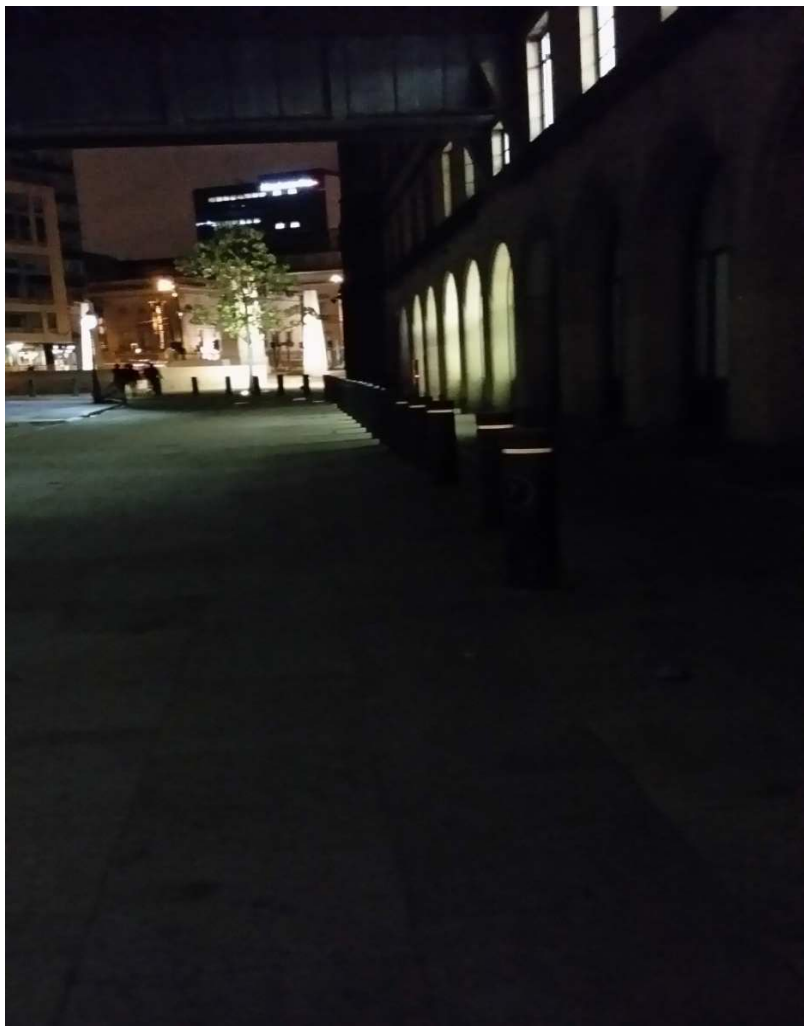
CIHT January 2018

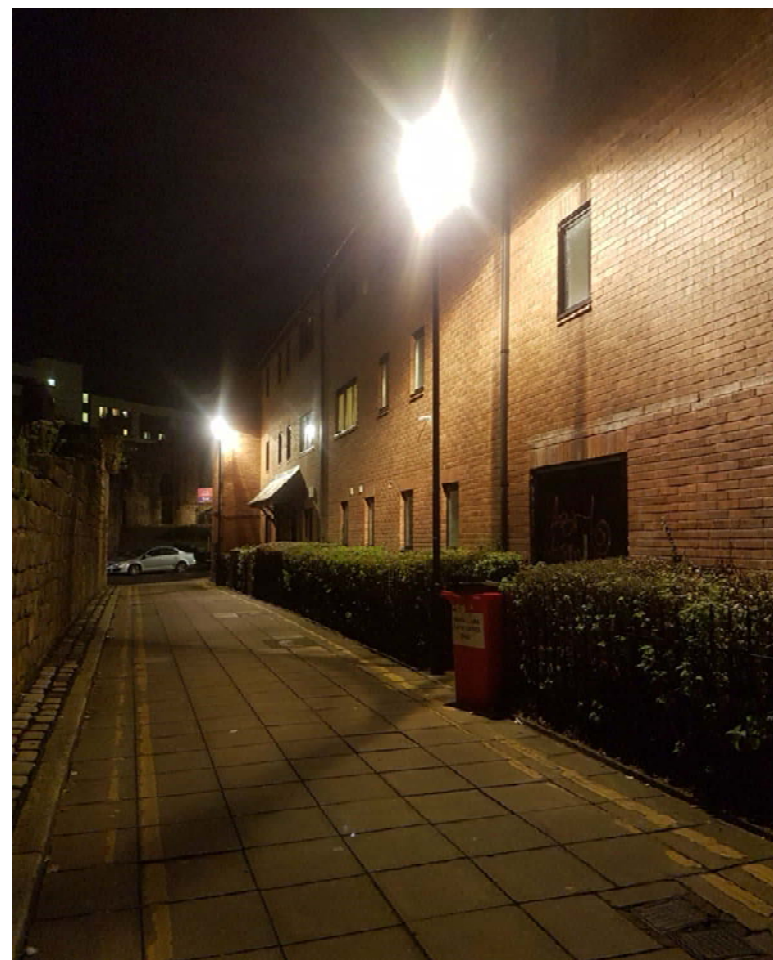




























You don't need a magic money tree to do urban design that is inclusive...

...but
you
do
need
awareness...



...and a commitment to putting
inclusive design
at the heart of your design process

Are urban designers equipped to design for older people?

- Older people are **not** an homogenous group but include people with a wide range of health and mobility issues
- What is good urban design for older and disabled people will usually **be good for everyone**
- **Involve** older people in discussions and design decisions
- There are no Age-friendly urban design standards so learn how to design **inclusively**
- Inclusive design **need** not cost more

Resources for Age-friendly design

- BS8300-1: 2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment. **External environment.**
- BS8300-2: 2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment. **Buildings.**
- Building Regulations ADM Access to and Use Of Buildings
- Design Council Built Environment Hub: www.designcouncil.org.uk/inclusive_environments
- The Construction Industry Council: www.cic.org.uk
- Design for Access 2: www.mdpag.org.uk/resources/design-for-access-2

There is a very wide range of guidance and specifications for inclusive design



Design for Access 2 - published in 2003 - is Manchester City Council's approved policy for inclusive design and provides a practical approach

To take account of changes in legislation and aspirations since 2003, what is needed now is an updated guide...

A Greater Manchester 'Design for Access' guide,
which would be another **first** for Greater Manchester.

The Age-friendly Manchester Design Group offers:



- A wide range of Age-friendly design and development knowledge
- Experience of working in the built environment
- Good working knowledge of the city
- An opportunity to link older people into the conversation about Age-friendly design

Contact: Dave Thorley at d.thorley@manchester.gov.uk

THANK
YOU

