

## **RUNNYMEDE ACCESS LIAISON GROUP (RALG)**

### **ACCESS APPRAISAL**

6 June 2006

### **STRODE'S COLLEGE, EGHAM:**

#### **Student Centre and Tercentenary Centre**

Present: Dave Shields and Darren Winton of Strode's College, Jonathan Fisher, Mike Fuller, Jo Wright, Mark Silver, Brian Relph, Laura Cowie

#### **Student Centre**

##### **1. Parking**

- a) Disabled parking space recommended adjacent to pathway into building.

##### **2. Route to Main Entrance**

- a) Recommend providing corrugated pavers across the car park to serve as way markers to the main entrance of the building.
- b) Recommend tactile indicators on the paving of the pathway to the main doorway.

##### **3. Disabled Toilet (ground floor)**

- a) The facility is provided to an excellent standard and fittings.
- b) Recommend provision of a coat hook.
- c) Tactile and Braille signage needed on door including adjacent male / female facilities.

##### **4. Refectory**

- a) Good circulation space and chairs and tables moveable to enable access throughout the facility.
- b) The servery counter was not provided at a lower height but staff are on hand to assist where necessary.
- c) The entrance and exit to the servery provides good unobstructed access.
- d) The automatic opening glass doors onto the terraced area were welcomed, although they were not working on the visit. Consider relocating the auto openers to deter students from tampering with them.
- e) Tactile and Braille signage would be recommended outside the entrance.

##### **5. Student Council Office**

- a) Door very heavy to open, recommend adjusting the door closer.

##### **6. Lift**

- a) Braille needed on 'In case of emergency' button.
- b) Operating buttons all of a good height with tactile.
- c) The handles and mirror are good features, and there was sufficient space for a wheelchair user to pull in and reverse out, including a standing passenger.

##### **7. Staircase**

- a) Embossed arrow recommended at the top and bottom of the rail and at each turning point in order to indicate the direction of the stairs and up / down.
- b) Tactile warnings / corrugations needed on top and bottom steps.
- c) Hand rail – recommend taking it round the corner to ensure VIPs know they are approaching the top step.

## **8. Offices on First Floor**

- a) Pillars need tactile ring on the floor to indicate their location to VIPs.
- b) Surface of pillars needs filling – some sharp edges discovered.
- c) Escape route – noted there was no safe evacuation route or evac chairs for wheelchair users, and that there were two steps down to the landing plus a link to the next building which would be inaccessible to a wheelchair user.
- d) Providing a safe egress out of the building for disabled staff and students in the event of fire is essential.

## **Tercentenary Centre**

### **9. Main Entrance**

- a) Automatic doors and very good circulation space.
- b) Tactile way marking needed on approach to the centre.

### **10. Disabled Toilet (ground floor)**

- a) The facility is provided to an excellent standard and fittings.
- b) Recommend provision of a coat hook.

### **11. Staircase (adjacent to fire exit)**

- a) Bottom step – noted a protruding glass panel with a sharp end, needs rounding.
- b) Corrugated tactile surfacing needed on top and bottom steps.
- c) Tactile warnings and signage needed on approach to top and bottom steps.
- d) At the top of the staircase, extend rail on left hand side under the window sill.

### **12. Lift**

- a) Good standard and easy to use.
- b) Braille needed on 'In case of emergency' button.

### **13. First Floor Landing**

- a) The toughened glass and rail flexes and moves when leaning on it.
- b) Recommend providing supporting pillars to prevent damage and potential fall.

### **14. Disabled Toilet (first floor)**

- a) The facility is provided to an excellent standard and fittings.
- b) Recommend provision of a coat hook.
- c) Signage a little misleading on route to the disabled toilet and stairs, recommend separate signage.

### **15. Classroom (TR5 – 15b)**

- a) Braille signage on the door is a little worn and needs replacing.
- b) The Group understands that hearing loops are only provided in the refectory on the ground floor. Recommended that one of two classrooms is fitted with a loop for hearing impaired students.
- c) Recommend provision of speech adapted computers, such as Super Nova or Hal.

## **General Comments:**

### **16. Access around Campus**

- a) A tactile map firmly fixed to the wall in each building would assist visually impaired students to memorise the internal layout of each facility.
- b) Way marking around the campus could be provided with a simple corrugated paving trail to provide indication of main routes and location of buildings.