

Upperthorpe Community Street Audit Report

A report of a Community Street Audit, 2 December 2009



Addy Street

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.



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Living Streets

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.

We have been the national voice for pedestrians throughout our 80 year history. In the early years, our campaigning led to the introduction of the driving test, pedestrian crossings and 30mph speed limits. Since then our ambition has grown. Today we influence decision makers nationally and locally, run successful projects to encourage people to walk, and provide specialist consultancy services to help reduce congestion and carbon emissions, improve public health, and make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.

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Introduction

Living Streets is training local people to undertake Community Street Audits for the Living Neighbourhoods Project which is part of Sheffield City Council and NHS Sheffield's Let's Change for Life project.

Community Street Audits are a way to evaluate the quality of streets and spaces from the viewpoint of the people who use them, rather than those who manage them. This involves small groups of local residents, traders, councillors and officers to assess a route on foot, following which a report is produced with recommendations for improvements.



Upperthorpe Road Shops

Upperthorpe

Living Streets delivered a community street audit training session for local people in Upperthorpe on 2 December 2009.

This report presents the key community assets and challenges identified by participants and the findings of the audits undertaken as part of the day. Unfortunately due to illness recruitment of local participants was less than in other areas so this report presents a snapshot of issues, but wider community engagement is recommended.

Assets

The participants highlighted some of the key assets in the area:

- Community (Cultural mix, friendly, feel safe)
- Accessible (Walking distance to city centre, tram and buses)
- Amenities (Shops, library, leisure facilities, medical centre)
- Green (Open spaces, close to National Park)



The Ponderosa

Challenges

The participants highlighted some of the key challenges in the area:

- Traffic Speed
- Crossings (e.g. crossroads by Infirmary difficult to cross)
- Reputation (Bad reputation unjustified)
- Parking (e.g. Disabled and public parking for Leisure Centre)
- Shops (Impact of Tesco on local shops)

Audit around Upperthorpe Shops

The first audit circuit began at Upperthorpe Library and went through the pedestrian area past the medical centre up to Upperthorpe, down Addy Street, along Shipton Street, down Oxford Street and along Netherthorpe Road including the path behind the NHS Head Injury Rehabilitation Centre on Albert Terrace Road to Portland Street.

The detailed observations and recommendations are included in a table at the end of this report.

The key problems highlighted by the audit are

- Traffic Enforcement
(parking, abuse of bus and taxi only road and pedestrian zone, speed limit)
- Crossing Albert Terrace Road
(traffic speed can make crossing difficult)
- Crossing Shipton Street/Addy Street
(Barriers prevent crossing on desire line)
- Environmental Maintenance
(Bollards, paths, name plates, litter, graffiti)
- Access to car park
(lighting, steps, overgrown vegetation)

The key recommendations of the audit are

- Police to target enforcement
- Council to work with businesses, landlords to clean up area
- Council to review crossings and routes to car park
- NHS and council to improve Portland Street path
- Council to consider disabled parking & seating by Library



Pedestrian Zone



Shipton Street Car Park



Portland Street Parking

Audit of routes from Upperthorpe to The Ponderosa

The audit began at the Office on Oxford Street then followed Upperthorpe Road to the entrance to the open space The Ponderosa, then followed the main path up to Martin Street, along Albion Road, then down Addy St to Upperthorpe and up the hill to Branders Close and back to Netherthorpe Library via Daniel Hill.

The detailed observations and recommendations are included in a table at the end of this report.

The key problems highlighted by the audit are

- Environmental maintenance
(Graffiti fly tipping, notice boards, green space, street name plates)
- Access to The Ponderosa
(Uneven steps, signing, lack of dropped kerbs)
- Enforcement
(Pavement parking and traffic speed)

The key recommendations of the audit are

- Council to improve information for The Ponderosa and access routes to and from it
- Council to review management of Albion Street Green space
- SYPTE to improve bus stop information
- Enforce traffic speeds and parking
- Tesco to clear up graffiti and waste on path



Flytipping by Tesco path



Green space by Albion Road



Notice board on Addy Street

Conclusion

The community street audit training undertaken in Upperthorpe has highlighted that the area has much to offer and the results of investment can be clearly seen. Nevertheless there are some issues which need to be tackled to improve opportunities for active travel such as maintenance and enforcement.

There are other opportunities which could require further funding and public engagement such as how to enhance the public space outside the Library to make it a place for people to sit and enjoy. There appears to be potential improve the management of this pedestrian zone, for example by using the adjacent bus and taxi only road to improve provide disabled parking opportunities and for dropping off GP, library and leisure centre users.



