

Access audit at Moorside playing fields changing rooms, Victoria Lane, Swinton.

Conducted on 30th April 2014

Access 2 all Areas representatives: Andy Roberts; Lillian and Roy Jenson; Elaine Barber and Tommy Healey, Elaine Barber, Neville Gregory, Greg

Introduction: Access 2 All Areas were invited to conduct an audit of the new changing room facilities at Moorside playing field, Swinton to assess suitability and compliance with the DDA. The new changing facilities are the home of Moorside Rangers FC. Tommy is a wheelchair user, Neville uses a mobility scooter and Roy and Greg have mobility difficulties.



Car park

The prominent feature of the car park was that it was of an uneven surface. This made it difficult for wheelchair users and people with mobility difficulties to properly negotiate. This might be worse in winter. There were ruts in places. The general consensus was that it could be improved by a top surface of tarmac. There were no visible parking markings and accessible parking spaces. There was lighting in the car park.



Ruts



Entrance

The building had a long ramp suitable for wheelchair easy access. The ramp was a good addition and appreciated by wheelchair users. However, the design could have been improved by having it situated at the opposite side so there was more of a flow – anyone using the ramp would have to go a longer way round. It could also be improved by the addition of a handrail.



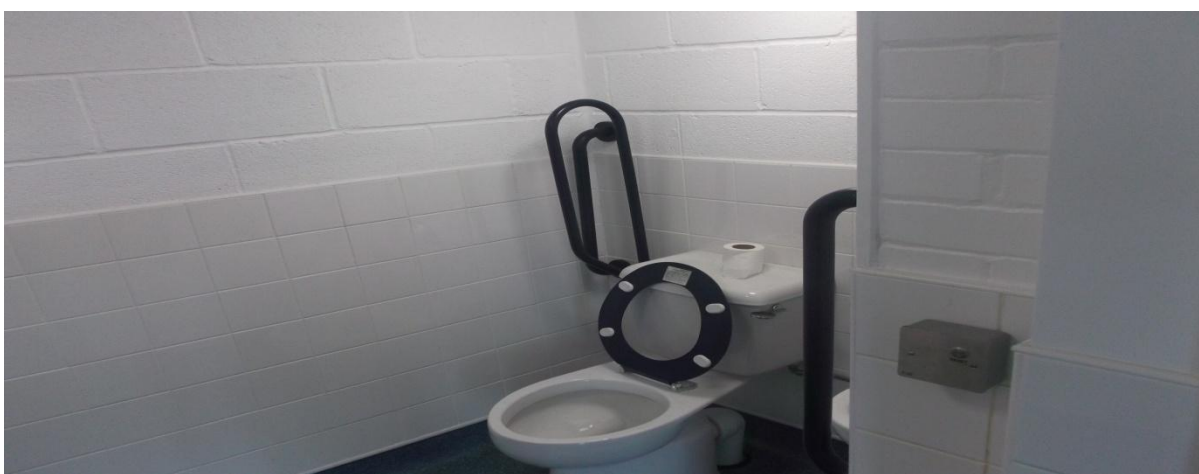
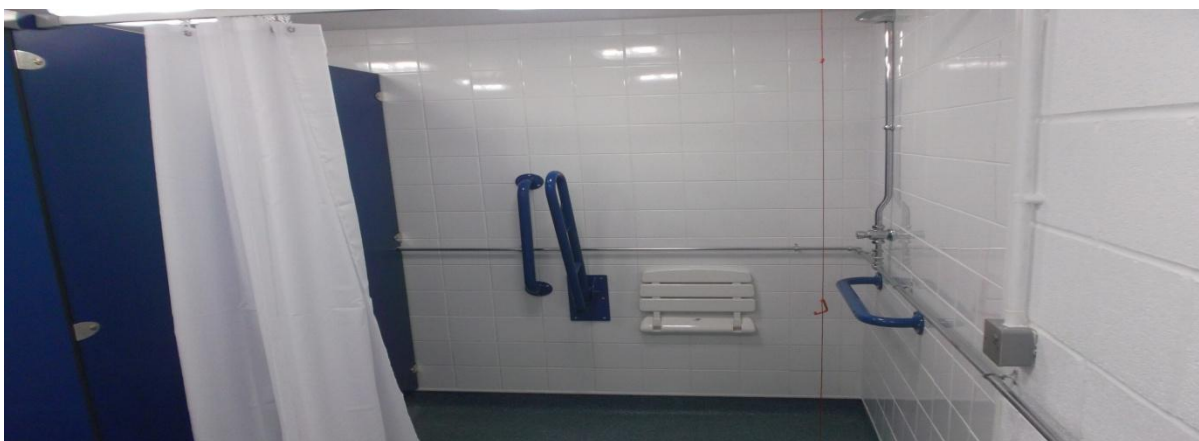
The ramp would have been better sited here

Inside the changing rooms

It was good to see that a lot of thought had gone into providing inclusive facilities for disabled people. However the doors to the building were not power assisted and didn't have an intercom. We were told however, that the doors would generally be kept open during the time when the facilities were in use.

