

Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) objects to the lack of accessible and safe walking routes for pedestrians in this residential development.

The proposed external design of this development does not appear to take into account the need for walking routes to be accessible and inclusive, as set out in the statutory guidance BS 8300–1:2018, in order to meet the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

Steps

Two pedestrian routes contain steps with no alternative ramp access.

- Pedestrian route to/from the site onto the Avon River Trail
- Pedestrian route to/from the upper parking area

They affect the accessibility of this development for wheelchair users, those with mobility aids, those with pushchairs or those with restricted mobility. It would be possible to design ramps that conform to current accessibility requirements into the plan.

Shared road space

The pedestrian route between the main entrance and the residential blocks appears to be a footway of restricted width (1.5m, or in some places possibly less) along the south side of the roadway through the site. It is suggested that the roadway would be shared use. However for pedestrians, and particularly the young, the old, those with visual impairment, those who use wheelchairs or mobility aids, such shared spaces are unsafe and intimidating.

Furthermore, with the parking spaces being perpendicular to the footway, nothing prevents parked vehicles from overlapping the footway and causing obstruction.

A minimum 2m wide footway, with kerb separation from the roadway, is required to provide a safe route for pedestrians between the entrance and each of the residential blocks.

Parked vehicles should be prevented from overlapping the kerb and obstructing the footway, perhaps using landscaping such as a low wall.

Footway across entrances

To minimise the danger to pedestrians crossing the entrances to the development along Blackswarth Road, we suggest the speed of vehicles entering and leaving the site is limited by making a continuous pavement for pedestrians walking along Blackswarth Road.