Notes of CSA around Upperthorpe Shops

Location	Comments - Good and Bad	Recommendation for improvement (solutions)	Who?
Addy Street Bus cycle and Taxi section	Bus and Taxi signs and markings appear to be ignored by some drivers	Enforce existing restriction. Review sign locations to improve visibility to drivers. Consider allowing access for disabled parking.	Council/Police
Public square outside Zest and health centre	Paving uneven due to vehicles driving on square to drop off but also park on the square for the library, leisure centre and health centre.	Enforce existing restriction. Control vehicle access to square. Replace bollard and ensure access is controlled. Consider providing seating and planters in the square.	Council/Police
Upperthorpe T-Junction Past Leahurst Care Home.	Pavement parking on narrow footway opposite Leahurst Care Home.	Parking enforcement. Investigate ownership of empty car park opposite Leahurst Care Home and potential public use.	Council
Upperthorpe T-Junction	No dropped kerbs on desire line to Springvale Walk	Provide dropped kerbs on desire line	Streetforce
Addy Street/Shipton Street Junction	Pedestrians walk along outside of barriers on desire line to Shipton Street Crossing is not on desire Line from Addy Street to Burlington Court	Review junction design and opportunities to declutter. Improve existing planting	Council
Shipton Street Car Park	Disabled bays difficult to access Improvement sign out of date Bottle banks obstruct steps	Remark disabled bays and cut bag vegetation Remove Improvement Sign Relocate bottle banks so can use from path and car park	Council Council
Oxford Street Zebra Crossing by the Office	High speed of vehicles coming down Oxford Street, some do not give way to people crossing.	Enforcement Consider speed reduction measures and possible signalisation of Oxford Street/Albert Terrace Road/Upperthorpe Junction.	Council/Police

NHS Head Injury Rehabilitation Unit	Redundant fence posts on frontage and graffiti on wall along alley.	Remove fence posts and graffiti Resurface path behind	NHS NHS/Council
Albert Terrace Road Build Out	Crossing point not on desire line and have to wait long time to cross. Consider crossing nearer to NHS Head Injury Rehabilitation Unit	Review crossings on Albert Terrace Rd	Council
Portland Street	Parking on grass verges and double yellow lines by junction Untidy green space opposite with litter Poor maintenance of backs of shops	Parking enforcement Tidy up green space, reinstate overgrown path, consider cycle and scooter parking Enforce repairs	Council Council
Upperthorpe Shops	Empty shop fronts are unsightly e.g. collect litter Alley through to Shipton Street Car Park is in poor state of repair	Improve vacant shop fronts Improve steps and lighting	

Notes of CSA of Routes to The Ponderosa

Location	Comments - Good and Bad	Recommendation for improvement (solutions)	Who?
Upperthorpe Road south of The Office	Poor footway condition on western side and pavement parking opposite	Resurface footway Enforce Parking	Street Force Council
Tesco Pedestrian Entrance off Upperthorpe Rd	Litter and Graffiti and lighting poor	Clean Up and Improve lighting	Tesco
Upperthorpe Rd entrance to Ponderosa	Map of Ponderosa but wayfinding could be better "almost as quick to walk" (to town as take tram)	Sign walking routes from Upperthorpe to City Centre. Re-orientate map.	Council
Main Ponderosa Path	Footway condition poor in parts Lack of lights and bins	Resurface path Provide more bins and lights	Council
Path to St. Martin Street	Steps need improving	Improve steps	Council
Oxford Street north of St. Martin Street	Lack of Dropped Kerbs on south side	Provide Dropped Kerbs	Streetforce
Green space off Albion Street	Green space provides direct link to The Ponderosa but overgrown and in poor state of repair Graffiti on adjacent sub-station	Clean up and review maintenance Remove Graffiti	Council

Addy Street from junction with Albion Street to Upperthorpe	Lack of dropped kerbs on key route to Upperthorpe Shops e.g. Albion St, Addy Drive and on build out	Provide Dropped Kerbs	Council
	Notice board contents out of date	Maintain notice board or remove	Council
	Bus stop information lacking	Provide info at bus stops	SYPTTE
	Speeding despite 20mph zone	Enforce 20mph limit Consider speed activated sign	Council/Police
Brandreth Road	Blake Street Nature Park well maintained and Friends Group	Consider Friends of Group for Albion Road Green Space	Council
	Drain blocked	Clear Drain	Streetforce
Brandreth Close	Provides pedestrian link to Peace Garden and Zest No dropped kerbs at junction with Upperthorpe	Consider improving pedestrian route into Peace Garden as not obvious from Upperthorpe, possible gateway feature	Council/Zest