Disabled toilets

The disabled toilets were well equipped with easy access for wheelchair users. The toilet was of a good standard, spacious with handrails and a pull string for assistance. However it was noted that there were no hand drying facilities.



Main club room

The main club room was on a level and easy for wheelchair users to get around. It was a great space and some of the members of the club obviously took great pride in ensuring that the facilities were open to everyone. This included taking steps to promote disabled sports and establishing teams. Well done Moorside Rangers!

Main club room:

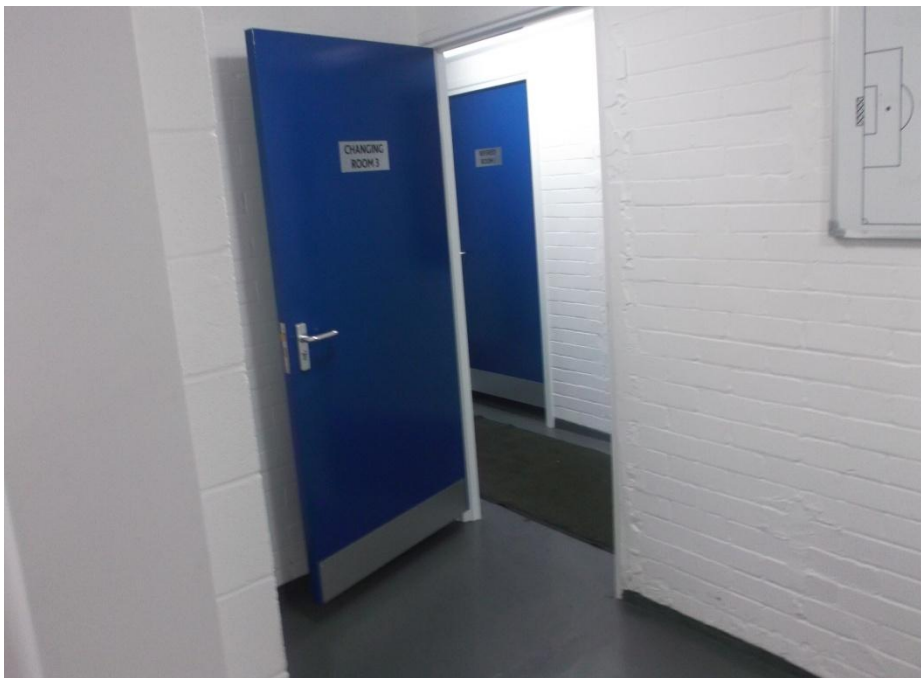


Changing rooms and showers

Again we were happy to see there was plenty of room to take wheelchairs into the changing rooms and one of the shower rooms (other shower rooms had shower door which were not wide enough for wheelchair access). The flooring was good, as was the equipment, hand rails and seating. However it was noted that although there was a lot of bench seating, higher seating with a hand rail or seat arms would help people with mobility difficulties who find it difficult getting up out of seating.



Door entrances - Plenty of room and smooth surfaces:



Health and Safety

There were no signs (that we could see) to the nearest exit.

Building exit

The building has a natural flow from entrance to the rear exit. The exit did present problems for our wheelchair users. At the end of the path there was a "Lip" that was difficult to take a wheelchair over without assistance. This meant that there was a real danger of wheelchairs tipping over.



Dangerous lip at the end of the path

Recommendations

The facility was a credit to both the Council and Moorside Rangers FC. It was tucked away a little and unless you were familiar with the area you might have difficulty finding it.

The fact that the committee of the club actively promotes sports for disabled people is something to celebrate.

In terms of things that could be improved the main one would be to smooth out the exit to the building as that was a real hazard. The car park would benefit from being re-surfaced and the ramp could have been better designed.

There may also be opportunities to better promote these great facilities and the Access 2 all areas representatives said they would spread the word to other disabled groups.